

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Board asked to support Sen. Gramm

By Brandie Liffick
THE BATTALION



GRAMM

Texas A&M Board of Regents members have received dozens of emails, faxes and letters asking that Sen. Phil Gramm be considered as the next president of A&M, said Regent Chairman Erle Nye.

Nye said he has received somewhere between 300 and 400 emails and faxes concerning the presidential position.

"I have read or skimmed each of them. I would say the majority of them are in support of Senator Gramm," he said. "The number has increased daily as the issue has gotten closer at hand."

"I have read or skimmed each of them. I would say the majority of them are in support of Senator Gramm."

Gramm's wife, Wendy, serves as a member of the Board of Regents and is a director and board member for the Houston-based Enron Corporation.

Nye said the letters do not fit the typical "write-in campaign" format, as each is different.

"They each seem to be independently written. Some are handwritten, some are typed. Some are from members of the Class of '38 and others are from freshmen," he said.

— Earl Nye
Board of Regents Chairman

Larry Neal, spokesperson for the senator, said Gramm knew nothing of the campaign until members of the press contacted his office Monday.

"As much as I know about this I read in the newspaper," Neal said. "It's flattering, but we're not behind it. We're simply in front of it."

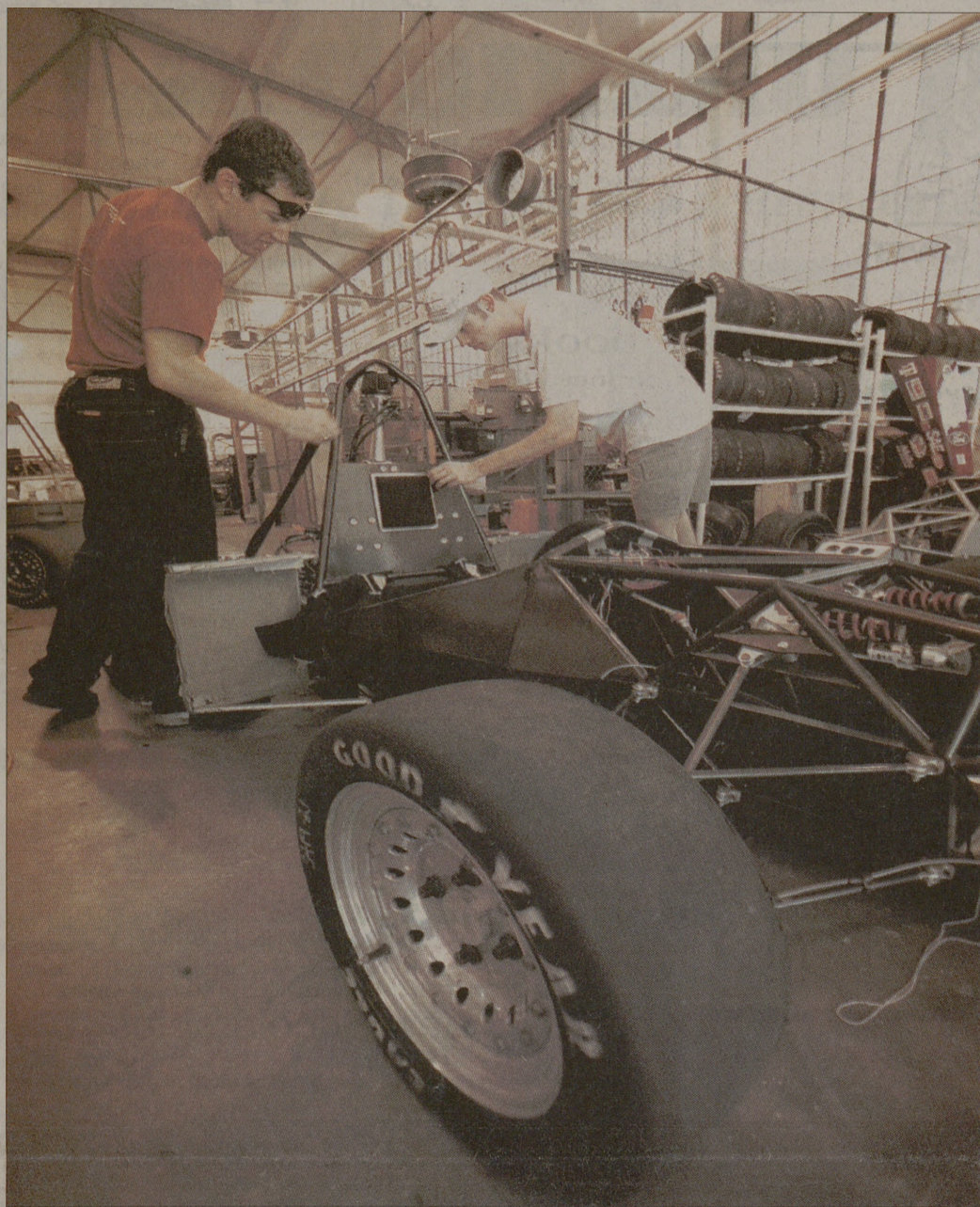
Neal said Gramm plans to fulfill his term in office, which ends in January.

The Presidential Search Committee suggested three candidates to the Board of Regents earlier this month. Nye previously has stated that the Board also is considering two undisclosed candidates for the position.

Under state law, board members must make their decision publicly known no less than 21 days before Bowen steps down on June 30.

See **Gramm** on page 2

Built for speed



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior mechanical engineering students **Jon Wade** and **Tyler Herring** perform final inspections on their high-powered race car in the mechanical engineering laboratory. The car, designed to go up to 90 mph and 0 to 60 mph in 3.61 seconds will be tested this week and then used in a worldwide competition in Detroit this May. In the past three years the A&M car has placed 12th, 1st and 5th, respectively, out of 125 cars.

