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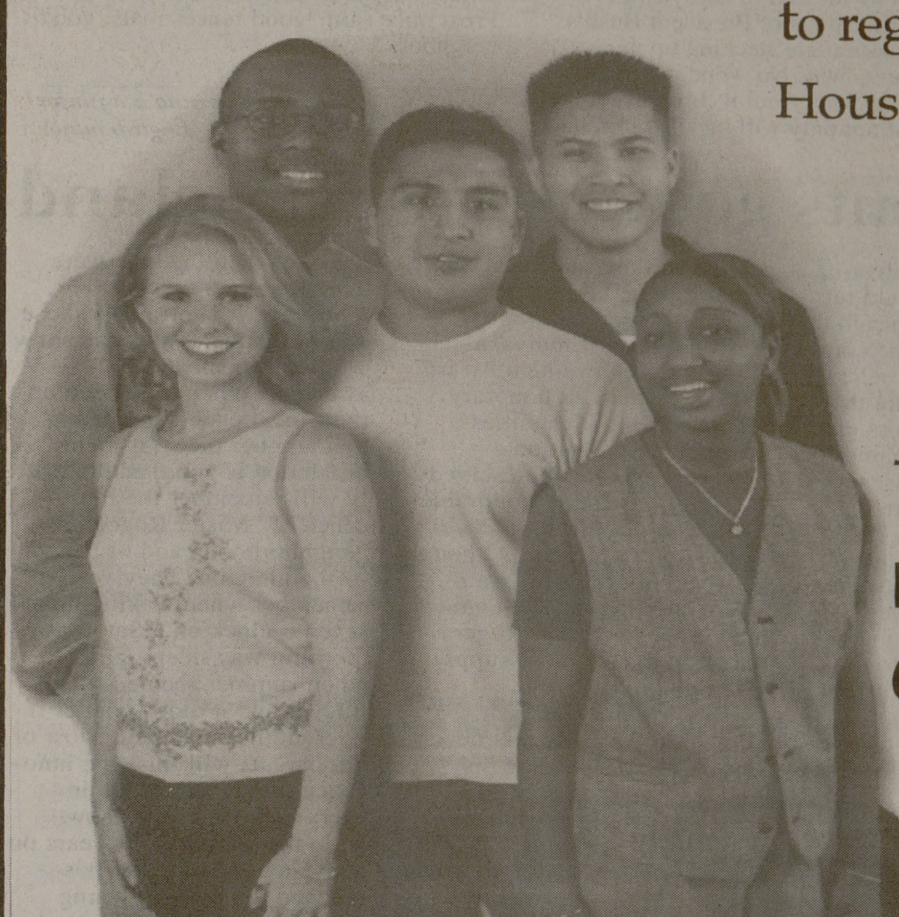
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Politics

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, September 11

Bryan seeks new city manager, purchases La Salle

By JONATHAN KOLMETZ
THE BATTALION

The recent \$1.2 million purchase of the near bankrupt La Salle Hotel, an ongoing plan to revitalize the downtown area of Bryan and finding a new city manager to replace Mike Conduff are a few items on the agenda the City of Bryan will be addressing during the next couple of months.

Hugh Walker, interim city manager for Bryan, has filled the position since Conduff departed five months ago for the same position in Denton. Bryan is now looking to fill the city manager position as soon as possible.

A pool of 12-15 applicants was narrowed down to just six people following interviews conducted on Friday and Saturday this past weekend. Walker said the candidates come from mostly midwestern states and have had some city managerial experience. It is unknown when a final decision will be announced.

"[The city] has budgeted to

take care of the hotel as it is currently operated," Walker said. "It has been budgeted in such a way that we will be able to take care of the La Salle Hotel, as well as continue city operations as normal."

The purchase of the La Salle Hotel is part of a downtown revitalization project that has been in the works for more than a year by the city of Bryan. A consultant firm, Looney Ricks Kiss, was hired to investigate public perception of downtown Bryan and College Station.

One item of interest to students at Texas A&M is the possibility of a rail transit link between downtown Bryan and College Station. The rail transit link would bring students from Northgate and visitors from the George Bush Presidential Library Complex to the downtown Bryan area.

"[The rail link] is not absolutely vital to the revitalization," Walker said. "There is a great potential in College Station that has really been untapped for [the City of Bryan] in recent years."

Bryan City Council proposes 2002 Fiscal Year budget

Bryan City Council will present its proposed 2002 budget at its regular meeting tonight. Public comments concerning the proposed budget will be heard during the meeting.

Under the new budget, City of Bryan is considering providing financial support for organizations such as the Bryan College Station Book Club, Girls Club of Brazos County and the North Bryan Community Center. Funds for these organizations would come from the 2002 Council Contingency.

Topics on the agenda include awarding a contract to Fierro Industries, the lowest bidder for the construction of a 30-inch water transmission line along Loop Mikulin Road. The cost is estimated at \$1,249,933. Funding will come from the Water Production 2002 Capital Improvements Fund.

A first reading of an ordinance that would fix the Bryan tax levy is also on the agenda. It is proposed that \$500 per \$100 property evaluation tax be fixed, effective for the 2002 taxable year.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the council chambers of the Bryan Municipal Building.

Braswell refuses to testify

WASHINGTON (AP) — A California businessman, pardoned by former President Clinton for a 1983 fraud conviction, refused to testify Monday at a Senate hearing investigating his dietary supplement business.

Almon Glenn Braswell and the editor of his Journal of Longevity magazine, Ron Tepper, both asserted their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination at a hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

Scott Mulhauser, press spokesman for the committee, said there were no plans to pursue an effort to grant limited immunity to Braswell and Tepper. The committee chairman, Rep. John Breaux, D-Louisiana, would rather concentrate on better government regulation of diet supplements that fail to produce their promised miracle cures.

Committee members had sought to question the two men on whether their products actually improved memory, increased sex drive and

slowed aging as advertisements promised. The law does forbid supplements from touting that they directly treat or prevent disease, but it allows more vague health claims. Supplements have been found promising results not backed by scientific evidence.

Braswell is the subject of a money-laundering and tax-evasion investigation by federal prosecutors and the Internal Revenue Service according to court papers filed by the U.S. attorney's office in Los Angeles.

Braswell was convicted in 1983 on charges of mail fraud, perjury and tax evasion and served seven months of a three-year sentence for falsifying photographs and documentation for a hair-growth product.

Clinton granted 177 pardons and clemencies just before leaving office in January. Braswell's pardon became one of the most criticized as it was learned the president's brother-in-law had been paid for working on the case.

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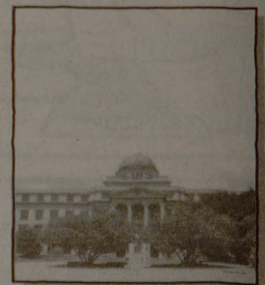
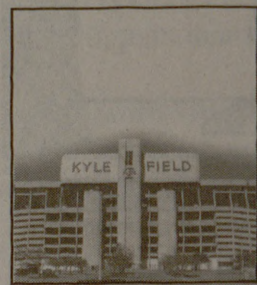
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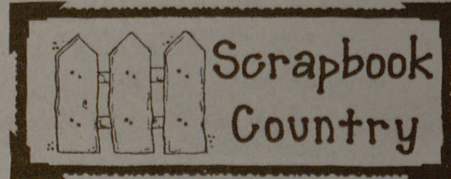
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