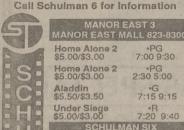
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The Battalion



Friday, December 11,

Continued from Page 2

A&M leadership, but he not run the newspaper cordance to any A&M ager

"It would be nice if the ministration was happy us," O'Brien said, "but it ly doesn't concern me. administration feels well been careless in doing th we haven't been fair or a rate, then I'll listen to them like I would anyone else, b won't change the way th are done.

Despite the controversy challenges fall editor in Atlantis Tillman said The talion will be successful ur O'Brien's leadership.

"Steve is one of the fai people I know," Tillman 'He's level-headed and the ability to see issues as really are. If anyone ca this job and do it well, S

Still, Tillman said no ma how hard the new editor to avoid it, controversy follow because The Batta prints the bad as well as good news.

"We're living in a time v everyone is blaming the senger," she said. "Our jo to report the news. We to report the truth and do such a way that is fair. have to battle against pur opinion that the media is to make issues when in rea we're here to report them.

"It's easier to blame us th the people at fault."

O'Brien said despite po ble controversies, news rep ing will remain his first pri

"It's important that we are rately and fairly report he penings on campus that con tute news," he said. "Wen to be sure when somethi happens that is newswort we are there.'



Mark Barnes, a junior environmental design major from San Antonio, works to finish his

Environmental Design 110 class. Once he finishes the project, Barnes will be through for the

## FDA unsure of female condom

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Data proving product's effectiveness found 'unreliable'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday the maker of a condom for women has produced unreliable data on its effectiveness, and it seems to work better in the lab than in

The agency convened a panel of outside experts to give advice on whether the female condom should be allowed onto the U.S. market.

The FDA usually follows the advice of such committees. There is no timetable for its decision. "We're trying to make decisions quickly these

days," said Dr. David Kessler, the FDA commission-Wisconsin Pharmacal Co., which makes the device and plans to market it under the brand name Reality, has done a number of tests, both on the condom and

people who use it. The company said tests over six months found a

failure rate of 12.2 percent among women in the United States, with failure defined as pregnancy. The FDA pointed out that the failure rate among women studied in Latin America was almost twice that and among certain age groups, over 30 percent.

The agency said the company may have underestimated the failure rate by as much as 10 percent.

The female condom is an adaptation of the one for men. It is a seven-inch tube with flexible rings at

both ends. The inner ring fits behind the woman's public bone, and the outer ring remains outside her The condom has been pumped full of helium, filled with water, shot with lasers and tried in rabbits in the laboratory to see if it irritated the animals.

Those tests were fine, the FDA said. The results in people were mixed. Some used it better than others. And because of the company's methods, the condom's failure rate can't be compared to that of other birth control methods, the FDA said.

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