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FISH



BY R. DELUNA **Bats**

Continued from page 1

Pest Management ousted about 1,200 bats from Evans Library by patching up holes in the building while the bats were gone at night for feeding, Meyer said. The bats that occupied the Business Management Services Building were released into the wilderness outside of College Station. After the bats were relocated, repairs were made to the previously bat-occupied buildings. "To the best of our knowledge, the bat problem has been solved in the library," said Charles Gilreath, executive associate dean of Evans Library. "We have had no further incidents of bats since the fall of 2001."

The bats that remain on the A&M campus and in the Bryan-College Station area are given protected status as the official flying mammal of Texas, Meyer said.

If you come into contact with a bat, especially a downed or isolated bat, the incident should be reported to Pest Management at 845-3383 or the Environmental Health and Safety Department at 845-2132. Close physical contact with a bat requires medical attention within 48 hours, Meyer said.

Proposition 12

Continued from page 1

The opponents — trial lawyers, consumer advocates and some anti-crime groups — argue that the proposition would restrict juries' roles and allow negligence to escape accountability. Voters narrowly rejected that argument.

The amendment changes the Texas Constitution by allowing lawmakers to put caps on certain lawsuit awards, such as pain and suffering in medical malpractice cases.

Lawmakers in the spring had already approved a state law that capped non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits at \$250,000 for physicians, \$250,000 for hospitals and \$250,000 for other institutions with a maximum overall cap of \$750,000 per claimant.

The amendment's passage Saturday will hedge off constitutional challenges that could have arisen if voters had rejected it. "Unfortunately, Proposition 12 is going to give politicians and wealthy special interests, like the insurance industry, the power to make important legal decisions that should be in the hands of Texas courts, judges and juries," said Dan Lambe, executive director of Texas Watch.

Lambe said the groups that had opposed the amendment would continue to work to defend people's constitutional rights to access the courts.

Perry, a Republican, had made medical malpractice reform a top issue during the regular legislative session. In his State of the State address in February, he pushed for a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages, saying patients across the state were seeing their doctors forced out of practice because of high medical malpractice rates.

NOISE & POLLUTION



BY JOSH DARWIN

Crazy Jake

By M. Mousse



PUN BOYZ

BY: WILL LLOYD



Policies

Continued from page 1

diverse students." Officials are excited about the chance to reassess admissions policies, Ashley said. Many believe the Supreme Court's ruling will give A&M an equal ability to achieve diversity.

A&M has historically had a reputation of being an institution that is not racially diverse, Ashley said. Some minority students worry that they will have to battle prejudice and inequality while attending the University.

Ashley said he believes A&M's negative image is largely due to incidents that may have harmed the University's reputa-

tion for being open and welcoming, such as a student-planned "ghetto" party on Martin Luther King Jr. Day this spring. Ashley said he hopes the University will be able to use changes in admissions policies to create an atmosphere that is more welcoming to minority students.

"We are the University of the masses," Ashley said. "Diversity is something that we are working for, but we have a lot of work to do. The Aggie spirit is for everyone. No matter what race, ethnicity or creed; once an Aggie always an Aggie."

Bill Kibler, interim vice president of student affairs at A&M, declined to comment about the ruling. He said the University had not considered making any

changes yet, and the issue was too premature to speculate on what kinds of changes will be made.

The Supreme Court upheld a previous ruling by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals that the University of Michigan Law School's admissions policy is constitutional. The school had been using race as a factor in admissions. The Court held that the Law School's goal of admitting a "critical mass of under represented minority students" does not necessarily turn the program's admissions process into a quota system. However, the Court disagreed with Michigan's system of automatically distributing 20 points to students from minority groups in the admissions process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kernan inherits problems with confidence of lawmakers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Newly sworn-in Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan declared Sunday a statewide day of remembrance in honor of the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon, but remained out of the public eye in preparation for the week ahead.

Kernan must soon decide whether to extend a 60-day stay of execution O'Bannon ordered in a death-row case, and how to handle the state's

\$800 million budget deficit.

Leaders of both parties said they were confident Kernan could corral consensus to address the state's biggest problems during next year's legislative session and run the state's business for the next 15 months.

The state Supreme Court formally transferred power to Kernan, 57, on Wednesday, two days after O'Bannon was found unconscious in his hotel room while attending a trade conference. O'Bannon, 73, died Saturday at a Chicago hospital, and Kernan was sworn in as governor about six hours later.

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