

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 89 No. 127 USPS 045360 12 Pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, April 9, 1990

**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:  
Partly cloudy with 30% chance of rain.  
HIGH: 72      LOW: 58

## One car accident

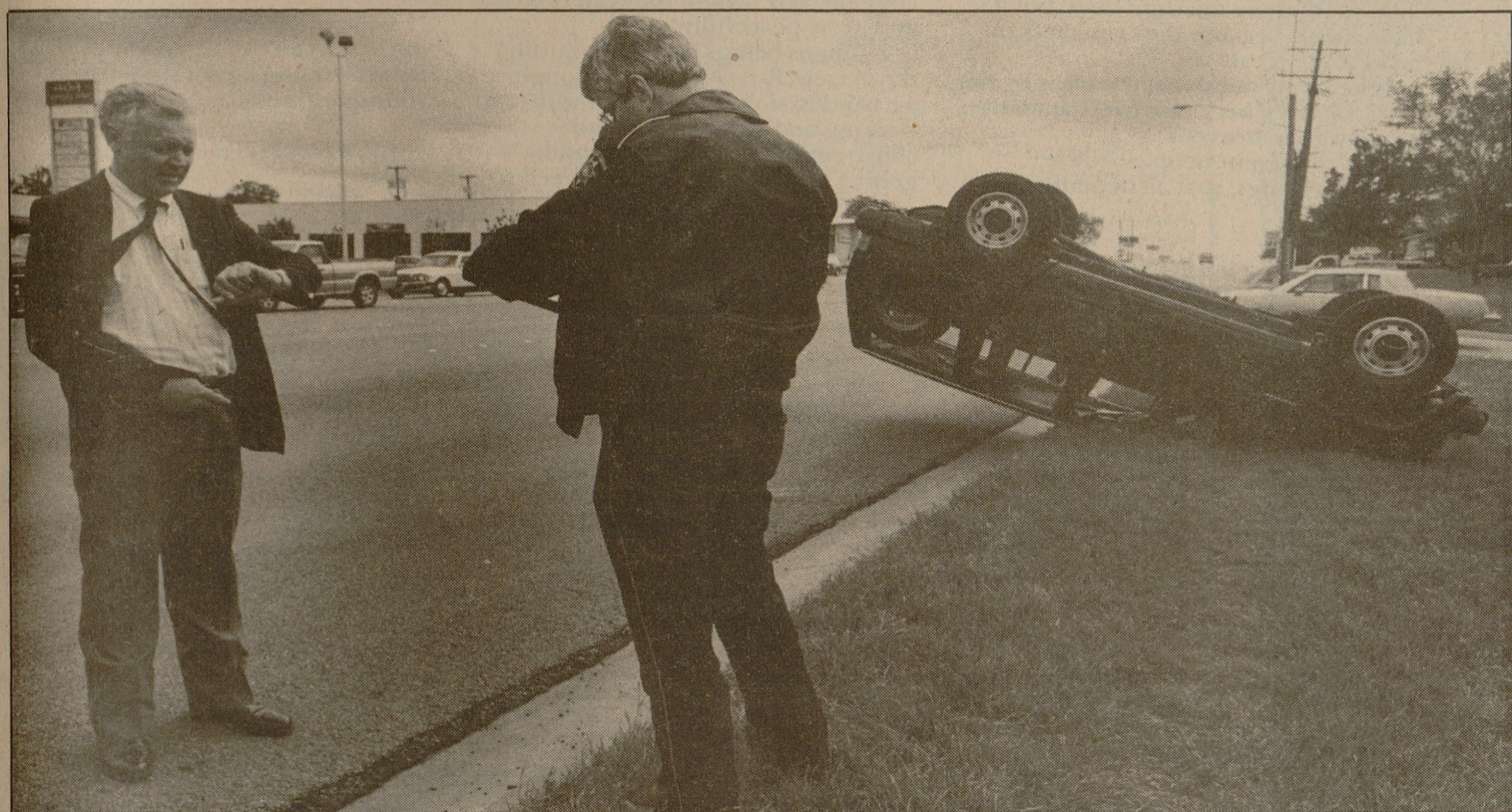


Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Uninjured W.F. McFarland explains to a College Station police officer how he rolled his Jeep Cherokee while traveling on Univer-

sity Drive. He said he swerved in order to miss hitting another car and his right front tire hit the curb, causing the vehicle to flip.

## AIDS activist, 18, loses life to disease

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ryan White, who won a long court battle to attend public school and overcame prejudice against himself and other AIDS victims, lost his 5½-year struggle with the deadly disease on Sunday. He was 18.

White died shortly after 6 a.m. at Riley Hospital for Children, where he had been hospitalized since March 29 with an AIDS-related respiratory infection. He had been heavily sedated and on a ventilator.

