

Former A&M football player returns to College Station to counsel A&M athletes.

See Sports Page 5

**Canine checkup**

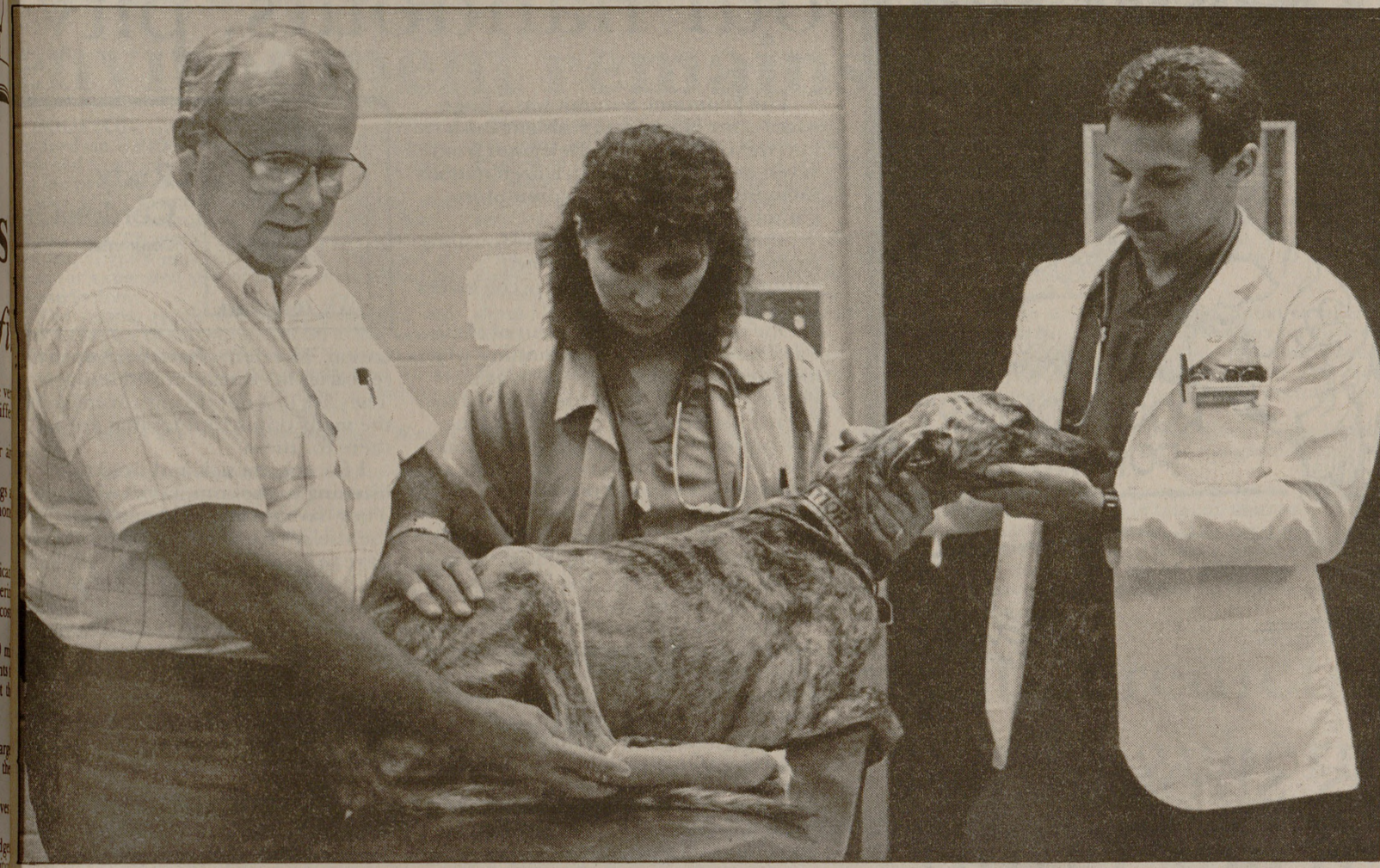


Photo by Sondra N. Robbins

(Left to right) Dr. M.R. Herron, Kim Pavelock and Charles Ellithorpe examine an injured greyhound dog at the Small Animal

Clinic. Dr. Herron is specifically working with greyhound dogs for the race track business that will be legal in Texas in October.

**Yeltsin resigns; move threatens to cause exodus**

MOSCOW (AP) — Populist Boris N. Yeltsin quit the Communist Party on Thursday in a move that could start the exodus of liberals that President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has warned could destroy his reform movement.

Yeltsin's dramatic announcement to the 28th Communist Party congress capped a day in which his orthodox Marxist foe, Yegor K. Ligachev, was vanquished in a bid for the party's No. 2 job.

For more than two years, Gorbachev has balanced the party between liberals, led by Yeltsin, and hardliners led by Ligachev. The departure of Gorbachev's two antagonists marked a triumph for Gorbachev's centrist politics.

Yeltsin, elected president of the Russian republic in May on the strength of his populist program, became the first non-Communist leader of that huge territory in 72 years of Soviet power.

The burly, white-haired reformer strode down the center aisle to the podium in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses and read without emotion from a sheet of paper to a silent audience.

He said that as newly elected president of Russia he could no longer obey only the policies of the Communist Party.

"In connection with my election as the chairman (president) of the Supreme Soviet of Russia and my great responsibility before the people of Russia, taking into account the tran-

sition of society to a multiparty system, I cannot fulfill only the decisions of the Communist Party," he said.

"I have to obey the will of the people and their all-powerful representatives," he said. "Therefore in connection with my obligations, I declare my exit from the party."

Yeltsin's announcement was greeted with some applause, whistles of derision, and shouts of "Shame!" He left the podium and walked out of the congress hall without further comment.

Yeltsin said he had planned to make the announcement after the congress, but was forced to do it earlier because he was nominated for the party's Central Committee, which will be elected before the congress adjourns.

Gorbachev said Yeltsin's resignation would not be discussed at the congress, but otherwise showed no reaction.

Outside the hall, however, one prominent military official called Yeltsin's actions disgraceful.

Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov said Yeltsin made a "shameful speech."

The Communist Party helped Yeltsin "and suddenly he throws it up and leaves it," Ogarkov said.

Yeltsin's resignation led the Soviet evening television news program "Vremya." The announcer declared the resignation a "sensation."

**Blood drive collects 201 pints**

An emergency one-day blood drive Wednesday at First Baptist Church of Bryan collected 201 pints for area hospitals drastically short on blood supply.

Joe Brown, communications director for the city of Bryan, called the blood drive a success, even though the figure of 201 pints is over than the 240 collected at about his time last year.

"We're very pleased with the outcome," Brown said. "It also was a success because so many organizations helped out in the project."

The city of Bryan, Bryan Police Department, Brazos County and Bryan's First Baptist Church sponsored the blood drive.

Despite the added blood, Brazos County still is far short of its needs. Brown said the hospitals in Brazos County are almost 2,000 pints short of the amount of blood used here during the past year.

Officials said the blood drive was necessary because donations usually are down in the summer because many people take vacations and are busy with other activities.

**YOU encourages youth to continue education**

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students aren't the only students on campus getting an academic leg up this summer.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a privately funded, eight-week program, brought 14- and 15-year-olds from Lufkin, Nacogdoches, Houston and San Antonio to A&M to experience college life and encourage them to continue their education.

The program gives 123 students a chance to do something different this summer by earning high school math credit and gaining work experience in campus jobs.

Wash Jones, YOU job developer, said students were not selected from

local areas because part of the program's purpose is to take them away from their home environment and show them other areas.

"They need to know they don't have to stay in their home situation," Jones said.

Students in the program are considered at risk of dropping out of school, either because of academic or economic reasons.

