

## 3 rescued, 8 missing in Gulf

Venezuelan vessel sinks off Texas coast

GALVESTON (AP) — Eight crewmen from a Venezuelan supply ship were missing Thursday after their vessel sank in the Gulf of Mexico, some 115 miles southeast of Galveston, officials said.

Three crewmen drifting in a life raft were rescued at 9:20 a.m., nearly four hours after the 150-foot ship, Diana, began taking on water, said U.S. Coast Guard Chief Clark Lednum of Galveston.

"It went down extremely fast, maybe five minutes," he said. "The crewmen were not able to get out a distress call."

The trio were picked up by the tanker O.M.I. Willamett and were expected to dock in Galveston late Thursday evening.

"The survivors aboard the life raft said the five other crew members were last seen putting on survival gear," Lednum said. Another three were unaccounted for, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

The Coast Guard cutter Key Biscayne was en route to the area Thursday afternoon and two helicopters from Air Station Houston and a fixed-wing aircraft from Air Station Corpus Christi also were involved in the search.

A mayday report from the Galveston shrimper, Snow White, diverted a helicopter from the Diana rescue to 20 miles southeast of Galveston. Five people aboard the Snow White were rescued from that sinking boat and flown back to shore.

"The five people off the Snow White are safe," said Coast Guard Ensign August Buhalis. He said the helicopter then returned to the original search area.

The Diana was a Venezuelan-registered supply ship and all the crew members were Venezuelan, Lednum said.

## Global business studies College incorporates international program

By Jayme Blaschke  
The Battalion

Business majors at Texas A&M can now specialize in international business because of a new certification program offered by the Center for International Business Studies.

Kelly Murphrey, a graduate assistant with the program, said the certification process was designed to be an integral part of the degree track, requiring little extra effort from the student.

"The certificate is almost like a minor, with foreign language and international business course requirements, as well as international experience and culture requirements, which may be fulfilled by study abroad programs or special projects," Murphrey said. "These courses will all fit within the normal number of hours required for graduation without the need for additional work."

Dr. Kerry Cooper, director of the center, said although the program is new this semester, the opportunities it offers have been available at A&M for a number of years.

"This is something students can do already, but the certificate provides tangible recognition of their accomplishment," Cooper said. "We have an extensive mentors program in place where instructors assist students in choosing their classes, and this helps out the advisers by providing them an outline or framework to work with."

The certificate, which students receive upon graduation, shows the student's education took on an international focus within their specialty, Murphrey said. Such a focus could potentially help in getting a job.

"What we're trying to do with the program is to broaden the student's education, and therefore get the U.S. more competitive, more involved with the global marketplace," he said.

"This could open doors on the career path, because many U.S. corporations are exploring overseas operations. This program can prepare students for the direction business is going."

As the graduates enter international business and word spreads about the A&M certification program, the stature of the center could be enhanced world-wide, Cooper said.

"With the program in place, we can better advise students and aid them in understanding the direction business is progressing," he said. "Ultimately, that reflects on us. We're doing good for the center by doing good for the students."

## Program provides assistance to first-time B-CS home buyers

By Dawn Hellums  
The Battalion

Affordable housing for low and moderate income residents is now possible in Bryan-College Station with the introduction of a special program by Bryan Home Mortgage Assistance Program.

The program aids qualified home buyers by providing financial assistance, counseling and up to \$5,000 in down payments and closing costs to build a new home. Affordable Housing Coordinator Karon Cairns said the program will be beneficial to the surrounding community.

"We want this to be a positive addition and good service to the Bryan-College Station area," she

said. "It has already been well received in the area."

The program was developed by the City of Bryan and First American Bank after a study taken in 1990 revealed the need for moderate income housing in the B-CS area due to city residents' inability to come up with down payments and closing costs on new homes.

The program meets the needs of faculty, incoming residents and full-time employees rather than full-time students, said Gail MacMillan, division manager for Community Development.

"The program should offer A&M an incentive to bring in new faculty and staff," she added.

Eligible applicants must be first time home buyers and may not have a gross annual household

income that exceeds 125 percent of the area median.

Applicants must qualify for a FHA loan, and provide \$1,000 in cash for down payment and closing costs. Applicants are also required to attend four to ten hours of home buyer and home ownership training courses.

All homes will be built in the Shadowwood subdivision adjacent to Jane Long Junior High School on FM 2818. House plans include two and three bedroom homes with monthly mortgage payments estimated from \$490 to \$625.

Due to the overwhelming response from interested home buyers, the program may expand.

"We want to get other banks and businesses involved; we're hoping to grow," Cairns said.

## Annual Career Fair helps students find niche in job market

By Sharon Gilmore  
The Battalion

Today's uncertain economic climate requires job-seekers to get a head start, and an upcoming Career Fair can give students that edge, one of the organizers said.

The fair gives students a chance to mingle with representatives of companies in order to get contacts, said Marnie Stewart, a senior speech communications major and Business Student Council representative.

"Because of the recession, it is important to start making contacts as soon as possible," Stewart said.

The Business Student Council of the College of Business is sponsoring the thirteenth annual Career Fair to run Jan. 26-29.

Students will be able to speak with recruiters at company booths set up in the Blocker hallways from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day of the fair. Approximately 250 recruiters will visit the campus during the week, Stewart added.

The theme of the this year's fair is "An Investment in Your Future."

The week of business oriented events will kick off at 9 a.m. Sunday in Room 201 of the Memorial Student Center with the Retailing Symposium sponsored by the Center for Retailing Studies.

Suzanne Allford, vice president of the people division of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. will speak on "What Separates the Best from the Rest in Retailing."

Allford also will be the keynote speaker at the Women in Business luncheon on Tuesday.

The ninth annual Women in Business Symposium will take place in Blocker classrooms on Monday, covering topics such as women succeeding in business and discrimination in the workplace.

The seminars will be as helpful to men as to women, Stewart said.

Panels of women include the Executive Women of Dallas and professional business leaders from Bryan/College Station and Houston. The panel members will be speaking to different classes in Blocker beginning at 8 a.m.

Students can have dinner with personnel from the company of their choice at the Business Career Fair Banquet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the College Station Hilton. Members of the Fair Banquet Committee said they expect 900 people to attend the dinner.

The first Minority Student Business Symposium, formerly a luncheon, will take place Wednesday.

Four speakers from different companies will speak about minority issues in the job market to classes in Blocker.

"The purpose of the symposium is to allow minority students to interact with company recruiters," said Tom Jenkins, chairman of the event and a representative of the Business Student Council.

In addition to the Career Fair, a discussion on co-op education, mock interviews and the placement center's bidding process will be held in Blocker 307 on Thursday.

For more information about the Business Career Fair, or to make luncheon or banquet reservations, contact the Business Student Council at 845-1320.

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(USPS 045 360)

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### 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 session.

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 in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316.

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.

### Subscriptions

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

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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 in room 015 Reed McDonald building.

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