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Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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Student, faculty opinions on the Persian Gulf
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Pollutants impact behavior

Lead, cadmium mask intoxicating effects

By BILL HETHCOCK
Of The Battalion Staff

Heavy exposure to lead and cadmium may lead to higher alcohol consumption due to a masking effect the pollutants have on the intoxicating effects of alcohol, Texas A&M psychologist Dr. Jack Nations said.

Nations said past experimentation has linked lead and cadmium to alcohol consumption, but previously it was thought that alcohol makes the body absorb more of the contaminants. This appears to be true, but evidence from Nations' studies suggests that the contaminants dull alcohol's intoxicating effects, leading to compensatory drinking.

"What we may have here is an unfortunate cycle where alcohol increases lead or cadmium absorption, and the increased burden of the metal promotes more alcohol consumption," Nations said.

Lead and cadmium are widespread throughout the environment, Nations said. The principle source of lead is auto emissions, and cadmium is found in tobacco leaves and municipal sewage sludge, he said.

Because these are the sources of the pollutants, smokers and people living in heavily polluted areas are especially vulnerable, he said. Cadmium is also entering our food chain in increasing amounts, because it is being used in many fertilizers now, he said.

Test rats in Nation's experi-

ments consumed greater amounts of alcohol when lead and cadmium were present in their systems. Nations said this is because the contaminants blunt the drunk feeling provided by alcohol, so the rats drink more to get the same effect.

"When the animals have the metals in them, it's like they're given a lower dose (of alcohol)," Nations said.

Nations said future research will center on other drugs, such as cocaine. Preliminary evidence indicates that lead and cadmium also dull the impact of this drug, he said.

Even though cadmium and lead seem to decrease the intoxicating effects of drugs and alcohol, these substances have the same harmful consequences on the body whether the effects are felt or not, Nations said.

"The damage that's being done by alcohol is being masked and the person is having to take in more of it in order to achieve the same subjective experience," Nations said. "But just because the behavioral effect is decreased doesn't lower the health risk, so the end effect is a health risk increase."

Pollutants may have a greater indirect impact on behavior than previously thought, Nations said. "Chemicals in our environment may not necessarily produce the desire to take in drugs or alcohol, but they may alter the effects of the drug once it is taken in," he said.

Bush asks Congress to forgive Egypt's \$7B military liability

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will ask Congress to write off Egypt's \$7 billion military debt to the United States as "a symbol of our appreciation" for help in the Persian Gulf crisis, the White House said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State James A. Baker III gave Congress a ringing defense of the Bush administration's decision to pour troops and weapons into the Middle East, saying the United States had to react vigorously to "one of the defining moments of a new era."

He noted that economic effects of the crisis already are being felt, in such ways as higher gasoline prices, but he said the issue was hardly that narrow.

"It is, rather, about a dictator who, acting alone and unchallenged, could strangle the global economic order, determining by fiat whether we all enter a recession or even the darkness of a depression," Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Baker also said the administration would consider "working with others to create a new secu-

arity structure for the region," lasting beyond the end of the current crisis.

He gave little detail on how such an organization might work, though he pointed to success by NATO in curbing Soviet expansion during the Cold War.

Presidential Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Bush already had consulted with members of Congress about forgiving Egypt's military debt and felt confident they would give the required approval. But Patrick Leahy, chairman of a Senate foreign aid panel, said the debt forgiveness would lead to similar requests from other nations and "I'm not willing to double or triple our foreign aid budget without a lot more understanding of what the United States gets out of it."

House Republican Leader Bob Michel, also, said the White House announcement "may be a little premature." He added, "I would like to hear firsthand from the administration the rationale for the move."

Fitzwater said, "This decision, one stimulated in part by Egypt's leadership in resisting Iraqi ag-

gression, is an essential component of the ongoing U.S. contribution to the current situation in the Persian Gulf."

In a White House briefing the day after Bush returned from his Kennebunkport, Maine, vacation, Fitzwater also said on other Persian Gulf topics:

- There "is no conflict with the Saudis" on ultimate control of the operations of U.S. forces stationed in Saudi Arabia. He said the United States would not launch an offensive operation without consulting the host country, but he insisted that the chain of command for U.S. forces remains unchanged — from the president through the Secretary of Defense and to the commanders.