Housing limitations approved in Bryan

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

The Bryan City Council responded to residents' complaints about raucous and messy college students by approving an ordinance Tuesday limiting the number of unrelated people allowed to live together in one house to four.

The ordinance, approved unanimously with Councilman Mike Beal abstaining, attempts to reduce parking and noise violations in residential neighborhoods, but contains a "grandfather clause" amendment that exempts current leases with more than four unrelated people until Sept. 1, 2003. All leases signed after 8 p.m. April 23, 2002, are subject to the ordinance.

Two other amendments were added to the ordinance: Foster homes are exempt from the ordinance, and a second family temporarily may live with another for a period of six months. Several residents spoke in favor of the ordinance at the council meeting, saying they hoped it would alleviate problems that arise with a high number of college students living together. Residents said students' failure to maintain their homes has reduced the property values of their houses.

These residents said students keep their yards unmowed, block streets and driveways with their vehicles and leave trash unattended to, making adjacent and nearby properties unattractive to prospective buyers.

"We're being invaded by students, and it's ruining our property," said

See **Bryan** on page 2

Olsen family sues A&M Foundation over estate

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Foundation is fighting the family of the late C.E. "Pat" Olsen over the multi-million dollar estate the foundation says the 1923 A&M graduate left to the University. James Palincsar, vice president of

development for the foundation, declined to discuss the case, which is being disputed in Harris County probate court, but said Olsen, a long-time donor to A&M, did arrange in his will to leave his estate to the University.

Olsen, for whom the University's baseball facility Olsen Field is named, died last May at the age of 97.

"The foundation wants to see that

Mr. Olsen's wishes are carried out," said Liska Lusk, general counsel for the foundation.

Lusk declined to discuss the exact amount of Olsen's gift to the University, but said it was the bulk of Olsen's multi-million dollar fortune.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported April 22 several witnesses testified Monday that Olsen was mentally com-

petent in his later years and wanted to leave his estate to A&M. Olsen, who played baseball at A&M, went on to play in the New York Yankees' minor-league system but failed to make it into the big leagues. He started a Houston-based oil exploration equipment company that earned him his wealth. He moved to the Bryan-College Station area in the early 1990s.

Beatrice Chandler, the widow of former A&M baseball coach Tom Chandler, testified of their longtime friendship with Olsen and said Olsen had presence of mind even when he was bedridden, the *Chronicle* reported.

"Pat just said because A&M had always been so good to him he wanted

See **Olsen** on page 2

Engineering patents new flow meter

By Marianne Hudson
THE BATTALION

The Dwight Look College of Engineering recently contracted with a Houston-area company to sell the patent to its newly designed flow meter, which will bring royalties to the college, college officials said.

Dr. Gerry Morrison, head developer and professor of mechanical engineering, said flow meters measure substances that go through pipelines such as natural gas, water and steam. The substances are measured during the production process and then packaged for distribution.

Morrison said this flow meter

measures substances more accurately than the currently-used Orphus meter. The new meter works well if there is a mixture of liquid and gas in the pipelines, he said, and it has the potential of being one-fourth of a percent more accurate than the Orphus meter in the same conditions.

Morrison said the meter's development took about nine years, involving six graduate and four undergraduate students. Development was funded primarily by the State of Texas Advanced Technology Program.

The meter's patent was sold to Flowline Meters Inc. because the state cannot partake in commercial ventures, Morrison said. The meters will sell for about \$5,000 for a two-inch line, he

said, and the college will receive royalties from each meter sold.

The meters will be used for industrial purposes in places such as petrochemical plants. He said some of the meter's initial applications will be in South America.

Dr. Ken Hall, the Jack E. and Frances Brown chair of chemical engineering, said the meters will sell because the marketplace needs a more accurate meter.

"The marketplace is trying to find solutions to the problem, and alternatives haven't worked, so it will give us an advantage," Hall said.

Morrison said the meter eventually will be used in production plants worldwide.

Evans Library offers e-books

30,000 books available online

By Amy Dosch
THE BATTALION

For students who regard the library as hostile territory and find searching the stacks a daunting task, a limited selection of books are available electronically, and A&M library officials have started a promotional campaign to alert students of this resource. Since 1999, the library has subscribed to Netlibrary, a database containing more than 30,000 e-books.

"A&M is upfront as far as access to electronic resources. We are the leader in the country as far as number of databases we have. Our interest in furthering efficiency as far as bringing resources to the student's desktop caused our interest in the e-book option," said Diana Ramirez, a reference librarian at Sterling C. Evans Library.

The system works like a regular library, in which a student must open an account to check out a book. If a book is checked out, it is unavailable to other users.

Ramirez said this is an experimental period for the program, and the demand for it is being monitored.

"We have ways of monitoring the number of accounts created, determining which subjects are demanded the most and even turn-away statistics," Ramirez said.

Turn-away statistics are a feature that allow the librarians to determine how many times a person has attempted to "check out" an e-book and has been denied because someone else already has

See **E-books** on page 2

INSIDE



AggieLife Pg. 3
A domino laid ... is a domino played

Aggies spend time, earn money playing in domino tournaments

WEATHER

TODAY	
	HIGH 89° F
	LOW 70° F
THURSDAY	
40%	HIGH 75° F
	LOW 62° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.collegeweather.com

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ★ Early voting continues through April 30

- Positions open include College Station mayor and council positions for both cities
- Voting locations can be found at www.ci-college-station.tx.us and www.ci-bryan.tx.us

Source: The cities of College Station and Bryan

Election day is May 4

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION