

• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the research and writing of George W. Bush's acceptance speech.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at [battalion.tamu.edu](http://battalion.tamu.edu).



• Gene scheme Completion of human genome mapping could spawn new kind of predictive discrimination Page 5



Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 85 and a low of 74.

# THE BATTALION

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Business, Liberal Arts have most graduates

APRIL YOUNG  
*The Battalion*

More than 1,900 graduates will receive their diplomas next week at the Aug. 11 and 12 commencement ceremonies. This year, two colleges have the largest number of graduates for the August ceremonies: the Lowry Mays College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts, which tied for the number of graduates.

Ricky Griffin, executive associate dean for the College of Business, said the high number of graduates in the college is consistent with the percentage of Texas A&M students enrolled in the college. "Really, it's just a matter of numbers," he said. "We're one of the biggest colleges on campus, and we would just stand to reason that we would have one of the highest number of graduates, if not the highest number."

Griffin said the reputation of the college and the growing economy have also contributed to the number of business graduates.

"The business school is consistently ranked in the top 10 for undergraduate programs, so it attracts quality students," Griffin said. "The fact that the economy is so strong also contributes to the attractiveness of the department — there is a huge demand for business graduates."

Kristi Haverstick, a graduating psychology major, said the high number of liberal arts graduates probably due to the growing importance of good communication skills.

"A lot of majors fall under liberal arts, like speech communication, journalism, psychology and sociology," Haverstick said. "In all of these majors, communication is the emphasis. We live in a society where a lot of emphasis is placed on the need to communicate effectively."

Past commencement ceremonies suffered from a lack of involvement from the graduates, including walking out after receiving their diplomas, but Griffin said the commencement speaker for the Aug. 11 graduation ceremony, Randy Matson, executive director emeritus for the Association of Former Students, is someone all students should be able to relate to and be enthusiastic about hearing.

"Randy is a good example of a tremendously successful former student," Griffin said. "He was a good student when he was here — he excelled in the classroom and in athletics. He epitomizes Aggie spirit because he could have made a lot more money had he chosen to work in the business world, but he decided to work for the University."

Haverstick said it will be hard to increase student interest in the graduation ceremony because it is hard to find speakers who appeal to graduates in all majors.

"It's hard to get speakers that everyone will be interested in," Haverstick said. "You have people graduating from different majors at one ceremony, and not all of the majors have the same interests."

Griffin said students who leave commencement ceremonies early show disrespect for peers.

"Students who leave the commencement after receiving their diploma show a lack of respect for their peers," Griffin said. "It says, 'All that's important to me is getting my diploma.'"