Jones said students who qualify either are doing poorly in high school or come from a family situation that makes it hard for them to stay in school.

Students from large families, for example, sometimes feel pressured to drop out of school, get a job and help support the family.

See YOU/Page 4

**Data angers residents**

Thousands exposed to cancer-causing radiation

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — People who live downwind from the Hanford nuclear reservation reacted with anger and relief Thursday about the government's disclosure that enough radiation spewed from the base to cause cancer.

"I feel like they used us for guinea pigs, and I don't feel like they cared one iota what happened to us either," said Betty Perkes, a farmer in Pasco, which is next to the 350-square-mile reservation.

An independent panel of scientists released preliminary data Thursday that showed some residents in the early years of atomic-bomb building in the 1940s could have been exposed to large doses of radioactive iodine. For a few infants, the doses were as high as 2,900 rad over three years. One rad is the amount of radiation a body organ would absorb from about a dozen chest X-rays.

The preliminary study results came a day after Energy Secretary James Watkins admitted past Hanford emissions may have caused health problems.

John Till, a South Carolina consultant who chaired the 18-member panel of scientists and experts, cautioned that the figures were not meant as health risk estimates.

But, Till added, "These numbers are significant because that is a lot of folks. That dose level is significant enough to strongly justify a thyroid dose study."

A parallel study by the federal Centers for Disease Control will use the exposure estimates to try to document cases of thyroid disease among Hanford-area residents.

The Hanford Environmental Dose Reconstruction Project concluded that most people living near the Hanford site from 1944 to 1947 were exposed to low doses of radiation. The study covered 270,000 people living in 10 Washington and Oregon counties.

The radioactive iodine was produced when spent reactor fuel rods were chemically dissolved to produce weapons-grade plutonium and uranium. When it concentrates in the thyroid gland, iodine-131 can cause cancer and other diseases.

**A&M team helps airborne hospital**

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

An airborne hospital and teaching facility is giving hands-on experience to an architectural team from Texas A&M and providing better eye care for people in developing nations around the world.

Project ORBIS is an international, humanitarian organization dedicated to fighting blindness worldwide and promoting peaceful cooperation among nations.

Interestingly, ORBIS means "of the eye" in Latin and "around the world" in Greek.

The non-profit group operates aboard a 20-year-old DC-8 airplane and has flown to more than 60 nations since it began operation in 1982.

A&M's College of Architecture got involved with Project ORBIS when architecture student Richard LaSalle was searching for project ideas for his medical facility class in 1985.

Dr. George Mann, LaSalle's professor, contacted Oliver Foot, ORBIS's president and executive director.

Foot told Mann ORBIS had been looking to update its medical facilities by purchasing a DC-10 jetliner and said the organization could use preliminary floor plans for the new plane.

After the initial floor plan was completed, contact between the two groups was maintained.

Then, in 1988, Collen Dement, also an A&M architecture student, was flown to Beijing to

work on a more detailed floor plan for the DC-10.

After Dement's graduation, A&M's Dr. Ward Wells and A&M senior Ben Childers continued the project by flying to Honduras in June.

Wells, a professor of architecture who specializes in interior design, said the two met with the medical staff of ORBIS in Honduras to get an idea of how the operation actually worked.

"When we met in Honduras, we gained a lot of hands-on experience," Wells said. "It's really a great chance for Ben to deal with a more realistic situation than we can provide in the classroom."

He said Childers and he are interested in the location of certain supplies, the design of the operating room and storage compartments.

"We won't be doing any of the actual engineering, though," Wells said.

Childers could not be reached for comment. Dr. Holly Peppe, director for external affairs for Project ORBIS, said student projects from A&M have been very helpful to the organization.

"The students at A&M have really helped us at ORBIS," Peppe said. "Their plans have given us some great ideas on how to improve the design of our medical facility."

Peppe said final plans for the jetliner will be drawn by professionals, but the work done by students is worth the expense of flying students to locations around the world.