White's mother, Jeanne, and sister, Andrea, 16, had kept a bedside vigil, joined at times by celebrities such as singer Elton John and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Dr. Martin B. Kleiman, White's physician throughout his illness, said death followed a slow deterioration that had begun Saturday.

"At the end, his family and a few of the others who loved him were close at his side," Kleiman said. "He never regained consciousness, and I am confident that he suffered no pain at the end."

Carrie Van Dyke, a spokeswoman for Mrs. White, said the family needed "time to be alone, to recover, to grieve."

John, who stayed at the hospital with the Whites nearly a week, dedicated the song "Candle in the Wind" to White during the Farm Aid IV concert Saturday night at the

Hoosier Dome, about a mile from the hospital.

"This one's for Ryan," John said to the cheers of 45,000 fans at the concert to raise funds for financially troubled farmers.

President Bush, who last week planted a tree in White's honor in downtown Indianapolis, said he and his wife, Barbara, were "deeply saddened" by White's death.

"All Americans are impressed by his courage, strength and his ability to continue fighting," Bush said in a statement. "Ryan's death reaffirms that we as a people must pledge to continue the fight, his fight, against this dreaded disease."

White was 13 when he was diagnosed with AIDS in December 1984. He had contracted acquired immune deficiency syndrome through a blood-clotting agent used to treat his hemophilia. It is estimated that more than half of the nation's 20,000 hemophiliacs were infected with the AIDS virus before better blood donation screening procedures were adopted, and 1,200 have developed AIDS.

In 1985, White was barred from Western Middle School near Kokomo after school officials and parents rejected health authorities' reassurances that AIDS cannot be spread through casual contact.

## 'Superwoman' needs a break Busy student creates change

By JILL BUTLER  
Of The Battalion Staff

She is Texas A&M's International Student of the Year, a member of the Executive Finance Committee, the president of the Married Student Apartment Council, a member of the ad-hoc Committee on International Affairs, the director of the international talent show during International Week, a member of the health insurance committee and a graduate student with a 4.0 grade-point ratio.

And she's decided to take some time off from her extracurricular activities.

Sandra Burke, a graduate student in educational technology from Ireland, said since she hopes to get her master's degree next December, she wants to concentrate on professional activities and personal endeavors.

"I want to give some time to myself and my husband," Burke said.

She said her husband has provided help and support during her activities.

"Being so involved, I've had to sacrifice my homelife," Burke said. "I think the \$1,000 scholarship I received for International Student of the Year was used to eat-out, since I don't have much time to cook."

She said she will not run for president of Married Student Apartment Council again and also will not participate in many committees on which she now serves.

Because she has a husband, Burke said she must leave her future options open.

She said she is looking at the possibility of getting a Ph.D. in management information systems or psychology, but might postpone the extra degree and get a job.

"It's hard to coordinate future plans when you're married and both people are career-minded students," Burke said.

"Someday, I would like to get a job in management and combine my interests in behavioral psychology and technology."

After receiving a bachelor's degree in psychology from University College in Dublin, Burke came to the United States in 1985.

"After the bachelor's level, there's not much education available in Ireland," Burke said. "I also wanted to experience life elsewhere."

Burke attended the University of Southern Illinois, where she met her husband, and is still working on her master's in behavioral analysis therapy from that university.

Burke came to A&M because her husband came to A&M as a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering.

She said another future option is starting a family with her husband.

"We'd like to have a family, but it's very difficult to figure out when," Burke said. "It's very hard because either you have the money and not the time or you have the time and not the money."

Burke said she got involved with various organizations because she likes being able to create change.

She said she has seen much change in attitudes toward international students at A&M.

"A few years ago they (international students) were an isolated community," Burke said. "Now the University has gone international and I'm delighted."

She said students at A&M recently have raised their level of international awareness.

"There's still room for improvement, but I've seen major change," she said. "I think now it's just a matter of international students and American students fully opening the doors of communication for one another."

She said American students should be patient and give international students time to adjust to the English language and cultural changes.

Because she is white, Burke said, she has not had a

See Student/Page 10



Photo by Kathy Haveman

Burke

## Students recognized for spirit

### Buck Weirus award honors participation

Fifty-two students who have contributed significantly to student life at Texas A&M were honored Sunday with the Buck Weirus Spirit Award.

The award selection committee is made up of students, faculty and staff who vote on each applicant. The award is based on continual involvement and development in student organizations.

Five freshmen, 10 sophomores, 15 juniors, 20 seniors and two graduate students were selected.

