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• **Body Sl-aTm**
WCW brings professional wrestling to A&M
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Weather:
Partly cloudy with a high of 91 and a low of 68.

THE BATTALION

THURSDAY

September 7, 2000
Volume 107 ~ Issue 10
2 Sections
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10 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Bowen reinstates sexual-orientation clause

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Reversing his deferred implementation of the 2000-2001 student rules, Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen restored a new clause that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

New rules were posted Aug. 15 on the student rules Website, which is maintained by the Department of Student Life, listing sexual orientation as one of the protected categories covered by anti-discrimination — but within 24 hours, the new clause was removed and the previous wording, which did not list protected groups, was reinserted.

In a statement released at the time, Bowen said he deferred the new wording because there were widespread misconcep-

tions of what the clarification meant, and he emphasized that the University's basic policy had not changed.

"Dr. Bowen wanted a University dialogue about the intent of the change, and he is now satisfied with the proper level of understanding there is," said Brent Paterson, director of the Department of Student Life. "I've met with some concerned students, staff, faculty and GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Aggies) to bring about some understanding as to what Bowen intended."

The University Statement on Harassment and Discrimination now reads: "Texas A&M University, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic

origin, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status."

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

"The University doesn't tolerate harassment of any student for any reason, including sexual orientation."

— Dr. Bill Kibler
associate vice president for Student Affairs

fairs Dr. Bill Kibler said the new clause is not a change in policy, but simply a rewording of an existing rule meant to clarify that University rules do protect gay students from harassment.

"The University doesn't tolerate harassment of any student for any reason, including sexual orientation," Kibler said. "For example, if a student in a residence hall is harassed because he's gay, the University will take specific action. We want gay students to know that they, too, are protected, and that if they bring forth reports of harassment, we can do something about it."

In Fall 1999, Bowen vetoed a proposal passed by the Student Senate and Faculty Senate to specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, cit-

ing the legal liability that would be placed on the University if it extended anti-discrimination protection to categories not covered by state and federal law.

In a statement announcing the change, Bowen stated "in accordance with applicable federal and state law," which ensures that the rewritten rule does not contradict his original position by extending legal protections that would create legal liability for the University.

None of this, however, dampened the enthusiasm of gay student activists upon hearing of Bowen's decision.

"I think it's a very progressive step for the University to acknowledge gay and lesbian students and explicitly say that harassing and

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Senate approves fee bill

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

The 53rd Session of the Texas A&M Student Senate opened Wednesday approving the Student Center Complex Fee Referendum Bill in emergency legislation — which means the bill was debated and voted on during the meeting. The bill approves holding a referendum during the Fall 2000 student elections.

"This referendum, if approved by the students, allows for a \$10-one-time increase in the Student Center Complex Fee," said Dennis Busche, University Center manager.

The Student Center Complex Fee provides for free meeting rooms, furniture, audiovisual equipment and the maintenance of student programs and facilities in the Memorial Student Center, John J. Koldus Building, Earl Rudder Tower, Auditorium and Theater complex.

"The approval of this referendum would also demonstrate student recommendation and support towards the

See SENATE on Page 8A.

Med School interim dean appointed

BY KRISTIN ROSTRAN
The Battalion

Dr. Nancy Wilson Dickey, former president of the American Medical Association, was named interim dean of the College of Medicine.

Dickey also has served as program director of the Family Practice Residency of the Brazos Valley and acting dean of medicine and professor of family and community medicine at Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine. She will act as dean until Sept. 2, 2001.

Currently, she serves as editor in chief of Medem, an Internet-based patient education company, and on the editorial board of Archives of Family Medicine. The editor position allows her to view the newest materials circulating in the medical world.

One of Dickey's main goals is to the smooth transition once a new interim president of the System Health Science Center is appointed. Acting president Dr. Jay Noren's resignation will be effective Sept. 30.

"It is extraordinarily exciting because it has been a very busy 90 days," Dickey said. "We've completed the affiliation agreement, but now what may be the tougher job is implementing the agreement. There are going to be some

See DICKEY on Page 9A.

If you paint it ...



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Patrick Tate paints the endzone lettering in the North endzone at Kyle Field Wednesday. This year, the endzone features a new block lettering of "Texas A&M," which matches the front of the team's jerseys. The paint used on the field is diluted one to one with water for better coverage, and it does not harm the grass. Approximately 250 gallons of paint are used for the initial painting, which takes two-and-a-half days.

