



**Sports:**  
Win a bobble head at the women's basketball game Sunday Page 7

## Ray of hope



ART WRIGHT • THE BATTALION

Monique Toliver of Los Angeles, Calif., portrays a Native American woman, using her voice to demonstrate the injustices done to American Indians, past and the present. The production company, Will & Company presented "American Voices" Thursday evening in the Memorial Student Center. It was the second in a series of One Person Shows as part of the MSC Current Issues Awareness "Campus with A Dream" week.

## 'Voices' play provides insight

By Rhiannon Meyers  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M administration's recent push toward campus diversity has called into question what it really means to be diverse.

Thursday night, A&M students, faculty and staff gained more insight into diversity with the "American Voices" program, hosted by the Memorial Student Center Current Issues Awareness Committee.

"We've all become rigid mosaics, every little color in its own right place,"

said performer Monique Toliver. "We can no longer be satisfied with the mosaic."

Toliver, along with Sean Moran, performed the play "American Voices" for an audience of about 30 people as part of the "Campus With a Dream" program. The program is a one-person skit featuring nine characters from various ethnic, cultural, sexual, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds. The program features a series of monologues from an illiterate Latino man, a Muslim Arab-American woman, a college-age Asian-American female with an eating disorder, a Native

American lawyer, a black male on death row, a homosexual Christian preacher, a white Neo-Nazi female and a deaf American.

Through the voices of the characters, Toliver preached acceptance and understanding of all cultures to preserve the legacy of those killed in the Sept. 11 World Trade Center bombings. Toliver said that a great variety of ethnicities and cultures were represented in the group of people who died that day, mirroring

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## Pet food course offered at Rudder

By Carrie Pierce  
THE BATTALION

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PET FOOD EXCURSION

Students representing 11 nations will be on the Texas A&M campus Jan. 26-30 to participate in a short course on pet food and feed extrusion.

The course will be held at Rudder Tower, and it will be the 14th year the A&M Food Protein Research and Development Center has offered this course as a service to those in the pet food industry.

At the conference, participants will learn how pet foods are made from various raw materials and about different types of pet food packaging, said Mian Riaz, head of the extrusion technology program.

Riaz said that prior to Sept. 11, students representing 15 to 20 countries would attend, but recently, because of travel difficulties, the number has decreased.

"We attract so many international students because this is a very popular course," Riaz said. "No one else offers this course in any part of the world."

Riaz said this course almost sells out every year. This year, 44 students will be in attendance from Barbados, Belize, Canada, England, Japan, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

Christopher Bailey, a poultry nutritionist and professor of poultry science will be speaking at the event about least cost feed formulation and the use of computers to formulate feeds for animals. He will also be speaking about formulating diets for specific animals.

"Companies in the feed industry are sending employ-

• Rudder Tower, Jan. 26 - 30

• Students representing 11 countries will attend

• Participants learn how pet foods are made from raw materials and different types of pet food packaging



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: MIAN RIAZ HEAD OF THE EXTRUSION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

ees from all over to get training in these areas and the in extrusion," he said.

Bailey described the extrusion as taking ground feed and formulating it into a pellet-like shape. Dog and cat foods are extruded products, Bailey said. "The advantage of this is it cuts down on dust and prevents nutrient separation," Bailey said.

Another speaker at the conference will be Delbert Gatlin, associate department head for wildlife and fisheries science, who will be discussing the manufacturing of fish feed.

## Edwards runs for new district slot

By Anthony Woolstrum  
THE BATTALION

Congressman Chet Edwards, Class of 1974, said Thursday if he is re-elected to Congress, serving the A&M community would not be just a job for him, but a deep debt of gratitude.

Edwards is running for congressman in the newly drawn District 17, which now includes Brazos County, along with the rest of central Texas. For the past 13 years, Edwards has served the Waco area.

Including Edwards, there are only three Aggies who currently serve in Congress.

Currently, A&M receives only 27 percent of its funding from the state of Texas, Edwards said. Yet reports show that more than 70 percent of students at A&M depend on financial aid. This reflects the fact that people are already getting in debt, he said.

As tuition increases every semester,

Edwards said he will fight to direct federal financial support to A&M. He said he is working as a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee in Congress to increase funding for pell grants and student loans to make college more affordable.

### First in a series of candidates running in District 17

"It should be a clear state and national policy to ensure that the doors of Texas A&M University are always open to middle or low income students," Edwards said. "People should be accepted on hard work and proven ability, not on their bank accounts."

