

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

A&M grad under fire

Enron scandal brings ethics into question

By Sommer Bunce
THE BATTALION

The role Big 5 accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLP and its former lead auditor, David Duncan, Class of 1981, may have played in the Enron scandal has left questions in the Aggie community that both figures have close ties to.

Duncan, who was fired from the firm last week after accusations that he ordered the destruction of key Enron documents, has remained connected to the University and sits on an advising board to the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business.

Ethics have always been a strong part of the curriculum in business courses at A&M, said Murphy Smith, the Department of Accounting assistant head. Some aspects of ethics are included in every course, and every auditing textbook has a chapter on trade ethics, he said.

Smith said that if Duncan, who is being questioned in the congressional investigation into Enron's demise, acted unethically, it should not be a reflection on A&M and its business school graduates.

"We're all sad it happened, it's just too bad for all of us who knew he was an Aggie," Smith said. "We expect ethical behavior from everyone."

Arthur Andersen, which employs more than 1,600 people in its Houston branch, sends recruiters to campus each spring to hire A&M graduates and interns. This week, despite the national attention and ethical review the firm is under, was not an exception as the Aggie-supporting firm joined other major firms in speaking to accounting students.

In the wake of such national exposure, recruiters spent part of this week calling the interns expected to arrive in Andersen's Houston office Feb. 18 to assure them a job with the firm would still be viable.

Smith said the firm was understandably concerned about people wanting to disassociate with it.

"They must be concerned that employees want to jump ship," Smith said. "And this could obviously be very bothersome to a student going into accounting."

Smith said the incident will not leave the accounting profession permanently marred. As a rule, accountants, especially auditors, protect the public interest and will continue to do so, he said.

"I hate to see the general public get the perception that accountants are anything but the most ethical," Smith said.

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Haden to retire

Search begins for new engineering college dean

By Justin Smith
THE BATTALION

With the forthcoming retirement of Dr. Roland Haden from Texas A&M, the call has gone out for someone to fill his shoes. Haden, the vice chancellor for engineering and the dean of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, is also the director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), that oversees Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

Mary Miller, associate vice president for administration and a member of the search committee, said a replacement would be responsible for these same duties.

"Haden's replacement will have to take on all these tasks, along with their role as vice chancellor and dean," Miller said.

Heading up the search for Haden's successor is Texas A&M Vice Chancellor and Dean of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dr. Edward Hiler.

"We are still just in the early stages of the search," he said. The committee is currently creating an advertisement, which will be published in journals aimed at administrators

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Student killed in one-car crash

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M student John Corbin Carver was killed early Tuesday morning when his car veered off Interstate 45 south of Centerville, Texas.

Carver, 23, a junior Construction Science major, was traveling to visit his girlfriend, Carey Johnson. Johnson said she knew Carver for a

year and a half.

Johnson and Carver's friend of four years, Scott Kana, said Carver wanted to pursue a career in construction.

"He just wanted to build buildings," Johnson said.

Carver was an employee at On the Border who loved his friends and playing disc golf, she said.

Both Johnson and Kana said they will miss Carver.

"He was a very sweet guy, intelligent ... everyone loved him," Johnson said. "I don't think anyone ever disliked him."

Kana, who recently graduated from Texas A&M, came to College Station to visit Carver several times last semester.

"He was a good guy, a great friend," Kana said. "He had a girlfriend he was crazy about ... it's kind of devastating."

Jungle gym



Students in a beginning tumbling class warm up by jogging laps around the tumbling mat in the gymnasium in the Reed Building. Jogging on the mat teaches students to adjust to the springs that lie underneath it.

STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Cornyn makes campaign stop

By Brandie Liffick
THE BATTALION

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn kicked off the fourth day of his campaign by stressing the importance of lower taxes, education reform and the building of a strong national defense.

Cornyn spoke to students Thursday morning in the Memorial Student Center as one of the first destinations on his early campaign trail. Cornyn is running on the Republican ticket, hoping to fill the seat that Phil Gramm, R-Texas, will vacate after serving in the Senate since 1985. The March 12 primaries will decide which Republican candidate will run

for the seat in the general election this November.

Cornyn made his campaign promises clear during the stop and adopted the Republican platform, telling students "our hard-earned dollars belong in our pockets, not the government's."

"I believe that our founding fathers designed a government that would guarantee individual freedom, and promote self-reliance and which recognized that the rights of the individual are the cornerstones of economic and personal freedom," he said.

Education and free enterprise were also mentioned in Cornyn's speech.

"I believe that education and opportunity go hand in hand," Cornyn said. "And that regardless of who you are, or where you come from ... the very best thing we can do in this society is to make sure that every child receives the best education possible."

Cornyn was elected attorney general in 1998, and served as a Texas Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1997.

Al Jones, a candidate for District 14 in the Texas House of Representatives, was one of many candidates who appeared to support Cornyn's campaign, he said.

"This is a great opportunity for me to meet

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JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn greets a friend after making his campaign speech Thursday in the MSC Flagroom.

Graves to undergo more tests Friday

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University System Chancellor Howard D. Graves will undergo tests Friday to determine if the course of his treatments for cancer will allow him to lead a

winning battle, or if he and doctors need to look in a new direction for a cure.

Graves, chancellor since 1999, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in January 2000. Since then, the cancer has spread into his lungs and abdomen. He will

undergo a CT scan today so doctors can decide whether or not his current treatment is effective.

Graves spoke Thursday night to a group of faculty in the Christian Faculty Network.

"The status (of the cancer) now is pretty stable," he said.

When talking about his chemotherapy, he said it was necessary for the therapy to boost his platelet production in his bone marrow.

Graves said that his faith is helping him through his fight with cancer.

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Misguided youth

Suicide plane crash was act of tragedy, not terrorism.

AggieLife Pg. 3

Making the grade

For many students, professional educations are the next step after graduation.

WEATHER

FRIDAY

HIGH 63° F
LOW 50° F

SATURDAY

HIGH 57° F
LOW 47° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weather.com