

The Battalion

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A&M advised to release Corps investigation results

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

The Texas attorney general's office advised Texas A&M University last week to release to The Battalion some of the information regarding a Corps of Cadets sexual harassment and sexual assault investigation conducted last spring.

The investigation concerns allegations by a female sophomore cadet that a senior male cadet sexually assaulted her in the spring of 1992 and sexually harassed her last fall.

On March 26, A&M's Office of University Relations said in a press release A&M would not release the results of the investigation because this would violate the

Buckley Amendment, formerly titled The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.

This amendment states that educational records are private and belong to the student and the university. Even though the records are in the possession of the university, only the student has access to them.

The Battalion filed an open records request March 26 to obtain the results of the investigation and hearing, which began Jan. 28. The Battalion specifically said information concerning the identity of the students was not being requested.

The University then reviewed this request and asked for an opinion from the attorney general as to whether the information could be released.

Scott A. Kelly, assistant general counsel with A&M, asked for the attorney general's opinion for the University.

On June 29, Celeste A. Baker, assistant attorney general, stated in a letter to A&M that the University must release the requested information as long as the people involved were not identified.

"You assert that FERPA prohibits the release of all of the information you have submitted to this office," Baker said. "We disagree. Information must be withheld from required public disclosure under FERPA only to the extent 'reasonable and necessary to avoid personally identifying a particular student.'"

The attorney general's office also said the University has 10 days to resubmit the documents to the attorney general's office

for reconsideration if it feels the documents are not open records, or officials can release the papers to The Battalion.

Kelly said in a phone interview Tuesday that he still feels the items requested by The Battalion are not subject to release.

"I think those things in the report are prohibited by the Buckley Amendment," he said. "I need to evaluate it and make a decision."

Kelly said the opinion of the attorney general's office in this case is inconsistent with prior opinions, and the general counsel will probably resubmit some of the documents involved in the investigation to the attorney general.

"We're going to try to cause them to understand the Buckley Amendment," he said. "I think the attorney general's office

fell off the track a little bit."

Kelly said even if the report was released without the names of the people involved, too many people would be able to identify the students because this case is so widely known, rendering the documents unavailable for release under the Buckley Amendment.

A&M's general counsel's office will discuss the case with an organization in Washington D.C. that studies FERPA cases to get its advice before offering an opinion to A&M's administration. The administration will ultimately decide if the information requested will be released or if further action will be taken to withhold the information.

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Tour de Campus



RICHARD DIXON/The Battalion

Jim Simons, an oceanography graduate student, heads to the library Tuesday afternoon to make some copies for his dissertation. Simons rides his bike to class because it "saves time" and is "convenient."

Economic summit reports progress

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO - Leaders of the industrialized world searched in pre-summit talks for the key to unlocking stalled trade negotiations Tuesday. President Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reported tentative, tantalizing progress toward easing bitter economic tensions.

Clinton, trying to strengthen his foreign policy credentials, offered reassurances to Asian allies nervous about whether a budget-conscious United States would maintain a strong military presence in the Pacific.

"We intend to maintain a full engagement in this region," Clinton said. He warned North Korea against building nuclear arms.

The 19th annual summit of leading industrialized nations - the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - opens Wednesday amid modest expectations because of the political shakiness of the leaders and the weakness of their economies.

It's the economic summit debut for Clinton, Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell and Italian Prime Minister Carlos Ciampi.

For Miyazawa, it's almost certainly his last. He got a no-confidence vote in Parliament June 18 and was forced to call new elections. Clinton met with members of Japan's opposition parties and offered an "outstretched hand."

A report prepared for the leaders by their finance ministers calls for closer cooperation to promote economic growth. It suggested that countries re-examine social insurance programs and regulations that discourage job creation.

Lacking any bold new initiatives, the leaders were likely to trumpet a Russian aid package to help Boris Yeltsin keep alive his program of democratic reforms. Yeltsin will meet with the leaders over dinner Thursday and again after the summit's close Friday.

Even before summit partners gathered around a cherrywood table in Akasaka Palace's Hall of Flowers and Birds, there were complaints about the strict formality of the annual meetings.

British Prime Minister John Major, for one, openly wished for "informal exchanges where you don't necessarily have to produce pre-scripted solutions."

Indeed, there were intense behind-the-scenes efforts to produce economic progress on two fronts: a framework for resolving U.S.-Japanese trade disputes, and a separate agreement among the United States, Canada, Japan and the European Community for a "market access" package of tariff cuts on a broad range of manufactured goods and services.

