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Rudder Challenge Team prepare for competition in Washington.

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Opinion

AJA HENDERSON: It is truly unfortunate that a growing rule of thumb in the country is: black men + menacing + dark skin = "there's your durned criminal, Bubba!"

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Sports

Lady Aggies declaw S.W. Texas Bobcats in four games.

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THE BATTALION



WEDNESDAY

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Two killed in attack on Egyptian police

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Suspected Muslim extremists attacked a police car in southern Egypt on Tuesday, killing two security officers, police said.

The attack took place in Mallawi, 60 miles south of Cairo. The attackers, who were armed with automatic rifles, fled after stealing the automatic rifle of one of the victims.

Muslim militants seeking to overthrow the government have targeted police, members of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority and foreign tourists. More than 450 people have been killed in the 2 1/2-year campaign of violence, most of them police and suspected extremists in southern Egypt.

The militants moved their center of activities to Mallawi several months ago after police cracked down on extremist hideouts in neighboring Assiut.

Clinton open-minded about school prayer

WASHINGTON (AP) — School prayer is one thing he could talk about with the Republicans, President Clinton said Tuesday. A liberal group quickly accused him of "an instant cave-in" because of last week's election results.

A proposed constitutional amendment allowing voluntary prayer in schools is among the items high on the House Republicans' agenda. After they take charge of Congress in January, House GOP leaders plan hearings on the subject, and they expect a House vote by early July.

Liberal groups long have argued against the amendment, on the grounds it violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

But Clinton, asked about the GOP proposal during a news conference in Indonesia, where he is attending a trade meeting, said he did not believe that separation necessarily would be violated by voluntary school prayer.

Two boys killed while crossing Hwy. 290

AUSTIN (AP) — Two 7-year-old boys were killed after being hit by a car as they held hands and tried to cross a busy highway during rush hour, police said.

Nathaniel Johnson and Timothy Moreno were pronounced dead after being hit while attempting to cross U.S. 290 East in northeast Austin shortly before 6 p.m. on Monday, Austin police spokesman Mike Burgess said.

"It appears that they were holding hands trying to cross the highway," Burgess said Tuesday. "This is just a terrible tragedy."

Burgess said the driver of the car that hit the boys won't be charged with any wrongdoing.

"Our investigation shows there was nothing the driver could do," Burgess said. "The driver was driving the speed limit and there was no wrongdoing on her part. It was dark. The children were small and wearing dark clothing."

Pilot arrested for toilet paper raid

INDEPENDENCE, Kan. (AP) — The ammunition was squeezably soft, but authorities weren't laughing after a pilot buzzed downtown rooftops and dropped several rolls of toilet paper from his plane.

The pilot, a 37-year-old independence man, was arrested when he landed his plane around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. He was being held in the county jail on \$100,000 bond on suspicion of flying an airplane while under the influence and littering.

Montgomery County Sheriff Jack Daniels said the pilot, who hadn't been formally charged by late Tuesday afternoon, was drinking with friends when he bragged he could hit Main Street from his plane with a roll of toilet paper.

He purchased a generic four-pack of toilet paper at a convenience store and then swooped over town, dropping several rolls, Daniels said.

Thompson to work on improving System's service

By Michele Brinkmann THE BATTALION

Dr. Barry Thompson said Tuesday in a videoconference that his main goal as Texas A&M System Chancellor is to improve the System's service to the people of Texas.

"What do we do for the people of Texas? Do we give hope to the future? What are we doing to enhance the quality of life in Texas? These are things we need to ask ourselves," Thompson said.

Tuesday's media briefing was the A&M System's first to be conducted via the Trans-Texas Videoconference Network. It was also Thompson's first media briefing as chancellor.

Thompson said he is concerned about the fact that more state funding is going to building prisons than to funding education.

"People commonly brag about the number of prisons Texas has," he said. "Personally, I find this offensive."

"Texas might want to consider funding higher education at a higher rate," Thompson said. "I believe Texas has one of the 10 best education systems in the world. We need funding if we want to continue to be one of the best."



"We need to stay focused on the fact that the most important thing is the students. We need to retain and recruit quality faculty. If we have a second-rate faculty, we will have a second-rate educational system."

- Dr. Barry Thompson, Texas A&M System Chancellor

Thompson said his goal for the upcoming legislative session is to earn the public's trust and convince people that what Texas A&M does is fundamental to the future.

"We want them to think they can't live without us," Thompson said.

Thompson said he wanted to increase the quality of education through improvements in faculty and staff diversity.

"We need to stay focused on the fact that the most important thing is the students," he said. "We need to retain and recruit quality faculty. If we have a second-rate faculty, we will have a second-rate educational system."

