



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Tom Croxell, from Dallas, listens as senior environmental design major Jeryl B. Hamilton explains his Save Our Streets (SOS) final project for his architecture design studio. The SOS project is a model for a founded 24 hours, 7 days a week Ministry Center and

Campus built for youth and their families in crises who are involved in gang activities, drugs, abusive home situations, sexual exploitation, abandonment, violence and poverty. The class has been working on the projects since last February.

## Students help 'Save Our Streets'

By Jibran Najmi  
THE BATTALION

This semester, 28 Texas A&M architecture students developed preliminary site plans for a 19.6-acre campus for Save Our Streets (SOS) Ministries, an inner-city Christian social outreach program in the Bryan-College Station area.

J.J. Ramirez, a reformed drug addict and former gang member, founded the organization in 1993 to create a center for troubled youth that was accessible on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

"It's always nice to do a project where you know that you're helping and making a difference," said junior environmental design major Heidi Sanders.

Ramirez said he turned his life around when a friend handed him a Bible. He said there was one thing that helped him break out of the drug lifestyle.

"Desperation," he said. "I looked up and said 'God if you're for real, help me now.'"

Ramirez said he had no one to turn to for support as he broke his \$150 to \$200 drug habit.

"I didn't have anyone to encourage me and tell me that I would make it. I want to be that person," he said. "Everyone told me that I was a drug addict and that I would be a drug addict for life."

Ramirez turned to George Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs professor for health facilities design, for assistance in developing his dream.

Students in Mann's undergraduate design studio were assigned the task of creating preliminary site plans and designs in pairs.

"The students have gone the extra mile in researching the best alternatives for developing the site in different phases," Mann said.

The proposed campus will be built on Groesbeck Road in Bryan on recently purchased land and will feature administrative offices, gyms, classrooms, workshops, nurseries, outdoor sports facilities, picnic areas and swimming pools.

Mann said students were required to complete two models: one of the overall site and one detailed model of the main building and surrounding areas. Students were also required to make decisions regarding spatial allocation and cost estimates, among other things.

"The hardest thing about this project was to translate the specific needs of this organization into something that was feasible and that could become a reality," said Niki Manning, a senior environmental design major.

Although the final site design will not be one of the designs created by the 14 student pairs, each design will contribute specific ideas toward the final center. Each design had specific focuses, ranging from minimizing construction costs to making the building more appealing and drawing people to the site.

"It's a project that hit really close to home for them," Mann said. It deals with a real social problem that affects every town in the United States regardless of income, class or race."

## Three Marines injured in Afghan ambush

By Paul Haven  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Suspected insurgents ambushed an American military convoy on a road in southern Afghanistan, setting off an explosion that wounded three Marines — one of them seriously, the U.S. military said Monday.

The attack occurred Saturday near the village of Dailanor, in restive Kandahar province, said Lt. Col. Tucker Mansager, a military spokesman. The wounded men were taken to a military hospital at the U.S. base in Kandahar, the main coalition headquarters in southern Afghanistan.

Kandahar and other southern and eastern Afghan provinces have seen a considerable increase in violence in recent weeks.

"Historically, over the past two years, as the weather improves in Afghanistan ... there has been an

uptick in enemy operations, particularly in the south and east," Mansager said. "We seem to have seen an increase in the number of attacks in the last two weeks."

But Mansager said U.S. forces have more than enough military muscle to deal with the threat. As the bloodshed has increased, military spokesmen have routinely described it as an act of "desperation" by insurgents on their last legs, echoing a line they have pushed for more than two years.

Some 2,000 Marines have arrived in Afghanistan in recent weeks, bringing the total size of the U.S.-led coalition to about 15,500 soldiers. It was not clear if the men wounded in Saturday's attack were part of the new contingent.

Spc. Pat Tillman, a former NFL player with the Arizona Cardinals, became the latest U.S. casualty when he was killed in an ambush Thursday by suspected Taliban militants in the eastern province of Khost. Several bombings have been reported in Kandahar in recent weeks, one outside a building where the governor was holding a meeting.

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— Lt. Col. Tucker Mansager  
military spokesman

## VPSA announced

By Sonia Moghe  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates announced Monday that Dean L. Bresciani will be the next vice president of student affairs for the University beginning this summer.



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Bill Kibler, who has served as the interim vice president for student affairs for the past year, will become the vice president of student affairs at Mississippi State University. He and his family will leave for Mississippi at the end of May.

"It'll be hard to leave," Kibler said. "I've been working at Texas A&M for 24 years."

Kibler said he is confident that Bresciani will fill the position well.

"Some of our students that interviewed him on campus felt good about (him)," Kibler said. "They connected with him (and think) that he'll be a strong advocate for students."

The search was conducted during the past six months by a committee that included three students, one of whom was Student Body

President Matt Josefy, a senior accounting major.

"I think what Bresciani will bring to the position is an extensive knowledge of student affairs and a very strong national reputation in this field," he said.

