

# THE BATTALION

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## Ross Volunteers suspended after disruption



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

By Sarah Walch  
THE BATTALION

The Ross Volunteer Honor Corps association, an organization within Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets touted as the Honor Guard for the governor of Texas, has been temporarily suspended pending an investigation, said Maj. Doc Mills, Corps spokesman.

The Ross Volunteers attended the inauguration of Gov. Perry in Austin in January, and also marched in the inauguration parade for President Bush in January 2000.

The cadets were suspended after the Office of the Commandant received complaints from students and community members of harassment by

the Ross Volunteers at a candlelight prayer vigil on Monday, Feb. 3.

The suspension comes just three months after the University Police Department began investigating allegations of hazing in Parsons Mounted Cavalry, a specialized Corps unit similar to the Ross Volunteers, in November.

The candlelight vigil was held to protest the possible war with Iraq and pray for peace near the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue in Academic Plaza at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

Hugh Stearns, a vigil attendee and Class of 1992, said the behavior of the cadets was clearly antagonistic.

"They ran around the area screaming and yelling," he said. "Our ministers had to stop speaking. Some of the cadets glared (at us)."

Stearns said he was aware that Corps members jog on campus on a daily basis, but this situation was different.

Most of the Corps groups are extremely courteous, Stearns said.

From their actions Monday, however, "there was no loss of understanding as to the symbolism of their behavior," he said.

The A&M students at the vigil reserved the plaza through the University, Stearns said. The University Complex Center allows University-recognized student organizations to reserve the area by Rudder Fountain, the West Campus mall area and the area by Sul Ross in the Academic plaza, as "free speech zones."

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## Mays says business not a monopoly

By Melissa Fowler  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M alumnus L. Lowry Mays, known in Aggieland for his position on the University System Board of Regents and the Mays College of Business, is facing congressional pressure to alter the radio business as part of his other job as chairman and CEO of Clear Channel Communications.

The San Antonio headquartered Clear Channel Communications, which owns more than 1,225 radio stations and 37 television stations, has been the target of lawsuits and legislative proposals by opponents seeking to restrict its power and allow more government dealings and mergers.

In a press release on Jan. 30, Mays said he was excited to have the opportunity to testify at the committee's hearing on media ownership issues and to be part of any dialogue intended to make radio even better for consumers. Mays' office said that he was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Mays' presence at the hearing, headed by Sen. John

McCain, R-Ariz., was in response to allegations that his media conglomerate uses anti-competitive practices to overpower other radio stations and concert promoters.

"During the last year and a half, I have heard countless allegations about (Clear Channel) leveraging its cross ownership in an anti-competitive manner," Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., said at the hearing.

Two days before the hearing, Feingold reintroduced a piece of proposed legislation from June 2002 called the Competition in the Radio and Concert Industries Act that would assist small radio owners and concert promoters by outlawing anti-competitive practices in the industry.

"We think Sen. Feingold is wrong. Dead wrong," Mays said to the committee. "The legislation is built on the faulty premise that the concert business and radio business need to be fixed. They don't. They are healthier than ever, delivering more and better service to consumers."

The senate committee is

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## Look out below



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

United Forming Construction Supervisor **Reynol Gonzalez** takes a break during construction of the new endzone facility at the North end of Kyle Field on Wednesday. **Gonzalez** has worked

on the construction of the new multi-million dollar facility for eight months. The new project is going to expand Kyle Field seating, along and add a brand new athletic facility.

## A&M helps in Air Quality Project

By Lecia Baker  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M researchers are participating in the "Joint Houston-Galveston Air Quality Project," a \$3.5 million dollar program funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to find possible solutions for curbing pollution throughout much of Southeast Texas.

"Nobody knows how much airborne pollution occurs in College Station, because there's not any regular monitoring station here," said Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas state climatologist and professor of atmospheric sciences at A&M.

"Fundamentally, the main goal is to save lives by making it clearer what needs to be done to reduce air pollution," Nielsen-Gammon said.

