

THE BATTALION

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MSC misplaced \$61K in 2002 T-shirt funds

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

The Memorial Student Center misplaced \$61,212 in 2002 Maroon Out T-shirt sales and an additional \$6,200 worth of T-shirts in a puzzling case that leaves no trail to the missing money.

No criminal investigation has been launched, and officials responsible for overseeing the activity don't know who might be responsible for the money's disappearance.

The Maroon Out fund-raising effort, intended to show support for Texas A&M's football team, is overseen by MSC Class Councils, student-led committees composed of annually elected representatives

from each class year.

Two internal A&M system auditors, Robert W. Smith and Robin Woods, have been unable to track any of the funds, which disappeared last fall, according to a memorandum sent to A&M President Robert M. Gates on July 1, 2003.

The memo to Gates, authored by chief auditor of the Texas A&M University System Catherine A. Smock, states that an "inadequate University oversight of the student activity" created "an environment (that made possible) misappropriation of University resources."

Executive Director of University Relations Cynthia Lawson said she applauds students' efforts to uncover the problem and request an audit. MSC members have listened to the

recommendations from the audit and implemented changes, she said.

"From what I understand, the system they've put in place seems to be working quite well this year," Lawson said.

Anyone had access

Matt Fuxan, the 2002-2003 Maroon Out director, said anyone on Class Councils would have had access to the money.

"There are about 120 people in Class Councils," he said. "Obviously, on game days our cash flow was pretty high."

Fuxan said the missing money was discovered in January when Katie Hanselka, the Class Councils' adviser at the time, discovered errors in the financial report when she was computing tax information. Tax forms for

student organizations are due Jan 20, according to the Student Organization Finance Center Web site.

Fuxan, a senior international studies major, said he was the second or third person notified that funds were missing.

"It wasn't ever any sort of scandal," Fuxan said. "It's like Bonfire, you don't really fix (a broken system) until something goes wrong."

An underestimate

The total Hanselka discovered gone and the total amount missing reported to the auditors on Feb 24 was \$43,000.

Auditor Smith later found this amount to be an underestimate.

In a memorandum to James

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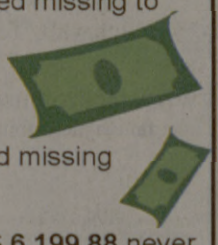
MISSING MONEY

MSC Class Councils' funds disappeared last fall.

\$ 43,000 initially reported missing to auditors

\$ 61,212 in profits from the sale of 12,026 T-shirts later discovered missing by auditors

1,362 T-shirts costing \$ 6,199.88 never arrived



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Measuring success



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M club baseball adviser Kyle Greeley checks the speed of pitches with a radar gun on the first day of tryouts at the Southwood Athletic Complex on Tuesday afternoon. The team's preseason runs

during the fall semester with the regular season starting in February. The club baseball team was the 2003 national runner-up and was National Champion the year before.

Perry calls third special session

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has called a third special legislative session on congressional redistricting, revealing his plans Tuesday shortly after 10 Senate Democrats said they would return from New Mexico and end their boycott.

Perry's announcement follows two special sessions this summer that failed to produce a new redistricting plan after Democrats in the Texas Senate blocked a vote on a proposal.

Perry, a Republican, said the session would begin on Monday. His announcement comes a day before 10 Senate Democrats who have been in New Mexico boycotting the Legislature were planning to return to Texas. They left the state July 28 to break a Senate quorum and halt

business in the chamber.

The Democrats said they decided to come home after one of their fellow Democrats, Sen. John Whitmire of Houston, defected from the holdout in Albuquerque, N.M., and said he planned to attend an expected third special session. That left the 10 remaining Democrats without the numbers to block a quorum.

Twenty-one of the Senate's 31 members must be present for business to be conducted.

"If, indeed, Senator Whitmire makes a quorum, we must return to the Senate to defend rural and minority Texans as best we can," the Democratic senators said in a statement Tuesday. "Despite his rhetoric, his move amounts to trading away the electoral voices of the millions of rural and minority Texans we are in Albuquerque to defend."