- The U.S. Navy had stopped and boarded a tea-laden Iraqi-flagged freighter in the Gulf of Oman as part of the trade blockade against Iraq. The spokesman said, "The ship was ordered to divert. It did not divert. It was then boarded and now has diverted. We don't have information now on where it's being diverted to."

Candidate equates pro-choice with liberty

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

The pro-choice movement promotes every person's right to make personal decisions without government interference, the Democratic candidate for Brazos County state representative said Tuesday at a Pro-Choice Aggie meeting.

In front of about 50 people, Jim James, Class of '76, said the pro-choice movement often is clouded by the emotional issue of abortion.

"It is not really important if I am for or against abortion," James said. "What is important is whether the government should make that decision for me. I do not believe it should."

James said he believes no government should impose morals on anyone. He said the Constitution and the Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* prohibit the government from controlling the personal life of any U.S. citizen.

"What we are saying is that the government should keep its hands out of our personal business," James said. "That is what pro-choice is all about, people making their own decisions."

James also said if abortions were illegal, women still would continue to have them. He said in Romania the number of abortions did not substantially change after that country made it legal to obtain an abortion.

"The only thing that changed in Romania (after it became legal to have an abortion) was there were no longer any mutilated and dead women from botched, illegal abortions," James said.

He said he fully supports the pro-choice movement but warned recent political events may challenge the legality of *Roe v. Wade*.

"With the Webster decision (a Supreme Court decision which removed federal support for abortions) we have the beginnings of a fight for individual freedom," James said.



Photo by Söndra Robbins

Jim James speaks with Kelly Ann Robinson, a sophomore civil engineering major and president of Pro-Choice Aggies, after his speech in 404 Rudder last night.

He said the pro-life lobby is organized and well funded. James said if the pro-choice movement does not organize and vote in the upcoming elections, women around the country may lose their right to make their own decisions.

Kelly Ann Robinson, president of Pro-Choice Aggies and a sophomore civil engineering major from Alex-

andria, Va., said the purpose of the student organization is to promote awareness of the pro-choice issue and to educate the students of Texas A&M about their options in the confusing world of personal relationships and sex.

"We want to promote a plan, not just 'abortion,'" Robinson said. "Pro-choice before conception

is one of our main goals."

Robinson said the group tries to register as many people as they can to vote, no matter if those people are pro-choice or pro-life, and presently is lobbying against the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

"We're trying to protect our civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution," Robinson said.

Military dependents must verify enrollment status

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Military dependents 21 or older who are Texas A&M students must have the University verify their full-time enrollment to retain dependent status.

The U.S. Armed Forces will allow full-time students to be classified as dependents until they are 23.

As dependents, students are entitled to all I.D. card and health care benefits from the government.

Faye Mieth, a Veterans' Services counselor, said students needing letters of verification can come to the Veterans' Services Office in 207 Pavilion.

"If they're a full-time student, we'll just check it (their status) on SIMS and give them a letter stating they are indeed a full-time student at A&M," Mieth said. "Students usually send the letter to their parents so

they can give it to the necessary officials."

Besides working with military dependents, the veterans' office deals with any military financial issue.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"If we can't help them, we'll point them in the right direction," Mieth said.

The office employs four student workers who are paid by the Veterans Administration.

Scott Esserine, a counselor and senior speech communications-political science major, said the office usually is busy.

Mieth said the office recently has received many inquiries about the Middle East situation from students who are in the reserves.

"As of Tuesday, four students had to withdraw from the University because they were called in," she said.

