

The Battalion

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Editorial Policy

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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.

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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.

Advancement offered in fire training

Firefighters get hands-on experience

By Melinda Cox
The Battalion

Firefighting is not about money, glory or power, but about saving lives and property, said a volunteer firefighter at Texas A&M's 62nd Annual Municipal Texas Firemen's Training School.

Cecil Trantham with the Crabs Prairie Volunteer Fire Department is one of more than 5,000 firefighters involved in the school.

Firefighters from 15 states and 23 countries are attending this year's training school, which ends Friday.

Trantham is at the school to complete an officer and development course, but many courses are available.

The school offers 27 courses to suit the varied needs of different firefighters, said Charles Page, director of the Fire Protection Training Division for A&M's Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Page said the courses provide hands-on training under field conditions at Brayton Firemen's Field on A&M's West Campus.

Courses include instruction on how to use breathing apparatus and hoses, fire department pump operation and two rescue classes.

"There are four levels offered for firefighters," Page said. "For example, Firefighting 1 teaches firefighters how to use ladders, deal with hose loads and how to extinguish propane, oil and car fires.

"Firefighting 2 deals with ventilation, fire tactics and emergency care."

Page said firefighters must complete one course before progressing to the next level.

Officers also attend classes to



Firefighters practice putting out fires on the pressure pit manifold and drip pan exercise Tuesday afternoon at the Brayton Firefighting School.

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advance to further levels, Page said. Officer development classes include instruction on fire department organization and management, salvage and overhaul and rescue operations.

Trantham said he is working on the advanced level of the program.

"There are different levels beginning with the basic level that

requires 162 hours to be completed," Trantham said. "It is similar to receiving a doctoral degree in college. The class is a bit like a teaching class because of the methods used—methods such as preparations, applications and testing."

Trantham said firefighters usually spend more time in the classroom than they do fighting

fires. "Fifty percent of our time is spent in training, 40 percent is spent in fund raising and only 10 percent of our time is spent actually fighting fires," Trantham said.

Firefighting courses, however, are not free. The five-day training sessions cost \$200. Dorm rooms are \$75 for the

week. Trantham said that is a lot of money when many firefighters volunteer their time to fire departments.

Page said, however, cuts have been made to keep costs down, adding that public dem-

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Corps commander wins award at training camp

By Robin Goodpaster
The Battalion

John Sherman, next fall's Corps commander, recently won a prestigious award at an officer's training camp in Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Sherman, a 21-year-old senior history major from Victoria, was

rated No. 1 out of 350 members in his regiment. On a scale from 1 to 5, with five being the highest, Sherman received a five. Only the top 10 percent of the camp received a top rating.

The camp is designed to improve basic military skills and evaluate leadership potential for future officers.

Cadets learn basic military

skills such as rifle shooting, land navigation and outdoor challenges such as repelling. Survival in extreme environments—such as chemical warfare scenarios—also is stressed.

Sherman said academic knowledge also played an important role in the cadet's education. He also added that the cadets had to be constantly on

guard to impress their superiors.

Sherman said the camp taught cadets to coordinate platoons and make sure all soldiers were fed.

"The cadets really get to run the camp," Sherman said.

He said one example of this is making sure one's regiment gets to the right place at the right time.

Sherman said competition is very steep to be promoted to active duty. Cadets must earn a rating of at least a four to be placed on active duty.

Sherman said he was surprised to get the award, adding that he believed the other cadets had more technical training.

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BACK PAIN STUDIES

Patients needed with acute (recent) onset of muscle spasms (back pain, etc.) to participate in a consumer use research study with an FDA approved drug. Medical evaluation at no cost to patient. Eligible volunteers will be compensated.

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Walkout disrupts House debate on education

AUSTIN (AP) — The House was forced to temporarily stop debating an education bill Tuesday night after a walkout by renegade lawmakers angry over a vote to cut funding for pre-kindergarten classes for 3-year-olds.

When a subsequent vote indi-

cated a quorum wasn't present, Speaker Gib Lewis ordered the chamber doors locked and sent House staffers to round up the missing lawmakers.

State troopers also were alerted but not sent after the lawmakers, said Ron Hinkle, chief

House sergeant-at-arms.

The walkout lasted nearly an hour, during which many of the protesting legislators met with Gov. Ann Richards, who had been hosting a Governor's Mansion reception for new Education Commissioner Lionel "Skip" Meno.

"We're hoping that the governor can tell us why the House stinks," said Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston.

Richards said she telephoned Lewis and told him the lawmakers were at the mansion and that was encouraging them to return.



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WHAT'S UP

Wednesday

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

TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION: General membership meeting to discuss plans for activities during the summer. Everyone welcome at 7 p.m. in 119A Zachry. Call Gary at 846-4713 or Helen at 693-9990 for more information.

KANM 99.9 FM CABLE: Michael Worsham interviews John Wehrmeister, Vietnam veteran and editor of the journal Touchstone about the U.S. war with Iraq from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

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

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

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Special time of praise and worship. 7:30 p.m. in All Faiths Chapel. For more information, contact Pat at 696-1091.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no 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 Battalion 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.