

The Battalion

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Santa Chiara Day to recognize A&M's Italian campus

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

Santa Chiara Day, which recognizes Texas A&M University's campus in Italy, will be Wednesday in the foyer of the MSC from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event has been organized to increase student awareness of the programs offered at the Italy campus. Dr. E. Dean Gage, senior

vice president and provost of A&M, will serve as host for the opening ceremonies of the event.

Gage said he hopes the event will spur students' interest in A&M study abroad programs.

"We wanted to let people know the opportunities available to them to broaden their horizons," Gage said. "This is a really fantastic educational opportunity for students."

The study abroad program in Italy is geared toward liberal arts students in the spring and summer. Classes offered include art history, studies in Italian as well as European culture, the history of Christianity and an English class on modern song.

Architecture classes are offered in the fall at the Santa Chiara Center.

Gage said students who study

abroad have an edge over other students when it comes to their future.

"It will certainly help them in being competitive," Gage said. "It will provide them with a broadening experience that most students don't have."

Since so many companies are focusing more on the global market, Gage said a study abroad experience can only help them find a

job in the future.

"We're finding that corporate recruiters are looking for this experience," he said. "It gives students a leg up on the competition."

Chris Tombari, a senior English major who attended the Santa Chiara Center last spring, said his study abroad experience will surely help him in the future.

"Somehow having a study

abroad experience on your resume makes it look even better," Tombari said.

Daniel Bornstein, assistant professor of history, taught A&M students on the Italy study abroad program last year and will be teaching there again this spring.

Bornstein said his time in Italy was the best teaching experience of his life.

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Doctor releases report on children

Some cult kids sexually abused

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The children of the Branch Davidian cult routinely were introduced to sexually explicit material under the guise of Bible studies, but none of the 21 children released by David Koresh were sexually abused, a psychiatrist said Monday.

Dr. Bruce Perry, the head of a support team treating the children released by Koresh following a Feb. 28 firefight with federal agents, stepped back from classifying the children he's seen as abused.

"President Clinton and Janet Reno are saying child abuse. CPS (Child Protective Services) is saying well, we didn't see any supporting evidence to support allegations," Perry said. "It's a very complex set of issues."

Based on interviews with 19 of the 21 of the surviving children, ages 4 to 11, Perry discovered many were hit with a wooden paddle for minor offenses such as spilling a drink; girls as young as 11 were in-

ducted into wifehood with Koresh, and many were instructed in paramilitary procedures.

But one person's abuse is another's version of strict discipline and no straight lines have been determined as to whether how much the compound life will remain with them as they get older.

"These are delightful, engaging children," said Perry. Children, he says, who have used every ounce of their own initiative to survive their surroundings.

So far no evidence exists that any of the children released before the April 19 fire destroyed the compound were sexually abused. However, Perry says the children have talked about possible abuse of children who died in the fire. The FBI has said Koresh was believed to have been the father of the 17 children who died in the fire.

"I don't think it was any secret that David Koresh was into control," Perry said. "... And I think there were some very malignant and destructive associations that these children were likely exposed to."

I'm rich! I'm rich!

Texas A&M student wins \$3.4 million in Texas Lotto, will pay for education

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion

Amber Matthews is one Texas A&M University student who won't need to sell her books back at the end of the semester to help pay the rent.

Matthews, a sophomore psychology major from Plano, is \$3.4 million richer after being one of 14 winners in Saturday's \$50 million Lotto drawing.

"I've never bought a ticket before," she said. "I never win anything."

Matthews bought three Lotto tickets late Saturday afternoon, but said she almost threw the winning ticket away at the last minute. But because the line was so long at the convenience store where she purchased the ticket, Matthews said she quickly picked the last two numbers and turned it in.

Matthews was alone in her apartment when she matched her Lotto numbers and discovered she had won. "I am dyslexic with numbers so at first I thought I'd written them down wrong," she said.

After double-checking her numbers, Matthews said she started screaming and hyperventilating. When she called her parents, they didn't believe her at first, she said.