Peppe said the DC-8 is divided into three different compartments. Besides the operating

room, the plane has a post-op and a classroom fitted with the latest in medical technology.

"We have the audio-visual capabilities of a TV studio," Peppe said. "During the operation, the doctor can talk the operation through and local doctors can ask questions. We find this teaching procedure is extremely effective."

Project ORBIS offers a three-week training program to countries at the invitation of their governments and local doctors.

Each week, a visiting faculty team of volunteer eye surgeons join an international 25-member team of doctors and nurses to demonstrate and share surgical skills with host-country doctors.

Project ORBIS has been endorsed by the secretary general of the United Nations and leaders from 58 nations as an international ambassador of goodwill.

The politically nonaligned organization has taught more than 10,000 doctors and treated more than 10,000 patients.

ORBIS is funded by donations and gifts-in-kind from corporations, foundations and individuals and by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development.

Peppe said she hopes ORBIS can continue its work and help every person who needs it.

"We all want to stop blindness," Peppe said. "With the help of students like those at A&M, we know we can do it."

**Multiple-queen mounds mean more fire ants  
Scientists re-evaluate impact of insects**

By KATHY COX  
Of The Battalion Staff

Discovery of multiple-queen fire ant colonies is forcing scientists to re-evaluate the insects' impact on the environment.

Instead of traditional single-queen ant colonies, scientists now are discovering mounds with two or more queens, said Bart Drees, a Texas A&M Agriculture Extension Service entomologist.

"This means these fire ants are non-territorial," Drees said.

Fire ants traditionally are thought of as territorial insects, he said. For example, if one ant mound is dumped on another, the fire ants in the two mounds would fight to death.

But ants in multiple-queen colonies do not attack one another.

"Now we're seeing mounds built closer together," Drees said. "This can mean ten times as many ants."

Because scientists originally were thinking in terms of single-queen colonies, he said this discovery means the ants could have a greater impact than previously thought on the environment.

Fire ants affect both humans and animals.

Ants are a nuisance to man, Drees said, because the mounds



Graphic by J. Richard Ellis

are considered ugly and can pose medical problems.

"Some people are medically sensitive to ant bites," he said.

Fire ants identify a food source and recruit workers to collect it.

"If something is competing for the food source, the ants will attack it," Drees said.

Fire ants affect animals, but Drees said there are no reports of the insects killing off any endangered species.

There have been reports of declining numbers of snakes, horn toads and lizards due to fire ants, he said.

"Unfortunately, these reports are anecdotal, not documented," he said.

Fire ants, which are native to South America, are thought to

have been brought to the southern United States by cargo ships. Dirt used for ballast (to balance the ships) might have been infested with fire ants, Drees said.

Two kinds of fire ants, black and red, are found in the United States, but the black fire ant has not spread like its red relative.

"Perhaps the black fire ant is just not as aggressive," he said.

But the red fire ant has been spreading, although rather slowly, and reaches as far north as southern Oklahoma and its westward expansion covers about one-half to three-fourths of Texas.

Drees said freezing weather can stop the ants' progress, especially to the north, because ants are killed by a freeze.

Dry areas also slow the ants' progress, he said, because they need water to survive.

Western spreading could be slowed by dry weather, Drees said, but if fire ants reach the Rio Grande, they can use the river as transportation to western states.

"They use rivers as highways," he said.

Fire ants cannot be eradicated, so Drees said he prefers fire ant management, or a "program approach" to suppress fire ants.

Chemical methods are not permanent, he said, and biological control (such as using other species of ants to prey on fire ants) is being studied but is not effective alone either.

"We need to use all the tactics together to suppress fire ants," Drees said.

In the hot, dry conditions of summer, fire ants begin to forage indoors for the food and water they need.

A continuous approach is needed for fire ant control around the home, Drees said.

He first recommends a bait form of insecticide around the area.

This should be followed by a cleanup of "escape mounds" around the area with individual mound treatments, such as drenches or dusts.