Republicans maintain that recent voting trends show Texas should have more GOP



PERRY

See Session on page 2A

Packeteer device controls on-campus file-sharing

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

The Recording Industry Association of America announced Tuesday its member companies' decisions to sue users who participate in the swapping of illegal music and video files among peer-to-peer networks. They are targeting those users with more than 1,000 copyrighted files.

Texas A&M is well aware of the consequences of having illegal files on the campus network, said Willis Marti, associate director for Computing and Information Services. However, he said, it isn't a major problem on campus.

"We used to have a gigabyte limit, but it was not effective in limiting traffic," he said. "We just try to be aware of the mention of Texas A&M and make sure that we don't have any highly visible downloaders."

Despite this, Marti said, it is extremely important for students to realize the legalities of the issue. The University is warning students of

the consequences.

Marti said peer-to-peer traffic has slowed down, and in turn, the number of illegal files students are downloading has also decreased.

"There is a Packeteer device between the residence halls and the rest of the world that restricts the amount of traffic allowed to pass," he said. "It reduces file-swapping by slowing it down, and discouraged people go elsewhere."

Sophomore molecular and cell biology major and A&M campus resident Megan Arnold said she will continue to download music. She said she's not worried about getting in trouble.

"It seems to me that they are targeting people with a whole lot of music," she said. "Sometimes I get discouraged because it takes a while, but I don't download a whole lot of files."

The University of North Texas is taking precautions as well, to avoid any possible lawsuits, said Maurice Leatherbury, executive director of information technology and academic computing at the North Texas.

Punishments for Pirating

File-sharing now yields serious legal consequences.

- RIAA-member companies filed copyright infringement claims against 261 file sharers.
- Online infringement of copyrighted music can be punished by up to three years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.
- Copyright holders can sue for statutory damages ranging from \$750 to \$150,000 for each work illegally copied.

SETH FREEMAN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: RIAA.COM

"We restrict the amount of space so it tends to restrict the file-swapping because it's so slow," he said. "We can tell who is using the bulk of the

See File-sharing on page 7A

Interim director to help clean up environment

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

Recently appointed interim deputy director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Robert E. Whitson is heading up projects that will have an impact on the state, such as the development of more efficient cropping and irrigation systems.

Whitson was appointed interim deputy director of TAES, a research agency that conducts research to ensure the highest quality food and fiber products and a sustainable environment, on Aug. 15.

"He is a representative who has led the department in an excellent manner and he is an outstanding choice (for interim deputy director)," said Fuller W. Bazer, associate vice chancellor and executive associate dean.

TAES is working on a Service Management Road Map, which develops new directions and makes a plan of action that will result in solutions to issues facing the agricultural industry.

"We have 450 to 460 scientists with Ph.D.s and creative minds who we depend on to provide ideas," Whitson said.

High priorities for the project include Water for a Future Texas, Plant and Animal Genomic, Strengthening the Beef Industry in Texas and Improving Regional Research and Extension Center Facilities.

Specifically, Water for a Future Texas will improve recycling of degraded water and identify implications for water conservation.

"We try to match the problem with a solution as efficiently as possible," Whitson said.

Whitson received his undergraduate and master's



WHITSON

See Interim on page 2A

Baylor president faces vote

By Bobby Ross Jr.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO — As the Baylor Faculty Senate convened in a closed meeting Tuesday to consider a no-confidence vote on university President Robert Sloan, a group calling itself "Friends of Baylor" said it has raised \$300,000 to defend Sloan and the scandal-ridden university.

U.S. Rep. Max Sandlin, D-Texas, a Friends of Baylor steering committee member, said the group founded two weeks ago "is not just a pep squad — we are a group of highly-active, highly-motivated Baylor

alumni and students who are committed to supporting Baylor and its current leadership."

Clifton Robinson, the group's president and chairman and CEO of National Lloyds Insurance Co., said the money would be used to help educate people about the university's history, future and "what our university can accomplish under the leadership of President Sloan."



SLOAN

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THE BATTALION

The Battalion invites you to submit personal remembrances and thoughts as the nation approaches the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Please submit your 250-word letters to mailcall@thebattalion.net or stop by 014 Reed McDonald.

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