Matthews said she had to wait

until Monday to go to Austin to sign papers and get her first check because she had a final exam Monday and spent Sunday night studying for it.

Until then, she locked her Lotto ticket in a small safe and wore the key around her neck.

"I started to cry when I signed the papers," she said. "It (winning) was so stressful that I don't think I would have wanted to win the entire \$50 million."

However, Matthews said she was disappointed for a moment that she had to split the Lotto pot with 13 other winners.

"At first impulse, I thought it was uncool, but I would be happy if they gave me \$100," she said.

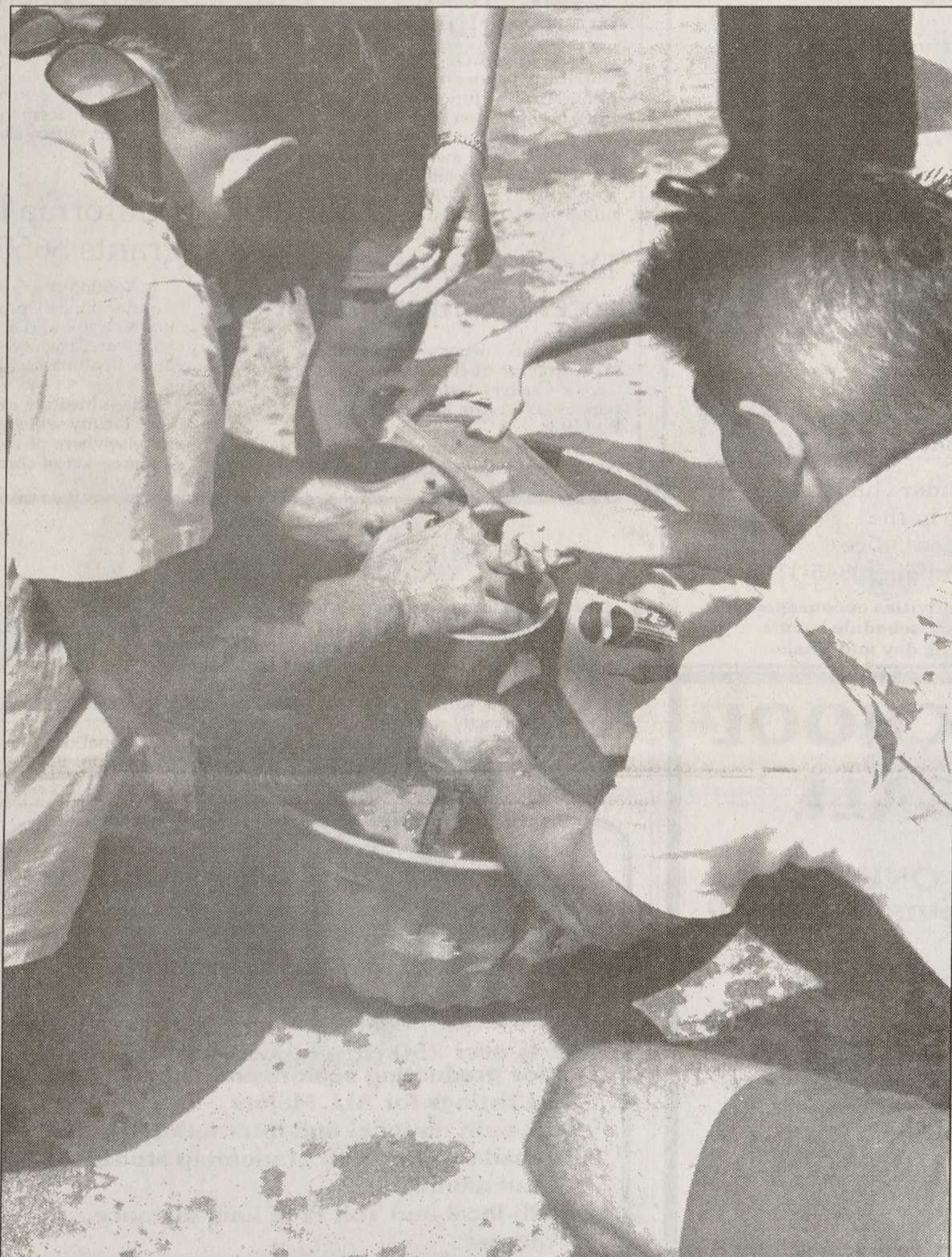
Matthews received \$126,000 yesterday and will get \$126,000 a year over the next 20 years. The first thing she said she will do with the money is pay for her sister's college and pay off her parent's mortgage and cars. Then, Matthews wants to take her Spanish class out to lunch.