Thompson said he has four legislative priorities:

- A 6 to 8 percent increase in faculty salaries,
 - Increased funding for libraries,
 - Optional retirement plans,
 - Utilize major breakthroughs in technology and research more efficiently.
- "I'm a proud native Texan," Thompson said. "If we want to fulfill NAFTA and all the missions of A&M agencies, then we must have predictable support. I would hate to count on the lottery for funding education."
- "The legislature giveth, and the legislature taketh away," Thompson said. "If all the formulas were funded at 100 percent as were planned, I would not be here."
- Thompson said the System is asking for \$1.3 billion dollars in funding this year.

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Student groups work to form campus recycling program

By Stephanie Dube THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students are getting involved with environmental issues by taking a greater interest in the on-campus recycling program.

On Nov. 17 and 18, students and faculty will be able to take their old phone books to recycling sites at the Commons Lobby and Sbis between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Cassandra DeLarios, a junior environmental science major, is the environmental chairwoman for the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and recycling chair for the Environmental Issues Committee.

She said the recycling projects are in conjunction with Texas Recycles Day which was Wednesday.

Mark Gribble, RHA vice president for student development, said RHA is currently working to expand on-campus recycling.

"Our long term goal is to have recycling tubs in every dorm room," Gribble said.

Before the goal can be reached, the RHA needs to ensure the recycling bins will not pose fire hazards and that proper manpower will be available to transport the recyclable items.

"We might start with a couple of halls and find out what works," Gribble said.

Currently, many residence halls have blue bins to recycle aluminum items. RHA, however, hopes to eventually expand this service to other items.

"We want to recycle paper, aluminum and maybe eventually plastics and glass in the future," Gribble said. "We want to push for as much as possible."

The hall councils will appoint environmental chairs from each dorm to handle that hall's recycling program. Each hall's recycling efforts will be on a voluntary basis.

DeLarios said she is circulating a petition to present to the administration and a survey to gather information on students' views about recycling. The petition will be

presented to the administration at the beginning of the spring semester.

The petition requests the University's support in expanding recycling facilities and educating people about recycling.

"The current program does not provide adequate facilities," DeLarios said. "We are not asking for specific things, we just want the University to know there is a concern."

Joe Sanchez, recycling coordinator for A&M, said students living on campus are interested in participating in more recycling projects.

"Students in dorms want more recycling," Sanchez said. "They are getting more involved. We want to get the dorms into our system. We're not picking up at the dorms because it hasn't worked before. But now the time is right, interest is high."

Sanchez said a pilot program has been implemented at Kiest Hall. Texas A&M Recycling has been getting many newspapers from Kiest and the program has been working out well, he said.

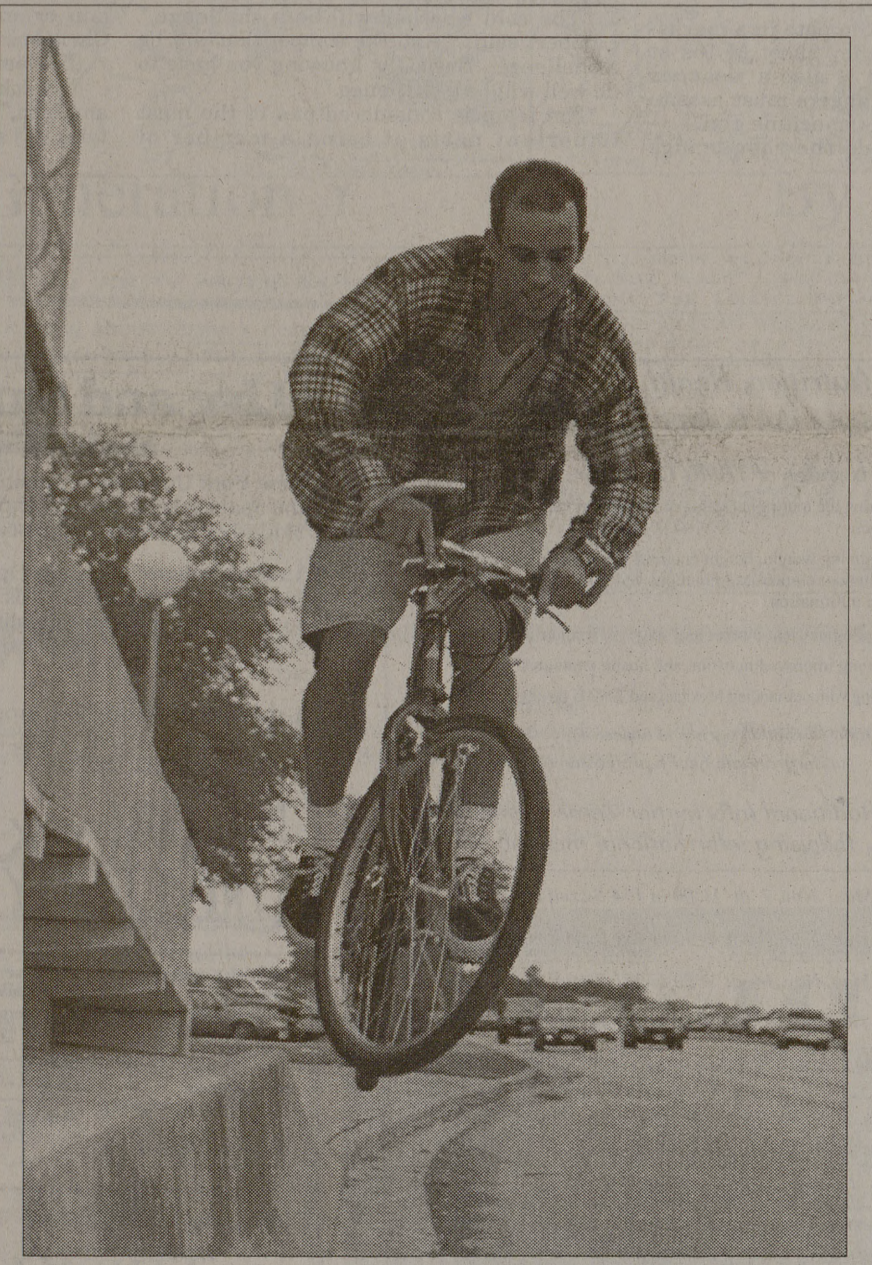
"We would like to eventually get containers on each floor of the dorms," Sanchez said. "But this will take a lot of cooperation."

