

Campus

Retention rates high for A&M freshmen, low for minority groups.

Opinion

COLUMNIST DEBATE: Is access to abortion a human right?

Sports

Bryant kickin' up a storm on the A&M football field.

# THE BATTALION

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### U.S., Korea continue weapons talks

BERLIN (AP) — Amid reports of a deadlock, U.S. and North Korean diplomats held a third day of technical talks on American initiatives to steer the Koreans' nuclear program away from weapons production. Neither side provided any details of the talks. The negotiations Wednesday began at midmorning and were expected to last into the evening. The United States has offered to replace North Korea's reactors with light-water reactors that are safer and produce less weapons-grade plutonium than the Russian-designed graphite reactors North Korea is now operating. A South Korean newspaper on Wednesday reported a deadlock in the talks caused in part by North Korea's demand that the United States pay \$1.2 billion to compensate for stopping construction of its graphite nuclear reactors.

### Feds catch on to latest welfare scam

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the latest scheme to defraud the government's largest welfare program, bogus grocery stores are springing up around the country to launder food stamps for restaurants, wholesalers and street traffickers. The lucrative scams are spreading at a time when federal oversight of the food stamp program has been weakened by deep budget cuts, and while record numbers of Americans are collecting benefits. The Agriculture Department spends \$24 billion a year providing food stamps to more than 26 million Americans — one in 10. Yet USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has only a handful of regulators and investigators to police the program. According to agency officials and lawmakers, the Food and Nutrition Service has 46 food stamp investigators, compared with nearly 80 in 1979. Its field office staff, which oversees food stamps as well as other nutrition programs, has shrunk from a thousand workers to about 150.

### Halloween doll cackles racial slurs

HARRISBURG (AP) — The plastic Halloween witch doll was supposed to offer a recipe for witch's brew. But a cashier and a customer at a Harrisburg-area store complained that the toy instead uttered a racial slur in stalling the necessary ingredients. Hills Department Stores removed the dolls from 150 stores this week after the complaints from the suburban store. The plastic witch is supposed to respond to a clap by cackling, "Is anybody ready for a little witch's brew?" Instead, the cashier and customer say, they believe the \$12 battery-powered novelties used a slur for blacks in saying what it needed for its "witch's brew." "We're not sure what it was saying, it was so garbled," said Glenn Ryerson, Hills' director of marketing. "It certainly could have been construed to be a slur. It certainly wasn't saying what it was supposed to be saying."

### Actor pleads no-contest to setting fire

BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Bobcat Goldthwait's no-contest plea for setting fire to "The Tonight Show" set is now official, and he has handed over TV spots he was ordered to make on behalf of a burn center. The comedian also must pay \$3,888 in fines and restitution, including \$698 to NBC for damage to the chair he set on fire with lighter fluid May 6. Jay Leno and guest Lauren Hutton doused the fire with cups of water. Goldthwait, 32, was in Municipal Court on Wednesday to make final the plea bargain, which also includes six months' probation. "We don't think there was maliciousness here," Deputy City Attorney Robert Walters. "It was reckless. It was a joke gone bad."

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# A&M faculty not surprised by invasion

By Constance Parten  
THE BATTALION

President Clinton's decision to invade Haiti didn't surprise some Texas A&M faculty. Pierre Catala, an engineering technology senior lecturer and a resident of Haiti for six years, said he hoped the United States would invade Haiti. "The majority of Americans are opposed to the invasion because they don't care about Haiti," Catala said. "They didn't, until recently, even know where the country was, and Haiti doesn't have a tremendous economic impact on the U.S. so they just don't care." Catala said the suffering is incredible in Haiti and he is concerned for many of his friends still in the country. He also said the U.S. embargo is partially to blame for many of the deaths of Haiti's citizens. "The people are dying because there is literally nothing to eat," Catala said.

"The U.S. is already involved. They can't back out now."

More than 3,000 Haitians have been killed since the regime took power, and more than 24,000 have fled Haiti, seeking refuge in the United States. There are now some 14,000 refugees housed at U.S. military installations at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Clinton said he has already sent two aircraft carriers, the USS America and the USS Eisenhower, into the Caribbean to join the 15 ships already present. Joseph Dawson, director of the Military Studies Institute, said Clinton's heart is in the right place, although his

actions in the past several months have hurt him politically. "Clinton has always seemed disdainful of foreign policy," Dawson said. "He is finally coming to the understanding that the United States can't avoid involvement

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## Haitian leaders should 'leave now or we will force you from power', White House says

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton built his case Thursday for an American invasion of Haiti to expel a military regime that stole power and stands accused of 3,000 political murders. Every sign pointed to an imminent invasion. Seventeen American warships ominously shadowed Haiti's coast, and two troop-laden aircraft carriers were on

the way. Clinton signed an executive order authorizing the call up of 1,600 reservists to support the 20,000-person invasion force. The president was using a prime-time address from the Oval Office to explain why American lives should be risked to restore deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide after three years in exile.

