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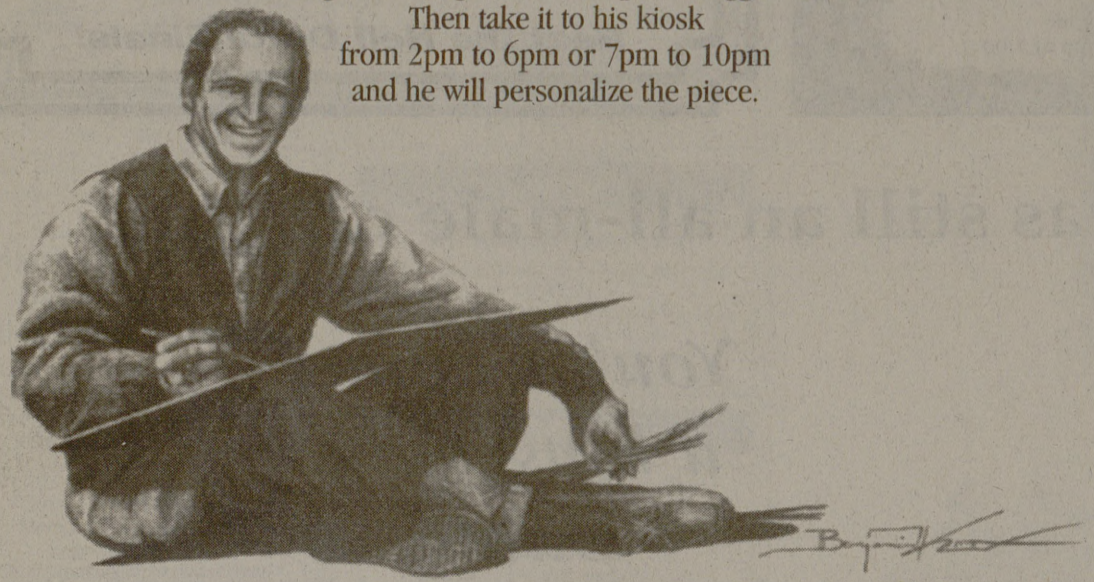


Benjamin Knox, Aggie Artist,

will be at Post Oak Mall on Saturday, December 9 from 2pm to 6pm and 7pm to 10pm to personalize art prints. He will be located at his kiosk in front of Wicks N Sticks.

For that day only - bring receipts totaling \$150 to the Customer Service Booth in front of JCPenney and choose from one of three of Benjamin Knox art prints as a gift: Northgate, College Station Depot or Aggie Mom.

Then take it to his kiosk from 2pm to 6pm or 7pm to 10pm and he will personalize the piece.



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THE BATTALION CLASSIFIEDS

Three A&M system regent terms to expire in February

By ARATI BHATTACHARYA
The Battalion

The terms of three Texas A&M University System Board of Regents members will expire in February.

The governor of Texas will fill the seats of Chairman Don Powell, Vice Chairman Fred McClure and Robert Allen, whose terms expire on February 1, 2000.

"We know nothing until the day of appointment," said a staffer at the Board of Regents office. "All we can assume is they will be educated enough to make the right decisions."

The nine-member board governs the A&M System, which comprises nine universities, eight state agencies and the health science center. Six meetings are set each year, but the chairman of the board can call meetings at his own discretion.

The chairman has the authority

to sign all contracts and documents that represent the board's approval for action.

Dr. Ronald Douglas, A&M vice president and provost for academic affairs, said the board is the final authority in the system.

"President Bowen serves at the pleasure of the board," Douglas said. "We're only advisers that run the University. If they think we're wrong, they can override our decisions," Douglas said boards hire and fire University presidents and give final approval on tenures, appointments and degree programs.

"They've got the final authority, although they have policies to abide by," Douglas said. "They've been given state authority."

The board also appoints the chancellor, who is essentially the chief executive officer of the system.

If Gov. George W. Bush is

named president, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, A&M Class of '72, will be governor and appoint the new members of the board.

"It is almost impossible to predict the choice [of the new members]," Douglas said. "Many have been Aggies in the past, not sure if it would change that are voluntary and unpaid."

All members serve six-year terms.

"Essentially, the board is posed to represent the people of Texas," Douglas said. "I'm seeking people of intelligence and willing to learn ... perhaps someone knowledgeable with some experience on higher education."