With the computer simulations, researchers can get a better idea of what

the local situation is, he said.

"The wind sometimes blows from Houston to here, so whatever helps Houston will help us," he said.

The project will develop joint research facilities among the University of Houston, the University of Texas at Austin and A&M, said Simon W. North, assistant professor in the A&M Department of Chemistry.

Air, car emissions, power plants and the largest concentration of petrochemical refining activities in the world have all contributed to Houston's long-standing pollution problems, Nielsen-Gammon said.

Part of the project is the construction of up to three 60-foot tall observation towers, Nielsen-Gammon said. The towers will contain instruments to monitor air pollution and will be located along the Southeast Texas coastline, in urban Houston, and in the Piney Woods, he said.

"With the towers, we hope to measure

the transformation of pollution as air passes over Houston and moves downstream," Nielsen-Gammon said. "We will measure the exchange of pollutants with the Southeast Texas forests to see how much pollution is taken up by the ecosystem and how much remains in the air."

"One key area we want to look at is air that comes into Houston and then leaves the city and goes elsewhere," he added.

Residents of other Texas cities and towns believe their pollution problem is caused by cities upwind, such as Houston, he said.

"With better meteorological and air quality models, we can help determine how much pollution is created locally and how much moves in from afar," Nielsen-Gammon said.

"Most of what we do will have direct relevance to Houston," he said, "but the

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## A&M recruits one of year's best teams

By Michael Crow  
THE BATTALION

The battle for Southern supremacy in collegiate football recruiting just got more interesting.

No longer are Texas A&M football fanatics sitting idly by in the offseason, watching Texas' top high school recruits get snatched up one at a time by the likes of Mack Brown and Bob Stoops. Instead, thanks to the toils of former A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum and his successor Dennis Franchione, the Aggies boast one of the nation's top recruiting classes this year.

Franchione announced the list of newcomers on Wednesday, college football's official signing day, and invited the student body to witness the press conference on the Jumbotron at Kyle Field.

The Aggies added 24 players to create a new class that Rivals.com ranks eighth in the country.

"This is the culmination of a lot of time and energy," Franchione said. "The previous staff gave us a great start, which was certainly pivotal. I'm really proud of these young men."

The group consists of Slocum and Franchione recruits with an emphasis on improvement in the trenches at the offensive and defensive lines. Five linemen were added on each side of the ball to help an area that Franchione said he and his staff

### SIGNING DAY FACTS

24 signees were ranked 8th in the United States

Three made USA Today All-American Teams

Signees include:  
10 offensive  
14 defensive

Offensive lineman **Jorrie Adams** is ranked No. 8 in the nation

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SOURCE: WWW.RIVALS.COM

saw as needing to be addressed most.

The arrival of 275-pound offensive lineman Jorrie Adams should quickly ease some of the burden. The first-team USA Today All-American out of Jasper was listed as the No. 2 recruit in the state and No. 8 nationally by Rivals.com.

"(Adams) is considered one of the top young men in the country," said A&M Assistant Coach Jim Bob Helduser. "He has outstanding athleticism and great flexibility for such a tall offensive lineman."

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## Blinn College hosts bone marrow drive

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

The Scott and White Morrow Donor Program and the Blinn College Vocational Nursing Students Association are sponsoring a bone marrow registration drive to find a donor for Blinn graduate Kristen Reed, who has Non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Reed, a 21-year-old Caldwell resident, was diagnosed with cancer of the lymph nodes, in Fall 2001 and has been undergoing chemotherapy for the past year.

"It (Reed's lymphoma) is life-threatening and she isn't going to get any better unless she gets a transplant," said Carolyn Reese, vocational nursing school instructor.

Those participating in the drive, being held today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Blinn campus, will have a pin prick of blood taken to determine tissue type.

Tissue typing classifies one's white blood cells, said Debbie Maybry Manager of Scott and White Marrow Donor Program.

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### Kristen Reed Bone Marrow Drive

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003

8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Blinn Main Campus  
Health Building 131

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SOURCE: BLINN COLLEGE