"Over the summer I will just sit on the rest of the money and see how to invest it," she said.

Matthews said she has tried to keep a low profile since she has won the Lotto, and hasn't told people about her winnings that don't already know.

"It's just not my style," she said.

I will sell no wine . . .



RICHEL DIXON/The Battalion

Students squeeze the remains of stomped grapes through pantyhose into a wine bottle to raise money for the Jimmy V. Cancer Research Fund. Eta Sigma Delta sponsored the event.

Homosexual, bisexual students discuss activism

This article is part three of a three-part series on gay life at Texas A&M.

By ANNE WOODS

Special to The Battalion

For most gay, lesbian and bisexual people at Texas A&M University, activism is not political; rather, it means living openly.

Some people appear on panels to discuss homosexuality with a

roomful of students. Others write letters to newspapers. For many more people, living openly simply means being honest.

The goals of gay activism include winning civil rights and freedom from discrimination, but they also include something more basic. The biggest goal of some activists isn't winning publicity, but exactly the opposite: winning a place among the ordinary.

Last week, many of A&M's gay and lesbian activists pursued their goals at the March on Washington.

Jayson

Jayson is an officer in Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS) and the organization's main coordinator for the recent March on Washington.

The March on Washington was not a time to demand but a time

to show U.S. citizens what gays have to offer, he said. He also said he hoped the huge crowds would motivate other gay students to be active.

"For us, as students, and me personally, I think it's more important because we're younger and don't have that much of a sense of history, to be exposed

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Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican independence

By JEFF GOSMANO

The Battalion

Today is a special day for Native Mexicans and Mexican-Americans because it marks the anniversary of Mexico's victory over an invading French army in 1862.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican army's defense of Puebla, a Mexican city that was attacked by Napoleon III and the French army.

Although the Mexican army defended Puebla, the French army

regrouped and captured Mexico City and most of central Mexico. As part of the French Intervention in Mexico, French forces remained in the area until 1867.

The Mexican victory at Puebla "helped shape the fragile Mexican identity of the 1860's," said Dr. Henry Schmidt, an associate professor of Latin American history at Texas A&M University.

He said Cinco de Mayo is a national event because at the time, it was a great accomplishment to defeat a European army.

Although Cinco de Mayo is celebrated in both Mexico and the United States, the event has gained more popularity in the United States, he said.

"It's probably more of a cele-

bration among Mexican-Americans than it is for Mexicans," he said. "In the ensuing years, the holiday has become more public and popular in the United States today than it has in Mexico."

Although Cinco de Mayo has become increasingly popular in the United States, many Mexican-Americans still are not aware of the day's historical significance, Schmidt said.

"Many don't know what the day commemorates," he said. "Many are not celebrating the event. Most don't know that the celebration refers to the event."

He said that Mexican-Americans have made Cinco de Mayo an event that celebrates their identity.

Medical school to sponsor speaker in honor of holiday

The Texas A&M University College of Medicine will sponsor a Cinco de Mayo celebration from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Reynolds Medical Building.

Photographer Alan Pogue will present a photographic survey, "America's Migrant Farmworkers." Pogue will speak briefly about his first-hand experiences with this group and the struggles and hardships they endure.

Music, food and entertainment will follow Pogue's presentation. The event is presented by the College of Medicine's Hispanic Center of Excellence, and students, faculty and community are encouraged to attend.

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