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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 semester.

Editor

Continued from Page 2

A&M leadership, but he not run the newspaper in accordance to any A&M agenda.

"It would be nice if the administration was happy with us," O'Brien said, "but it really doesn't concern me. If the administration feels we have been careless in doing that, we haven't been fair or accurate, then I'll listen to them like I would anyone else, but won't change the way things are done."

Despite the controversy and challenges fall editor in chief Atlantis Tillman said The Battalion will be successful under O'Brien's leadership.

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

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

"We're living in a time where everyone is blaming the messenger," she said. "Our job is to report the news. We have to report the truth and do it in such a way that is fair. We have to battle against public opinion that the media is out to make issues when in reality we're here to report them."

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

O'Brien said despite possible controversies, news reporting will remain his first priority.

"It's important that we accurately and fairly report happenings on campus that constitute news," he said. "We need to be sure when something happens that is newsworthy we are there."

FDA unsure of female condom

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 people.

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 commissioner.

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 pubic bone, and the outer ring remains outside her body.

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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