Americans overwhelmingly oppose an invasion, according to polls, and there's widespread opposition in Congress. Defense Secretary William Perry said Pentagon planning "assumed we would have to make a forced entry in Haiti." He said he hoped it would become clear to Haiti's leaders that "their best alternative is to leave and not to try to resist this force." Perry said there was no indication that Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, leader of the

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# Hutchison visits A&M, speaks out against president's policies

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

During a campaign stop at Texas A&M Thursday, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison expressed strong opposition to the Clinton administration's plan to invade Haiti. Sen. Hutchison, who was greeted by about 50 Texas A&M students and supporters at the Memorial Student Center, said she does not support the president's plan to invade the Caribbean nation. Hutchison said she believes that Clinton should get Congress' approval before moving forward with any action. "The administration has no reason to put American soldiers in harm's way," she said. "There is no strategic interest which justifies the shedding of one drop of American blood in an invasion of Haiti."

Hutchinson said an invasion could be avoided if the United States would work with the people of Haiti.

"We haven't exhausted our sources yet," she said. "I think that by lifting the embargo with Haiti, and if the country had another election, it would be for the good of the Haitian people." Hutchison, when asked about Clinton's health care reform plan, said the American people want a health care plan, but that decisions about such a plan are still being decided. "I am also a strong advocate of insurance reform," Hutchison said. "I want to bring support to people who



Hutchison

have lost their jobs."

Hutchison concluded by saying she will be in Washington D.C. until late October doing the job she was elected to do, but will visit Texas A&M when she returns. "I am always glad to visit Texas A&M and will come again soon," she said. Bo Armstrong, vice president of public relations for the College Republicans, said Hutchison had several stops to make in Bryan-College Station, but that she wanted to take time to meet Texas A&M students Tuesday. "She has been very supportive of the College Republicans through her efforts and speeches," Armstrong said.

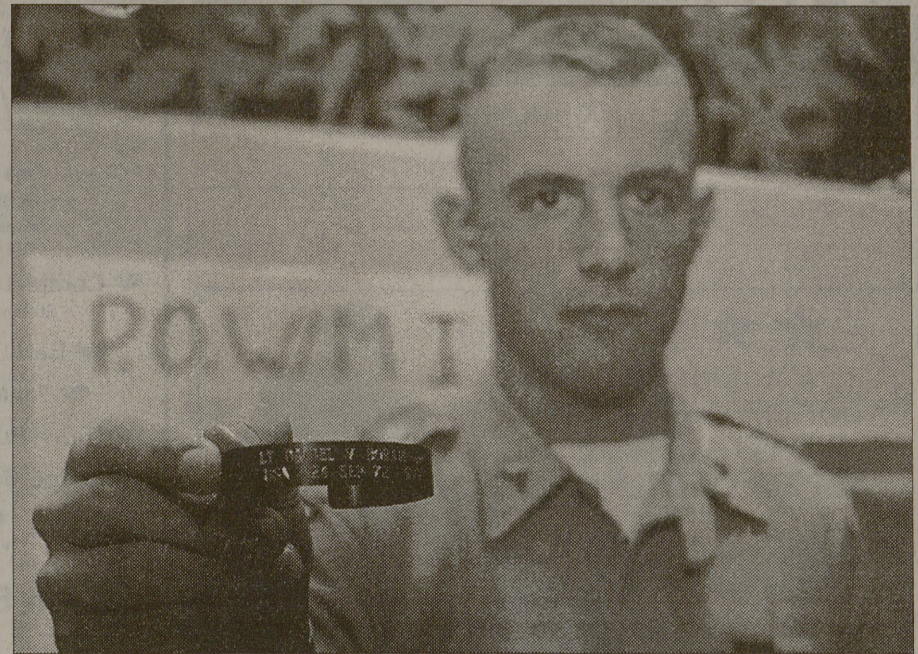
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# Former student remembers struggle as Vietnam POW

By Lisa Messer  
THE BATTALION

Although it was over 21 years ago, Col. James Ray clearly remembers the six years of torture he received as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. "It was rope torture," Ray said. "They tortured me the first time to try to get military information. The second time they wanted a war crimes confession and anti-war letters to turn America against the war." During his 13th combat mission in Southeast Asia, Ray had ejected from his battle-damaged F-105 bomber over North Vietnam. From May 1966 until February 1973, he was a prisoner of the North Vietnamese. Ray, a former A&M student, said he wants people to remember, especially today on POW/MIA Recognition Day, the sacrifices that people made, the years that were amputated from their lives and those men that are still missing. "National POW/MIA Day is an effort to keep the idea alive of the sacrifices that individuals have made," he said. "They are patriots. They were loyal to their government, fighting an unpopular war." Eric Hansen, commander of the Arnold Air Society, said people should understand that Recognition Day is not held as a memorial. "It's a commemorative type of event," he said. "It's to let former POWs and MIAs know that their efforts aren't forgotten and that they're appreciated. It's important for everyone to remember their sacrifices."