Nigeria riots kill 11, protest military rule

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAGOS, Nigeria - Rioters fought police and soldiers Tuesday and at least 11 people were reported killed as tens of thousands of people set fires and blocked roads to demand an end to military dictatorship.

It was the first report of deaths since residents of Nigeria's largest city began demonstrating Monday to pressure the government to recognize the annulled June 12 presidential election that was to end a decade of military rule.

The man widely believed to have won the election, businessman Moshhood K.O. Abiola, appealed to people to resist the dictatorship of Gen. Ibrahim Babangida and ignore an ultimatum threatening to dissolve the national assembly.

"Ignore this latest threat by the outgoing military president - and damn the consequences," Abiola said in a statement.

The Pan-African News Agency said soldiers killed several rioters who set a truck on fire in Ikoyi, a well-to-do neighborhood of Lagos. The agency, set up by the Organization of African Unity, quoted witnesses as saying the troops piled bodies in the back of a truck and drove away. Other witnesses said five people died.

Lotto - \$50 million magnet

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN - Some charged into Texas from Mexico. Some hailed from as far away as Florida. Others simply walked out of their house to the corner of the block.

As if a voice was calling them, people scribbled down numbers, some randomly, others as if their life depended on a number sequence.

They had a common destination - Lotto Texas mecca, known among other things as a convenience store - to buy their chance at \$50 million to be drawn Wednesday night.

Delsie Scott, a clerk in a gas station in Waskom, an hour's drive from Shreveport, La., said folks from as far away as Florida had come in looking to take a Texas-sized jackpot back home with them.

"We had some vacationers from Florida who said they heard about the jackpot and immediately looked for a place to buy tickets," said Scott, who could barely grant a telephone interview because she was so busy ringing the cash register.

"They just keep coming," she said, as if monsters were invading her store. "Most of them are coming across the border from Louisiana."

"It's just crazy, and I'm sure it's only going to get worse tomorrow."

Increased violence plagues S. Africa

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATLEHONG, South Africa - An outburst of political fighting in two black townships killed dozens of people Tuesday, a grim reminder of how difficult it will be for South Africa to hold democratic elections.

After overnight battles, police said at least 45 people had been killed in Tokoza and Katlehong, two impoverished townships southeast of Johannesburg.

Nationwide, more than 125 blacks have died since Friday, when black and white negotiators set April 27, 1994, as the date for South Africa's first elections including the black majority.

Most of the township fighting involved supporters of the African National Congress and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, the nation's two leading black groups and bitter rivals for power.

Inkatha was one of six groups that opposed setting the election date at Friday's talks, arguing that negotiators must first decide the type of government to replace white rule.

Powerful radar watches over B-CS

By LISA ELLIOTT

The Battalion

Bryan-College Station residents can rest assured they will be informed of severe weather thanks to A&M's Doppler radar system.

The Doppler radar system can detect severe weather activity not detectable by any other weather radar system.

Dr. Michael Biggerstaff, Texas A&M meteorologist, said that out of five existing Doppler systems, A&M's is probably the second most powerful system next to Colorado State's.

The system was installed a year ago and has already been

useful in warning the people of Brazos County about severe weather activities.

The system has been used by the civil defense office to determine the severity of storms and to issue severe weather and tornado warnings.

Biggerstaff said the system is capable of detecting air motion either toward or away from the radar in addition to measuring the intensity of the weather.

It can also detect tornado activity much sooner than any other system, he said.

Biggerstaff said the Doppler system is more powerful than any system found at a Texas tele-

vision station.

Bob French, chief meteorologist at KBTX channel 3, said the television station doesn't use the Doppler system at Texas A&M on a regular basis but they do take notice when they hear from A&M during severe weather.

"We take it more seriously when we hear from them," French said.

French said the system they use is an enterprise radar.

"It's a good system and it has a good range," he said.

Biggerstaff said the National Weather Service depends on

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- Column: Stanford reflects on A&M's 'neighborhoods'

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WEATHER

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- Forecast for Thursday: cloudy in the morning, partly cloudy and breezy by afternoon, highs in the 90s

- Extended forecast: partly cloudy, highs in the 90s

Tomorrow in Aggielife —

Fate of nations:

A&M international students express their views about U.S. involvement in their home countries and how it affects their lives here and abroad.

Reviews:

- Clint Eastwood's 'In the line of fire,' &
- U2's new album, 'Zooropa'