Many details, however, will have to be worked out before the program can be implemented, he said.

"In the next few weeks we hope to get a plan going," Sanchez said. "We are amazed at the interest. We're making progress, slowly but surely."

Currently, out of more than 300 buildings on the main campus and Riverside campus, 158 buildings are participating in recycling and 116 of these are on a regular weekly pick-up schedule, he said.

Texas A&M Recycling also picks up in specific areas around College Station. The items recycled are mostly paper items such as newsprint and white paper, but also include aluminum, toner cartridges, and phone books.



Nick Rodnicki/The Battalion

Catchin' air

Steve Shores, a senior environmental design major, leaps off of a wall on his mountain bike near Wellborn Road on Tuesday afternoon.

Homosexuality not a choice, Dallas church dean says

By Melissa Jacobs THE BATTALION



Robin Calloway/The Battalion

Dr. Mel White told 325 Aggies in the Memorial Student Center Tuesday night that God does not change homosexuals to heterosexuals and homosexuality is not something people choose.

White, the dean of the 12,000-member Cathedral of Hope Church in Dallas, the largest predominately gay Christian fellowship in the world, spoke about Christianity and homosexuality as part of the MSC Great Issues Lecture Series.

White, who announced his homosexuality in 1993, said he was raised in a devoutly Christian home. He was married for 22 years and had two children before announcing his homosexuality.

"I've finally gotten to the point where I can say 'I am gay, I am proud and I know God loves me without reservation,'" he said.

Before coming out as a homosexual, he was a ghost writer for Jerry Falwell, Oliver North and Pat Robertson.

White wrote a book about his experiences in a book titled *Stranger at the Gate: To Be*

Gay and Christian in America, which was released in March.

White said people must understand that the word homosexual was never found in the Greek or Hebrew versions of the Bible.

"People who are using these texts to make their points are not keeping the dialogue," he said.

White mentioned the verse in the Bible that states a man who lies with another man should be killed.

"It also states that a man who sleeps with his wife while she is menstruating is punishable by death, as is a child who sasses his parent," he said.

White said he became a Christian specifically by trusting Christ as his lord and saviour.

"It took me 32 years to say this, but I'm so confident right now that I don't feel as though I'm risking anything," he said, referring to his acceptance of God.

White said if being a Christian means being a follower of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell, he doesn't think he is a Christian.

"I'm a follower of a Jew named Jesus," he said.

White said the political power in this country doesn't follow democracy, but theocracy.

"They believe God rules the world and they will rule until he returns," he said. "They believe the Bible overrules the Constitution."

White said the Constitution is the tent under which all people of the nation can live and move freely.

"They don't believe in the separation of the Church and state," he said. "Do they believe in the first amendment? Yes, for them."

White said he doesn't think politicians believe in women.

"They don't believe in the woman's right to choose," he said. "We can't start taking freedoms away. One is gone, then another is gone, then they've all been taken away."

White said God, who is thought to be a white male, is the authority in this country.

"Under God comes men," he said. "The message of God gets to men through the Bible, pastors and priests."

White said Jerry Falwell does not support gay rights.

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Thursday Battalion Savings Plan!

Craft Beer 7 p.m.

Up to \$7.00 per table.

\$14.95

\$29.95

\$59.95

\$69.95

\$69.95

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