Maj. David Onaka, assistant professor of aerospace studies, said family members of POWs and MIAs have also sacrificed. "It's not just the people who fought," he said. "A lot of people have sacrificed because they had loved ones in the military. It's important to the family members to remember." Ray said many families suffer because they don't know the conditions of their loved ones. "A number of MIAs were never accounted for," he said. "There are allegations that some were never returned. I personally believe there are not any men still being held alive," Ray said. "I say that with a 90 to 95 percent confidence rate. As much information as possible has been analyzed, and you can't prove conclusively there are any left. "If people are not aware of the conflicting material, they jump on the bandwagon," he said. "I object to that because it puts a worse burden on the survivors of the missing. They're on an emotional roller coaster. It promotes their hopes and then dashes them. That's more cruel than a presumptive finding of death." Ray said five percent of him still wonders if there are still more, however. "What if we find out tomorrow even one guy is alive?" he said. "Then who do we blame?" "This day should send a signal to the politicians to still be vigilant for that five percent chance, or one percent chance, that there are still some left behind," he said.



Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Sophomore cadet Mark Andrews shows off a POW/MIA bracelet. The bracelets are on sale through today at the MSC. POW/MIA recognition activities end today.

"The difficulty is not only during the war on the battlefield," Ray said. "Some things are never resolved." Yumi Yanagisawa, commander of Angel Flight (an air force student support group), said she urges everyone to participate in Recognition Day. "We can't forget," she said. "It did

happen. They still remember and so should we." The final POW/MIA recognition activities will be held today at Simpson Drill Field at 11:30 a.m. The 147th Flight Group of the Texas Air National Guard will fly over the drill field at noon in the "missing man" formation.

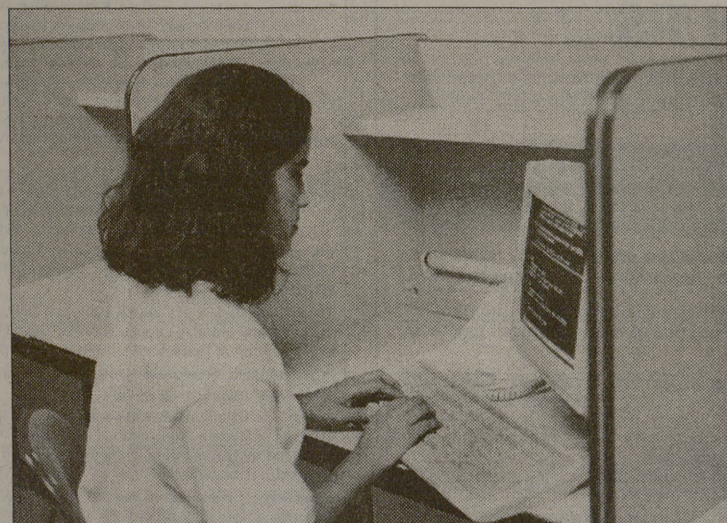
# A&M students, administrators opt for E-mail communication

Editor's Note: All interviews for this article were conducted through E-mail.  
By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students do not have to depend on the postal service or the phone company for their communication needs. A&M is offering students some new communication options through its computing services. Many people are finding electronic methods of communication, like E-mail, more convenient than traditional methods. Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, said E-mail is often more convenient than the phone for getting in touch with people. "It helps avoid playing phone tag with individuals who are busy," he said. "It also allows for a direct form of communication without going through other individuals." Jay Parsons, a senior computer science major, agreed that E-mail is convenient for both parties. "People will get your message eventually," he said, "and can reply at their leisure." Parsons said many computer science professors tell students to communicate with them through E-mail.

Some professors send students' grades to them via E-mail. Some even have students turn in their homework via E-mail. Bowen said he uses E-mail frequently for communication pertaining to A&M, as well as other interests. "I receive approximately 40 E-mail messages a day," he said. "These come from on campus and off campus. The contents vary from serious to not so serious. I find E-mail to be an effective way to exchange small quantities of information quickly." E-mail is not just for classes and work though. Tito Vasquez-Ani, a senior psychology major, said many students use E-mail to communicate with friends at A&M and other places. "It is much cheaper than talking on the phone to my friends in Mexico," she said. Students have access to E-mail and other computing services at A&M through the computer access fee. All students pay this fee with their tuition, so they have already paid for E-mail, whether they use it or not.

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Amy Browning/THE BATTALION

Missy Ramirez, a sophomore computer science major from Weslaco, sends a letter to a friend at George Washington University.