Edwards also introduced a bill to reauthorize research grant programs for medical schools affiliated with VA hospi-

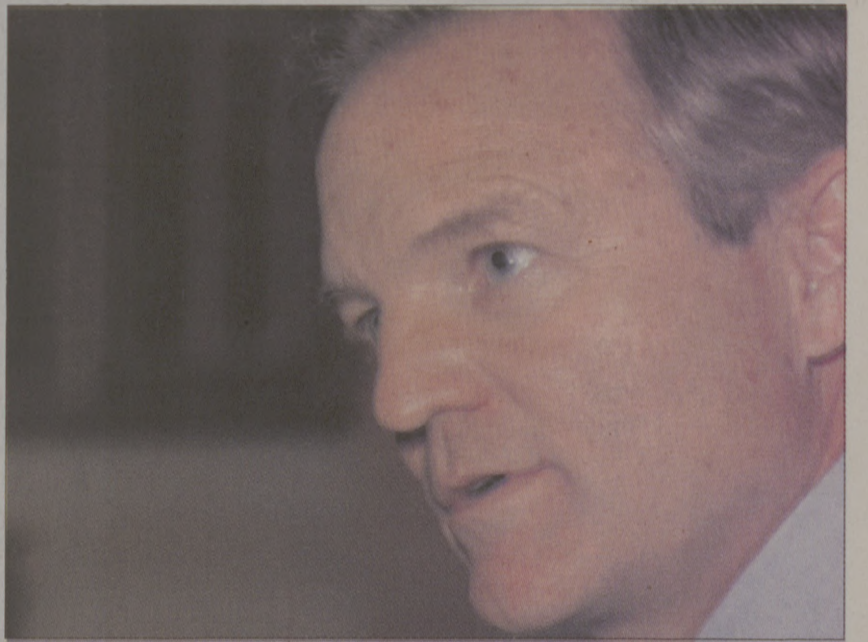
tals, which would critically enhance A&M's Science Center programs. With the incredible research capabilities at A&M, Edwards said, students, faculty and staff can make a vital contribution to issues such as national defense, homeland security, education and agriculture.

Edwards said he enjoyed his time at A&M because it gave him the knowledge that put him a step ahead of everyone else. "A&M has had a profound impact on my life," he said. "It gave me valuable morals, lessons and friendships."

While attending A&M, Edwards was involved in the Student Senate. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in economics and earned the Earl Rudder/Brown Foundation award, which was given to two outstanding seniors.

Through his extracurricular activities,

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Congressman Chet Edwards, class of '74, talks to reporters in the Memorial Student Center Flag room Thursday afternoon.

## Mars Mission Spirit rover stops sending data

By Andrew Bridges  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASADENA, Calif. — NASA's Spirit rover stopped transmitting data from the surface of Mars, baffling engineers Thursday and bringing the vehicle's mission to a potentially calamitous halt.

NASA received its last significant data from the unmanned Spirit early Wednesday, its 19th day on Mars. Since then, the six-wheeled rover has sent either random, meaningless radio noise or simple beeps acknowledging it has received commands from Earth.

"We now know we have had a very serious anomaly on the vehicle," project manager Pete Theisinger said at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Engineers struggled to diagnose what was wrong with the rover. Among the possible causes: a corruption of its software or computer memory.

If the software is awry, NASA can fix it from Earth by beaming patches across more than 100 million miles of space. But if the problem lies with the rover's hardware, the situation

### Mars rover fails to send data

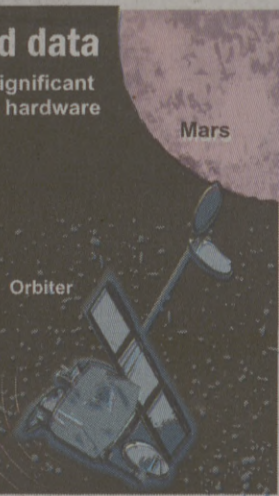
NASA's Spirit rover failed to send significant data to Earth Thursday. The rover's hardware is thought to be the problem.

When functioning correctly, signals are sent indirectly from the rover via a spacecraft orbiting Mars.

The spacecraft pass over the rover for eight minutes in each Martian day. About 60 megabits of data are sent in that time.

The orbiters have a 16-hour window to relay data to Earth.

SOURCES: NASA; Associated Press



would be far more grave — perhaps beyond repair.

"Yes, something could break, something certainly could fail. That's a concern we have — that's quite a serious event," Theisinger said.

Spirit is one-half of an \$820 million mission. Its twin, Opportunity, is expected to land on Mars late Saturday. The twin rovers are supposed to examine the Red Planet's dry rocks

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## A&M professor aids NASA in Mars image production

By Pammy Ramji  
THE BATTALION

Mark Lemmon, a Texas A&M professor, will participate in a NASA project that will perfect the transmission of images from Mars.

"People have been looking at Mars and they wonder what is up there," Lemmon said. "Now we can answer their questions."

Lemmon is currently working on operations that include the Mars Exploration Rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, and the design of the Phoenix Lander. The cost of the mission is \$820 million. His research on the atmosphere of Mars focuses on the nature and distribution of Martian atmospheric dust.

Lemmon is an associate research professor for atmospheric sciences at A&M and holds a doctorate in planetary sciences from the University of Arizona. His wife, Maria Escobar-Lemmon, is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science.

"I greatly admire him," said distinguished professor for atmospheric sciences, Gerald North. "This is such a hot field which isn't easy and I am very excited for him."

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