Josh Peschel, graduate student council president, and Pablo Rodriguez, vice president of diversity for student government, were the other two student members on the search committee.

"(Bresciani will create a) relationship between student affairs and academic affairs," Rodriguez said. "He values and appreciates the unique A&M culture and that was apparent during his interview."

Kibler said Bresciani will take over the position sometime in June. Jan Winniford, the associate vice president of student affairs, will serve as the interim VPSA in between Kibler and Bresciani's terms. She has been working at A&M for 25 years, Kibler said.

Josefy said the search for a VPSA was difficult because of the number of qualified candidates.

"We were fortunate that there were many choices this time around," Josefy said. "There were multiple candidates that would have done a good job."

## Campus Master Plan to urbanize A&M

By Jeremy Osborne  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M campus will become more pedestrian friendly, according to the new Campus Master Plan, presented by the Campus Master Plan Steering Committee Monday at Rudder Theater.

The plan, to be implemented over the next 50 years, will make the campus a more urban, uniform place.

Mary Miller, Campus Master Plan chair, said the primary concern is making the campus accessible for pedestrians.

"The first concern is pedestrians, then bicycles, buses and then private vehicles," Miller said.

To achieve this goal, parking will be moved to garages on the periphery of campus, said Carl Gromatzky, a consultant with Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects.

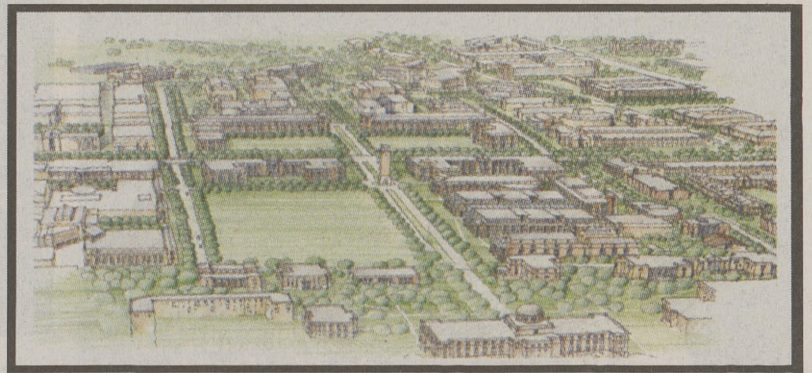
"Eventually you have to replace surface parking with garages,"

See Plan on page 2

### CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

The Texas A&M Campus Master Plan will make the campus more accessible to pedestrians over the next 50 years. Plans include:

- ▶ Moving parking to garages on the edge of campus
- ▶ Constructing buildings on West Campus closer together
- ▶ Creating more open spaces and walkways for pedestrians



Proposed aerial view of campus

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE : TAMU.EDU/CAMPUSPLAN

## FarmHouse Fraternity finds its newest niche at Texas A&M

By Jason Hanselka  
THE BATTALION

After years of unsuccessful attempts to establish a presence at Texas A&M, FarmHouse Fraternity officially chartered its A&M chapter April 17.

Cody Gladney, a sophomore animal science major and president of A&M FarmHouse Fraternity, said the University's traditional lack of Greek interest was the main reason the fraternity had previously failed at establishing a chapter at A&M.

"We like to consider ourselves the uncommon fraternity," Gladney said.

FarmHouse Fraternity was established in

Columbia, Mo., in 1905. It was originally started by University of Missouri students, most of whom came from agricultural backgrounds, who wanted to form an agricultural club. It comprises 29 active chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

"FarmHouse has always had a strong base in ag, but we want diversity," Gladney said. "We are open to all majors."

A&M is the seventh Big 12 school where FarmHouse has issued a charter. Other Big 12 schools include The University of Missouri, Kansas State University, The University of Nebraska, Oklahoma State University, Iowa State University and Texas Tech University.

Jonathan Hawley, director of chapter services

for FarmHouse International Fraternity, said FarmHouse has always strived to be a part of the world's most reputable agricultural schools.

"The ideals that (FarmHouse) have would go together quite well with the ideals that Aggies have," he said.

Hawley said the goal of FarmHouse is to build men intellectually, spiritually, socially, morally and physically.

Hawley and Gladney said FarmHouse's most notable alumnus is Texas country music singer/songwriter Pat Green, who was a member of the Texas Tech chapter.

Dale Pracht, adviser to the A&M FarmHouse chapter and assistant director for experiential education at the A&M Career Center, said

FarmHouse and A&M are a good match because of the traditions the University has and the strong values that the students possess.

Pracht, a graduate of Kansas State and FarmHouse alumnus, said the fraternity contributed a lot to his education and the development of his leadership skills.

"FarmHouse has been an integral part of my life," Pracht said. "Helping establish the A&M chapter has been a rewarding opportunity to give back to the fraternity."

Shannon Redwine, a sophomore agricultural development major and recruiting co-chair for A&M FarmHouse, said most current members of

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