Hammer time

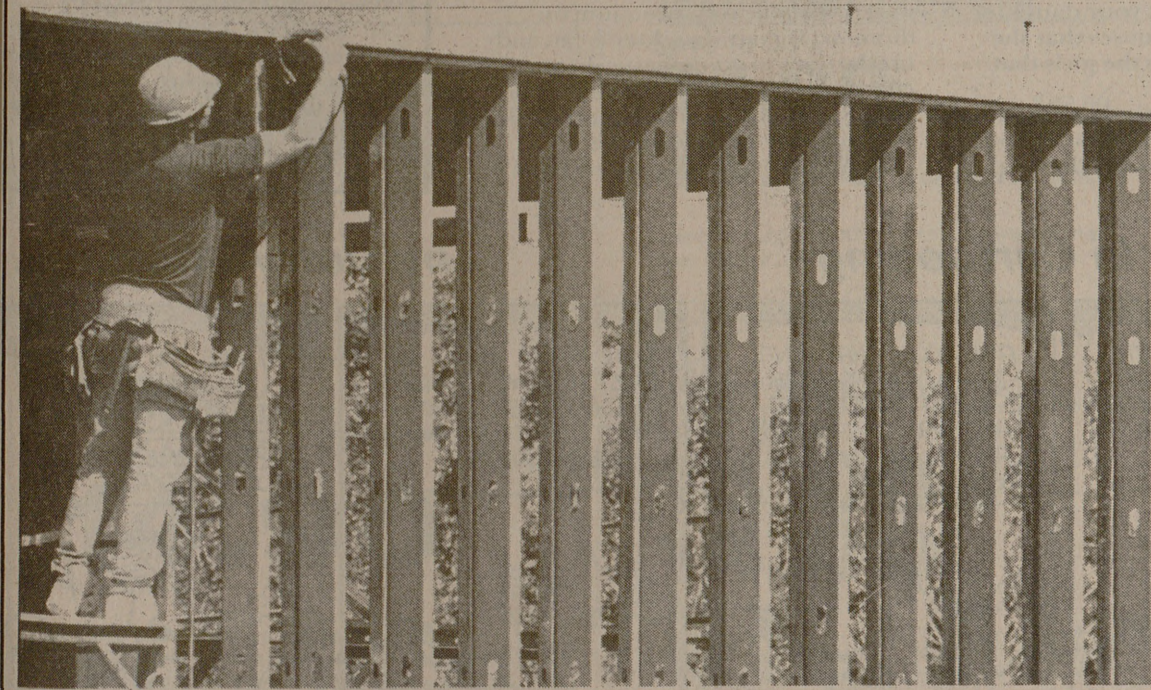


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Chuck Callis, a construction worker, installs metal studs Tuesday afternoon on the first floor of the new parking garage being built across from Rudder Tower.

Student Senate elects new committee chair

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Student Senate elected Charles Phipps new Rules and Regulations Committee chairman last night in its first regular meeting of the semester.

Phipps introduced a bill to provide an electronic student information board which would be maintained by the Senate on the first floor of the Pavilion.

The board, which would be provided by a manufacturer at no cost to Texas A&M, would be partially covered by advertising.

The Department of Student Affairs in the Commons area uses the same type of board.

Kenny Gossett, speaker of the Senate, referred the bill to the Senate Student Services Committee.

The Senate also discussed a bill to extend the voting period in student elections from one particular day to five days. It was referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee.

In other business, Student Body President Ty Clevenger presented a legislative agenda to the Senate for the 1990-91 session.

Included in the Agenda were plans for a task force to evaluate

methods of safer and more convenient bicycle transportation on and off campus.

Also in the agenda was the creation of a committee to work for campus beautification, recycling and tree replanting efforts during bonfire.

Clevenger said another committee will work for the inclusion in student government of students from races that have had little involvement in the past.

A guest at the meeting, Juan Ignacio Corujo from A&M's International Students Association, thanked the Senate for its efforts in international awareness.

Clevenger also said A&M is trying to arrange a student exchange program with Kazan, Bryan-College Station's sister city.

In other proceedings, all Student Senators became certified deputy voter registrars of Brazos County after completing paperwork from the voter registrar's office.

John Ansbach, external affairs chair, began recruiting volunteers to explain the process and register students in A&M classes to vote.

Corps offers male escorts for safety

By KATHERINE COFFEY
Of The Battalion Staff

The Corps of Cadets' escort service, which has been available to students since A&M admitted women, will provide the best available security for students walking on campus, the Corps adjutant said.

Corps Adjutant Conrado Alvarado, a senior Corps staff member who oversees the guard room, said the escort service plans to continue its 24-hour service.

The guard room provides escorts for any students walking to various campus areas. The phone number for the escort service is 845-6789.

"We encourage all students and faculty to use this service to prevent any unnecessary problems that could arise," Alvarado said.

He said 40 additional Corps members are volunteering to be on call if the guard room becomes

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