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7

Tuesday, September 19, 2000

Continued from Page 1A

very critical for us to make sure we provide good service and good food.

The departments have an operating budget that is more than \$180 million, but about half the resources

come from local funding. "My job is to make sure proper service is provided in the most economical way," Sippial said.

Making sure his departments have the resources they need to do their jobs is not the only objective Sippial has in his new position.

"I want us to be viewed as the most efficient and hardest working division within the University," he said.

Sippial is a retired Air Force colonel who served for 21 years and worked at the Pentagon for 18 months as chief of the engineering and design section. Before coming to A&M as assistant vice president for the Physical Plant, he was the director for the physical plant at San Diego University.

"I am more driven by myself than anyone else can ever drive me," Sippial said. "I put more pressure on myself because I want to be the best vice president of administration that this University has ever had. So I push myself to not only do the job, but to learn this job and other folks' job as it impacts mine. That's the kind of person I am."

Sippial said service and respect are important for success. Working

### MPO

#### Continued from Page 1A

Moving the tracks is not the only option, Parks said. The MPO is taking other solutions into account.

"We may have two tracks running side by side," he said.

If two tracks are next to each other, two trains can run at the same time, decreasing the length of time it would take if two trains ran one after

with students, especially after spending almost 23 years of his life in a military atmosphere, has been rewarding for him, he said.

Page 3B

"Young people are fun to be around," he said. "They keep you young, and our caliber of students here at Texas A&M is high quality. One of the things we like to talk about in the military is degree of integrity. You don't quiver around the truth. You are honest. I see a lot of that starting with Ray Bowen and the other vice presidents."

Bowen said he believes Sippial will bring good leadership to the position. "He will be a great support of the

students and faculty," Bowen said. Sippial has a good working rela-

tionship with Bowen and other administrators, a quality he said will be useful.

"I am proud that [Bowen] had enough faith in me to give me the opportunity to do this job," Sippial said. I have watched him through the whole Bonfire situation, and I have never had more respect for an individual as I do for Ray Bowen. He is one of total integrity."

Sippial realizes his job is tough, but plans to be successful.

"If you work hard, not everything you want is going to happen to you, but there are a lot of good things that are going to happen to you," he said. "One of my best accomplishments in life was making full colonel two years ahead of my contemporaries. I set that as a goal. Good things will happen if you give it your best effort."

will be less congested when the construction is over," said Leslie Richer, a senior economics major.

Other students who frequent West Campus are not thrilled about the construction, but realize it is out of their hands.

"It will definitely be a pain to get to class, but as long as they plan this right, with reroutes and detours, the traffic won't be too bad," said Trissa Campbell, a senior sociology major. The MPO is planning for the next 50 years rather than the near future, so the town will not be undergoing railroad construction continuously, Parks said. The MPO hopes to develop rail operations plans by this winter, do an environmental analysis by spring, and make a recommendation by summer 2001.



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the other, he said.

Some students think the relocation of the tracks will be a short inconvenience that will be worth it in the end.

'The construction to move the tracks will create a lot of traffic in the Wellborn [Road] area, but train traffic is only going to increase, so things

### TMC

### Continued from Page 1A

"Aggie Bonfire ... is not about division, arrogance and revolt," the letter stated. "We feel confident that the administration will work with us and that although our version of Bonfire is gone forever, the spirit that surrounds it will remain.

Rigamonti said he believes that, of the thousands of supporters KTFB boasts, many are not in favor of the off-campus bonfire. He said that when many people signed the petition, they were supporting the ultimate continuation of Aggie Bonfire, anything until now."

not an off-campus bonfire to be held this year.

"There were people who signed up for that, not understanding that that was where [KTFB] was going with it," Rigamonti said.

Rigamonti said TMC has not stepped forward until now because the group believed that the issues surrounding Bonfire would work themselves out.

"It is not so much that we have been keeping quiet," said Bill Davis, vice president of TMC and a junior accounting major. "We haven't felt that we needed to say

# **Teachers' union helps** moderate Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Education Association, which heavily favors Democrats with its political donations, quietly has been pay-ing \$4,000 a month to a tax-exempt group run by moderate Republicans to help the teachers' union reach out to the GOP, tax records show. The union has been paying the Republican Mainstream Commit-tae for seaveral users are executive director Kan Publics and advise the

tee for several years so executive director Ken Ruberg can advise the NEA on establishing relationships with sympathetic GOP officials.

Because the committee is tax-exempt, it did not have to disclose the money until Congress this summer passed a new law requiring such groups that engage in politics to report their donors and expenses just like campaign committees.

So far this year, NEA has given \$29,450 to the group formed by mod-erate Republicans such as Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa, according to the new filing with the IRS.