Douglas said many board members have experience with the system.

The new chairman will be elected by board members.

Physical plant to change power supply

By NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

When a relay malfunction at the Dansby power plant caused the loss of power on West Campus and across a large portion of main campus almost three weeks ago, many day-to-day operations came to a standstill. While large numbers of students were happy about class cancellations, professors had to worry about lost class time. Some even conducted lectures in the dark.

The utilities division of Texas A&M's Physical Plant is trying to change A&M power supply to prevent outages from happening again.

Tom Hagge, associate director for utilities, said A&M uses about 50 megawatts of electricity at any given time. Thirty of those megawatts are produced by the Physical Plant.

Hagge said the other 20 megawatts of power are provided by Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) through the feed from the Dansby power plant. A plan to install a new feed to the south side of campus will create an alternative power supply. Hagge said the project will bring a feed from the Bryan substation through a relay on Koppe Ridge Road into

the A&M substation.

Since the 1980s, A&M has needed to purchase electricity from BTU. Hagge said the only time A&M can operate solely on power produced by the Physical Plant is over the winter break.

"We absolutely must be connected to the outside world 95 percent of the time," Hagge said. "We completely rely on this 'extension cord,' and if anything happens, we go down hard."

Any disruption to the Dansby feed causes nearly all of West Campus and a large part of main campus to lose power. The proposed new feed will provide a backup to prevent such outages.

"We should be able to withstand some kind of emergency and the University won't even notice," Hagge said.

The project, presented to the Board of Regents in September, has not received final approval. The energy systems lab was consulted for the project.

Hagge said BTU will build and own the feed. The expected cost is about \$5.4 million, which will be paid by A&M.

The most expensive part of the job is running the lines underground, which

Proposed Electrical Feed Route



RUBEN DELUNA/The Battalion

will cost \$5 million. It costs 10 times as much as running the lines above ground.

"All first-class operations run their cable [underground]," Hagge said. "Running cable overhead is just unsightly and poses some safety concerns."

Hagge said building a new power plant to make A&M completely self-sufficient would cost more than \$15 million, plus the annual cost of maintenance and operation. By purchasing com-

mercial power, A&M would pay about the same as it would to operate its facility, without the additional cost of maintenance and upgrades. A&M currently spends approximately \$1 million on commercial power each year.

However, Hagge estimates the University could save up to \$1.3 million on equipment like computers and copy machines in offices and residence halls were turned off at night when not being used.

Aggie Ring Orders



Students who either complete all of the following ring requirements after the Fall '00 semester final grades are posted or after commencement may order their ring beginning approximately January 18, 2001 for April 6, 2001 delivery.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be a degree-seeking student with at least 95 cumulative undergraduate credit hours.
2. Transfer students need 60* hours of credit at Texas A&M University, or degree must be conferred and posted.
3. You must have a cumulative 2.0 GPR at Texas A&M University.
4. You must be in good standing with the University. (No outstanding parking tickets, blocks, etc.)

GRADUATE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Your degree must be conferred and posted on SIMS or if you have completed all degree requirements, you may present an original letter of completion from the Office of Graduate Studies.
2. You must be in good standing with the University. (No outstanding parking tickets, blocks, etc.)

PROCEDURE TO ORDER RING

Undergraduate students may submit their ring audit request online beginning December 11, 2000 at aggienet.tamu.edu/programs/ring/ or visit the Aggie Ring Office in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center in person between December 11 & 19. In the event you will not be in the College Station area between January 18 and February 2 to place your order in person, please request a mail order form and be sized for your ring between December 11 & 19.

Graduate students graduating in December 2000 should stop by the Aggie Ring Office between December 11 & 19 to be sized and complete a mail order form.

Ring prices for January 2001 will be available online beginning December 11, 2000. The full amount must be paid when ordering by cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa, or Mastercard (with your name imprinted).

Ring loans are available to qualified and currently enrolled students at the Short Term Loan Office, Room 230, Pavilion. Please submit your ring audit to the Aggie Ring Office before applying for a Ring Loan.

* You may qualify with 30 A&M hours, instead of 60 hours, if your first semester at A&M was 1993 or before.

** See our website for complete details or call the Ring Office at 845-1050.



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