Lane discusses plans to strengthen Texas A&M

BY COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

Forrest Lane, student body president and a senior political science major, told Texas A&M that physical, procedural and spiritual changes are in order this year.

Lane addressed the upcoming anniversary of the Bonfire collapse. He said the world's eyes will be on the University, watching to see what its next move will be.

"The student body needs to move forward, without forgetting the past," Lane said.

He said people need to take this opportunity to create serious, positive change by promoting the school-sanctioned Bonfire in 2002.

In keeping with this spirit of change, Lane has worked with Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. J. Malon Southerland, and a task force to begin setting up risk-management training for all organizations on campus. Within the next year, all organizations on campus will be required to go through a training program to prevent tragedies such as the Bonfire collapse from reoccurring.

Lane emphasized that the student body needs to work with the Student Government Association (SGA) to achieve its goals.

He said students should voice their opinions through the SGA's open-door policy, which he has promoted since the beginning of his term in office. He said he

wants students to feel free to express their concerns and ideas.

"Students shouldn't feel that they have to come to a consensus to advocate on a subject which they feel strongly about, but they need to step forward so that their opinion can be heard and voiced to the administration and faculty," Lane said.

In order to see that the student opinion is brought to the attention of the Senate, Lane said he has decided to send surveys to the student body that will help to determine their needs and concerns.

"Many other issues will deserve a commitment to the exchange of ideas by our student body in the coming year," Lane said.

Lane hopes that during the legislative session, held in the spring, the Student Senate will conclude all debates on the 60-day Q-drop which has been on the table for several years. He said he wants to move onto more pressing issues, such as instituting higher fee caps for faculty salaries and funding renovations for the Memorial Student Center and Student Recreation Center. Lane expressed his concerns for

the condition of these buildings, since they are used so often and in such high demand by students.

Lane said he considers Parking, Traffic, & Transportation Services' support and guidance in dealing with the growing number of Bryan-College Station residents vital to ensuring the safety and smooth operation of campus transportation.

He said he does, however, hope to see 24-hour parking spots opened up to students between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to help alleviate the crowded parking lots on campus.



MELISSA BARNES/THE BATTALION

Student Body President Forrest Lane delivers his State of the University address in the Forsyth Center Galleries.

Lane ended his speech with an emphasis on working toward his goal of seeing all students involved on campus. In order to achieve this goal, Lane said the leaders of today need to make better leaders of their successors.

University upgrades water system to meet demand

BY ARATI BHATTACHARYA
The Battalion

A \$4.3 million water systems project approved by the Board of Regents has been instituted to optimize Texas A&M's water system efficiency and strengthen utility performance.

"The interesting thing about this new system is that it didn't increase water production," said Tom Hagge, associate director for utilities in the Physical Plant. "It will, however, increase the life of the system and the

performance of the new pipes, as well as multiply on the ability to endure flow peaks by having more ground storage."

The project, titled "Domestic Water System Improvement," has three main components. First, a three-million gallon water tank will be added to A&M's water utilities system in November for underground storage, in addition to the two two-million gallon tanks already supporting the University's population. Second, plans were made to upsize the

water distribution pipes to draw more water to 10 different locations. The central, third, part of the project was the addition of cathodic protection to water transmission lines, which will prevent corrosion of the pipes and increase safety. An 18- and 24-inch diameter pipe currently runs in the system for seven miles from the well fields to F&B Road. Under the new plan, holes were dug every 40 feet to inject low-metal cements to prevent corrosion.

Hagge said that A&M's water flow is inconsistent; it is slow at night and peaks during the day. Another goal of the system is to effectively store water in case an interruption occurs and capitalize on the system's reliability.

The heavy groundwork is not expect-

This is part four of a five-part water series about the ongoing drought and how its impact can be felt locally and regionally.

ed to inconvenience students in any way. "If anything, the inconvenience is now, with the brown grass patches on the golf fields since we are lacking in irrigation," Hagge said.

"The immense changes in the water-storage facilities and waterlines will lend to additional efficiency and capacity," said Mike Goldwater, associate director for grounds maintenance. "The current water shortage has forced us to curtail landscape irrigation. The new system will definitely lend itself to supplying us with an adequate amount of water."

See WATER on Page 8A.