

The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

Member of:
Associated Press
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Congress
Texas Daily
Newspaper Association
Texas Intercollegiate
Press Association

The Battalion Editorial Board

Editor
Timm Doolen

Managing Editor
Todd Stone

City Editor
Sean Frerking

News Editors
Jennifer Jeffus
Callie Wilcher

Art Director
Richard James

Lifestyles Editor
Rob Newberry

Sports Editor
Jayme Blaschke

Opinion Editor
Keith Sartin

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters. Publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer sessions. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316.

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station.

The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University and is a division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Comments, questions or complaints about any of the editorial content of the newspaper should be directed to the managing editor at 845-3313.

Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year: 845-2611.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-1111.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

Location: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Campus mail stop: 1111.

Advertising

Advertising information can be obtained from the advertising department at 845-2696 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by visiting the office at the English Annex.

Advertising Manager
Patricia Heck

Battalion Adviser
Robert Wegener

Production Manager
Paige Force

BATTIPS

The Battalion encourages its readers to contribute story ideas and suggestions by calling BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people. Readers also are encouraged to offer any other suggestions that could improve the newspaper.

Professor animates educational software

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Computer animation can help teach elementary and secondary school children essential skills while appealing to their sense of curiosity, a Texas A&M faculty member said.

Dr. Lloyd Rieber, an assistant professor in the Educational Curriculum Instruction (EDCI) department, said he got the idea to do research in computer animation while he was teaching fifth-grade in New Mexico in the early 1980s.

"I was interested in educational computing and looking at unique ways to use a computer and animation," he said.

"My work is very preliminary," Rieber

said. "But no one else in the country is doing broad-based research on this subject."

Rieber said animation tends to be used in educational programs almost by default, because there is not a lot of empirical work that proves to be useful.

"As it turns out, animation in learning is subtle," he said.

Rieber said that one of the problems with designing educational software is that it is hard to design animation that adds to the learning process.

"One of the problems we find is that experts think that what a program's animation teaches is obvious, but it's not so obvious to the learners," he said.

Rieber tested children in elementary school and college undergraduates and

said he found that animation has more of an effect with children than with adults.

"Adults don't like discovery-based, free-play instruction," he said. "They want tell-me-what-I-want-to-know programs. Animation is motivating for children, though."

Rieber said his latest software, "Space Shuttle Commander," teaches the laws of motion using a spaceship.

"It's important to choose a content area that fits with animation," he said. "You get two things with animation, motion and trajectory, and the laws of motion fit in perfectly with those qualities."

NASA distributes the program to teachers across the country for free.

Rieber received his master's degree in

elementary education and his doctorate in educational technology. He said he is a self-taught programmer, though he has taken some computer courses.

When he was getting his master's degree, teaching with computers was being introduced, he said.

"There were many first-time courses that I took, or even helped to design," he said.

Rieber said now the whole idea of designing educational software is at the forefront of education.

"I know this won't save the world. I hope it can be used for productive reasons," he said.

House avoids cutting funds for schools

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers Tuesday steered a collision course over funding for prisons and public schools with House budget writers recommending cuts that have left their Senate counterparts dismayed.

"That comes as a great surprise," Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, said after the House Appropriations Committee agreed to cut \$400 million in prison funds, which includes \$345 million to build new prisons for 11,300 inmates.

Montford, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, also criticized an Appropriations Committee proposal to cut \$1 billion in public school monies from a law approved earlier by the Legislature to address court-ordered equalization of education funding.

"I don't know what the House's thinking was on that point," Montford said. "It would be a step backwards and almost a perception of bad faith if we don't fund what we did."

But Rep. Ric Williamson, D-Weatherford, said the actions are the result of simple arithmetic.

State government faces a projected \$4.6 billion shortfall to continue the current level of services for the 1992-93 budget period, and lawmakers aren't willing to increase taxes, he said.

Williamson, who as vice chairman of Appropriations, has championed the proposed cuts.

"We have to adjust our spending priorities accordingly," he said. "Texans need to admit to themselves we don't have the resources to do everything we'd like to do. So we allocate what we got."



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Swoosshhh!

Phillip Bochat, from Moulton, takes a break from his freshman orientation conference to shoot some hoops by the Northside residence halls.

What's Up

Wednesday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMISSION (TEAC): General membership meeting—plans for activities during the summer months. Everyone interested in environmental concerns welcome at 7 p.m. in Zachry 119A. Call Charlie at 823-3577 or Peter at 696-0735 for more information.

EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER: Eucharist and community dinner at 6:15 p.m. at Canterbury House at 902 George Bush Drive. Contact the Rev. Lary Benfield at 68-4245 for more information.

LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP: Evening prayer at 6:30 p.m. at the University Lutheran Chapel.

KANM RADIO - CABLE ONLY: An interview with Gary Varner, Dept. of Philosophy about animal rights and vegetarianism. 6:00-6:30 p.m. on Cable TV.

Thursday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Everyone welcome at 7:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder. Call Ron O'Bryan at 696-1091 for more information.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: General discussion at 6 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a free service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

Richards signs prison bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A prison bill signed into law by Gov. Ann Richards and approved unanimously by lawmakers, some of whom said it would keep criminals from being released too early, will have little effect, the chief of the Texas prison system said.

James Lynaugh, executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, told the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday that the law "in reality has not done anything."

The bill by Rep. John Culberson, R-Houston, allows the state

prison system to increase inmate population over the 95 percent population cap that was set as a result of a federal court-ordered prison reforms.

Culberson said the bill would help the state regain control of the prison system from federal court.

Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, Lake Jackson, who sponsored the measure in the Senate, touted the bill as "landmark legislation," saying it was a way to increase capacity so that criminals were not released too early.

Celebraten
Life!

GIVE BLOOD

Aggie Blood Drive
June 24 - 28th
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Bloodmobiles at SBISA & Academic Plaza

Another service of APO, OPA & Student Government

FREE Cholesterol Test!

LSAT
GMAT
MCAT
GRE

Test Your Best!
Classes Forming Now.

STANLEY H. KAPLAN
Take Kaplan Or Take Your Chances

Classes forming now.
693-3196 or stop by 707 Texas Ave.
Ste. 106E for class schedule.