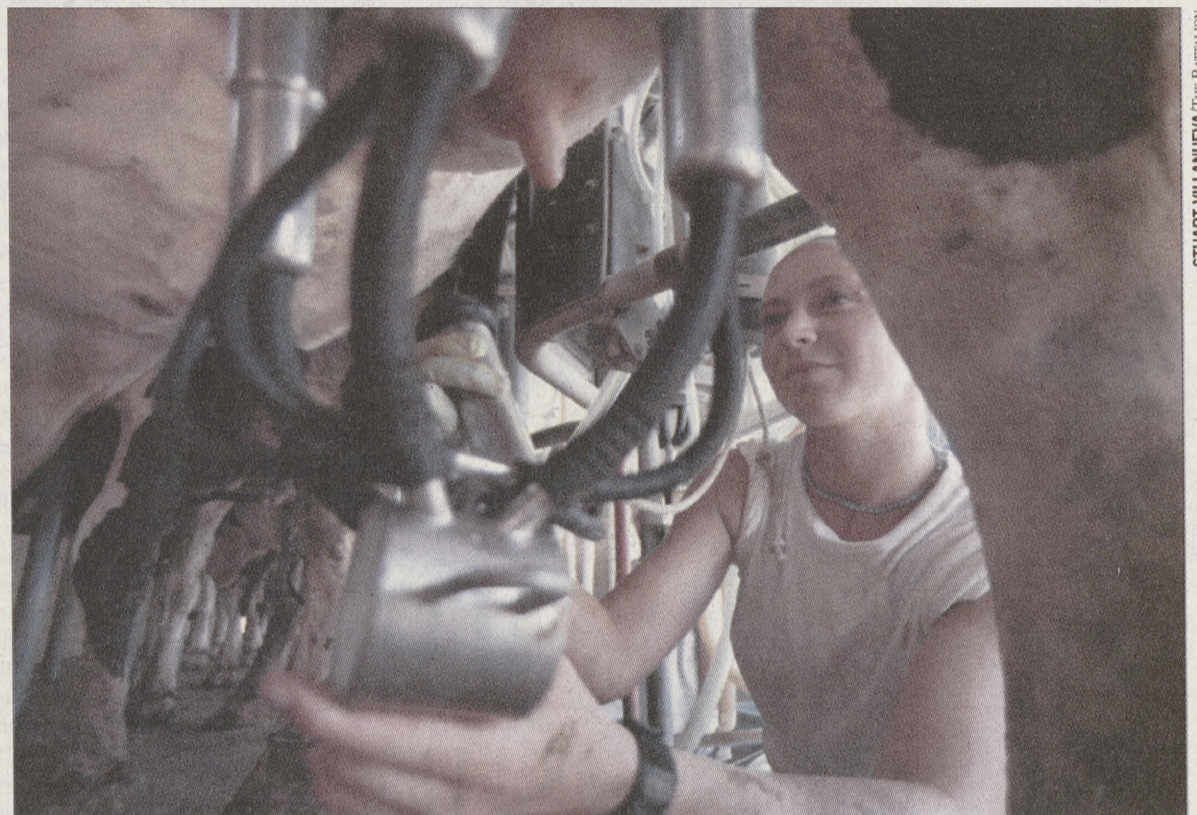
Griffin said students should appreciate the resources the University spends to hold a quality commencement ceremony.

"We are one of the only major universities in the country that actually hands diplomas to students, and that's one of the special things about A&M," Griffin said. "Students need to realize that if they don't take the ceremony seriously and help maintain dignity, it becomes increasingly difficult for the University to have the type of ceremonies we're having."

summer  
**GRADUATION**  
FRIDAY AUGUST 11  
Agriculture  
Architecture  
Business  
Veterinary Medicine  
SATURDAY AUGUST 12  
Education  
Engineering  
Geosciences  
Liberal Arts  
Medicine  
Science

PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

## Got milk?



Sara Sellers, a junior animal science major, attaches milking hoses to the udders of a Holstein cow at the Dairy Center Tuesday. The cows are milked daily, and the milk is transported to Navasota, where it is pasteurized.

STUART VILANUEVA/THE BATTALION

## Student group criticizes administration over bonfire

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A student group working to keep the Texas A&M bonfire tradition alive lashed out at school administrators Tuesday, accusing them of leveling threats to prevent an off-campus re-creation of the suspended event.

"We have addressed the concerns that have been brought before us in a mature, responsible manner that should make the administration proud," the student group Keep the Fire Burning said in a written statement.

"Yet for some strange reason, a handful of administrators are engaging in heavy-handed tactics to try and thwart our efforts, including threatening disciplinary action against those who participate."

In June, A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen put the 90-year-tradition on hold for two years after the 2-million-pound log stack collapsed Nov. 18, killing 12 Aggies and injuring 27 others.

Two members of the group met privately with A&M Vice President for Student Affairs J. Malon Southerland for about an hour Monday to discuss their efforts to organize an off-campus bonfire.

Southerland warned them of potential punishment if they proceed with plans for a renegade bonfire. But the University has acknowledged it would be difficult to punish students who participate in an off-campus event not sponsored by a student group.

**"Yet for some strange reason, a handful of administrators are engaging in heavy-handed tactics to try and thwart our efforts."**

— Keep the Fire Burning written statement

"We are not telling the students they cannot assemble off-campus," A&M spokesperson Keith Randall said. "They have the authority to do whatever they wish off campus. Nevertheless, it is possible that some University rules could be broken, and if so, the University would have to determine if disciplinary action is necessary."