The following students are the Buck Weirus Spirit Award winners:

**FRESHMEN:**  
April Sheree Garrett  
John Eric Ansbach  
Dana Kathleen Graesser  
Donald Edward Dinnerville  
Wilhelm "Bill" Christian Benker

**SOPHOMORES:**  
Rene Ruth Stewart  
Phyllis Elaine Janysek  
Angie Arrona  
Daniel Peter West Jr.  
Jason Dean Scott  
Philip Brian Chen  
Stephen Gerard Ruth  
Vernell Johnson III  
Charles Edward Phipps  
Kendra Cherise Gillespie

**JUNIORS:**  
Laurie Ann Wittig  
Timothy F. Doolen  
Joanne Elizabeth Flanagan  
Matthew Scott Wood  
Beth Marie Ammons  
Philip Craig Sandlin  
Ann Marie Cotman  
Douglas Brennan Reilly  
John Craig Garrett  
Clare Rochelle Redig  
Brant Conrad Ince  
Jennifer Lynn Park  
Kyle R. Jacobson  
Harolyn Denise Nance  
Kathryn Elaine Kattner

**SENIORS:**  
Michael Alan Leuck  
Kimberlea Ann Ward  
Brent Ray Adams  
Wendy Gay Turk  
Perry Aubrey Liston II  
Katherine Louise Smith  
John Leroy Albers  
Salli Kay Preston  
Edward William Allred  
Hallie Marie Giles  
Damon William Arhos  
Gillian Grant  
William Bradford Ashburn  
Chong Hsu Liu  
Kirsten Michele Baker  
Jo Ann Mickel  
Kellye Michelle Bowman  
David Paul Dupre  
France B. Brown Jr.  
Diane Purinton

**GRADUATE STUDENTS:**  
Darby Michelle Roberts  
Edward Brown Silverman

## Medal of Honor recipient recounts duties

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

As the most recent recipient of the Medal of Honor, Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez said he earned America's highest military citation by doing his duty for the country he loves so much.

At the annual Outfit Banquet for Squadron Six of the Corps of Cadets, Benavidez said the members of the Air Force group should fulfill their roles in life and help lead America to a more peaceful future.

Benavidez said he was honored to speak at Texas A&M University. He said he felt his speech granted him a special opportunity to thank the Air Force for saving his life on many occasions.

"We never got to know the pilots and the nurses that saved our lives so many times," Benavidez said. "I guess this speech is just one small way of saying thanks to you all."

Benavidez said the cadets should try to learn as much as they possibly can. He said skills and a formal education will help anybody be successful.

"The more education you have, the more skills you have, the more successful you can be," Benavidez said.

He credits his accomplishments to his extensive training in the Special Forces and the Army. He said his success proves anyone can meet their goals.

Benavidez said knowing how to speak other languages is another important skill cadets should learn. Benavidez, who can speak three languages fluently, said it is very important to be aware of one's heritage and celebrate one's native culture.

"I'm proud to be an American, and I'm

even prouder of being of Hispanic descent," Benavidez said. "I know my culture. I understand who I am and where I came from."

Being patriotic is another part of understanding one's culture, Benavidez said. He said he is concerned with the lack of patriotism in the United States today.

"Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore?" Benavidez said. "Children no longer respect the flag or even know what it stands for. Many men have died to keep America free. That is nothing to be ashamed of."

Benavidez was born in Cuero in 1935. He dropped out of school in the seventh grade and joined the Army National Guard in 1952. He later transferred to the Army in 1955.

He served several tours in Korea and later in Berlin. He then attended Military and Jump school at Fort Bragg. In 1965, he went to Vietnam with the Special Forces as an advisor to the South Vietnamese government. While serving four tours in Vietnam, he was seriously injured on several occasions.

On May 2, 1968, Benavidez said he voluntarily led a 12-man Special Forces team on a rescue mission. The soldiers were conducting an intelligence-gathering mission and had been trapped behind enemy lines by intense enemy gunfire.

During the six-hour rescue and recovery, Benavidez saved the lives of at least eight men and loaded 17 men onto a helicopter. Benavidez was seriously injured by gunfire and shrapnel more than 50 times during the rescue mission.

When the disabled helicopter landed at an American base, Benavidez could not be identified because of the severity of his wounds. He was placed mistakenly with two dead North Vietnamese soldiers who had been



Photo by Kathy Haveman

Benavidez

loaded on the aircraft. He then was put in a body bag.

Benavidez said he mustered his remaining strength and told the doctor he was alive in the only way he could: he spit in the doctor's face.

Once the doctors realized he was alive, Benavidez said, they sent him to Saigon for

medical treatment. He spent over a year in a Texas hospital recovering from the mission that had earned him the Medal of Honor.

"I may have earned the Medal of Honor, but all of us are what's keeping America free," Benavidez said.

"I lived by the motto of Duty, Honor, Country. It's a good standard to live up to."