Keep the Fire Burning has been talking to engineers, security companies, fire safety officials and lawyers. Aside from a student-led tree cutting, the group's leaders contend they have followed every guideline laid out by Bowen for a return of the tradition.

"We respect that the University is unable to continue bonfire on campus this year and hope they would respect our decision to look into the feasibility of an off-campus bonfire," the statement said. "We are deeply committed to the fact that we will not go forward with an off-campus bonfire unless several independent engineers certify it is safe."

In May, a five-member commission appointed and funded by A&M blamed the collapse on flawed construction techniques and a lack of adequate supervision of students assembling the stack.

In response, Bowen announced bonfire would not return until at least 2002 and not without major changes, including greater University supervision and a professionally engineered design.

The bonfire event annually draws thousands of Aggies to the College Station campus on the eve of A&M's football game against its archrival, the University of Texas.

## B-CS uses video Cameras implemented for efficiency

CHRIS CUNICO  
*The Battalion*

Bryan-College Station (B-CS) residents may notice cameras at various intersections around the area, but the Texas Department of Transportation says they are not an attempt to catch drivers breaking laws. They are intended to increase efficiency at traffic lights.

Older magnetic loops, which currently serve most of the intersections in the area, are being replaced with cameras.

Kirk Barnes, transportation

operations engineer for the transportation department, said video detection technology has been around for several years, but the price decreased recently and is now comparable with the older, less convenient loops.

In times of road maintenance or construction, Barnes said, the cameras are more convenient and do not require the special attention of cutting

See CAMERAS on Page 2.



A pair of cameras watch over traffic at the corner of Bush and Wellborn.

ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

### News in Brief

#### A&M student killed in car accident Saturday

Courtney Brymer, 23, a junior sociology major, was killed in a car accident last Saturday when her family's Ford Explorer veered off U.S. Highway 287 in Donley County, according to The Bryan-College Station Eagle. Department of Public Safety troopers say the vehicle flipped 2.5 times before coming to rest upside down. Christel Brymer, Courtney's mother, was driving when she apparently fell asleep at the wheel.



BRYMER

#### Daylon Holt to sign with Oakland A's

Texas A&M outfielder Daylon Holt has decided to sign a major-league contract with the Oakland Athletics Class A team, foregoing his senior year of college. After a period of contract negoti-

ations about the Oakland A's original offer of a \$290,000 signing bonus, Holt received a \$450,000 signing bonus to join the Vancouver, British Columbia-based team. The final details of the contract were closed Tuesday.

Following his freshman year, in which he hit 34 home runs, Holt was predicted to be selected in the first round of major league drafts. However, after hitting only 15 home runs his junior year, Holt was not picked until the third round.

A&M baseball coaches said they expected to lose Holt, and they have acquired two new recruits, outfielders Ben Himes from University of Virginia and Eddie Lang from Navarro Junior College.

## UT-Austin seeks control of tuition

HOUSTON (AP) — With backing of powerful alumni, University of Texas System officials want state lawmakers to give them the right to set tuition and eventually boost rates at the University of Texas-Austin (UT).

"There's a great demand for that institution, and it's becoming more expensive to provide excellent service," UT Interim Chancellor Dan Burck told the *Texas Journal of The Wall Street Journal* Wednesday's.

University System officials contend the current tuition of \$600 a semester at UT-Austin is not enough to provide high-quality education. The Legislature currently sets tuition rates.

But, as the country's largest public university

campus with more than 37,000 undergraduate students, some key legislators argue that UT-Austin is responsible for providing low-income Texans with a high-caliber education.

University officials have not said how much tuition would increase.

"We're not going to have a two-tier system of schools with the rich going to one school and the poor going to the other," vows Rep. Rob Junell, chair of the House Appropriation Committee.

Though a tuition hike would not be popular, university officials maintain it is justified, since over the years state funding has covered less of

See TUITION on Page 2.

- Easily awarded student loan (24 hr. award notice)
- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental
- Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved flight school
- VA eligible Benefits