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WEDNESDAY 06/21

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KILLER BEES

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015 Reed McDonald Bldg.
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Call 845-0569 for more info

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Fri., June 23 (6-9 pm) & Sat., June 24 (8:30-11:30 am)
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STATE APPROVED DRIVING SAFETY COURSE

Register at University Plus (MSC Basement)
Call 845-1631 for more information on these or other classes

D&M EDUCATION ENTERPRISES

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Student Appreciation Night Every Wednesday
Free Pool w/ college ID
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Happy Hour 4-7 pm M-F
\$1.00 Draft
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BRIEFS

Blue Cross Blue Shield to manage A&M health plans

The Texas A&M University System has chosen Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas to manage its self-funded health and dental plans beginning Sept. 1.

Patricia Couger, executive director of the System human resources office, said Blue Cross Blue Shield provides networks of doctors, clinics and hospitals, which allow them to copy medical bills.

Steven Hassel, assistant executive director of the human resources office, said the selection of Blue Cross Blue Shield and Advanced Paradigm, the plan's prescription drug provider, will be an economic benefit for System employees.

Fred Davidson, account manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield, said the network will make health care more accessible for System employees.

Diplomatic Corps holds first meeting

Members of the Texas A&M/Bryan-College Station Council's Diplomatic Corps were given an overview of the challenges facing Texas A&M, Brazos County and the Twin Cities during the group's first meeting.

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Texas A&M chancellor, and Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, discussed with the 25 Diplomatic Corps members the changing trends in higher education.

The 1995 Texas legislative session and its effect on A&M and the University's goals for the future was also discussed.

Also on the panel were Lonnie Stabler, Bryan mayor; Al Jones, Brazos County judge; Lynn McIlhane, mayor pro tem of College Station; and Harold Dean from the B-CS Chamber of Commerce.

Chechen rebels, volunteer hostages leave on buses

BUDYONNOVSK, Russia (AP) — Chechen rebels and as many as 150 people acting as human shields rode a slow convoy of buses down winding steppe backroads toward Chechnya on Monday. The gunmen gained passage by freeing most of 1,500 hostages held for six days in a hospital.

The buses, most of their curtains drawn, were joined by police cars, an ambulance and a refrigerator truck carrying the bodies of Chechens killed in Russian raids on the hospital.

The Chechens had been holed up in the hospital since they invaded Budyonovsk in southern Russia on Wednesday to demand an end to Russia's war against their separatist republic.

The rebels released most of the hostages after Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin agreed Sunday to declare a cease-fire in Chechnya, resume peace talks and give the gunmen safe passage to their homeland. But there were reports of continued fighting in Chechnya.

Supreme court rejects free speech challenge

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court rejected a free-speech challenge Monday to the year-old federal law that protects access to abortion clinics.

The justices, without comment, left intact an appeals court ruling in a Virginia case that said the law does not infringe on anyone's freedom of expression while protecting people who seek or provide abortions.

Eight federal trial judges and two federal appeals courts have upheld the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, but a federal judge in Wisconsin has declared it unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court action did not resolve the issue definitively, but was a setback for anti-abortion activists who say the law aimed at deterring violence and intimidation squelches peaceful protest as well.

In the abortion clinics case, the court refused to hear an appeal filed by Concerned Women for America and one of its members.

The high court in April struck down a federal law that made it a crime to have a gun within 1,000 feet of a public school. The court said Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce didn't stretch that far.

FORUM: President will hear student concern

Continued from Page 1

Bowen said the necessary corps would have a major impact on class availability.

"The biggest impact on students, I think, would be getting into classes, largely in liberal arts and science," Bowen said. "It's going to impact mostly on class access, in a major way on lower division classes."

Bowen agreed that the increase was drastic, but said it was a conflict with no easy answers.

"I think it's a legitimate argument that dropping this on people at this time is a big problem," Bowen said. "The other problem is, do you want to provide the same quality of education? It's a hell of a dilemma."

Bowen also pointed out that raises could start a domino effect that could cause other agencies, such as Food Services and the Department of Residence Life, to raise their fees.

"All of the auxiliaries have a

cash flow problem — they don't get access to the general fee," Bowen said. "So the increase in the general use fee — the pay raises that come from that — could have a kind of domino effect on the rest of the units."

"All of our auxiliaries are based on the fees they charge," he said. "Those employees would get the same kind of raise, but there's no money for it. They're going to have to raise their rates or spend their reserves."

BILL: High-ranking officers may serve dual role

Continued from Page 1

Corps commandant, said it has been a number of years since A&M had a professor of military science serve as the commandant.

"The University would probably prefer to keep



"... I don't see how an active-duty commandant would be any different than a retired officer."

— Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling
A&M's Corps commandant

the commandant a University position, rather than an Army position," Darling said. "The Citadel

wanted the option to do this, but even if it passes, I don't think the schools will change the current systems."

Darling said he questions the ability of an active-duty commandant to draw more commissions from A&M.

"Although it would depend on the person, I don't see how an active-duty commandant would be any different than a retired officer," Darling said. "I believe A&M will see an increase in commissions in the future. Our goal is to get 50 percent of cadets at A&M commissioned."

Col. Michael Boozeman, the Virginia Military Institute commandant of cadets, said even if the proposal is passed, VMI would probably not make a change.

The proposal would affect A&M, the Citadel, VMI, North Georgia College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and North

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POTATOES: Scientists increase nutrient level

Continued from Page 1

equally distributed throughout the rest of the potato.

Howard said they do not know how frying or boiling potatoes affects patatin levels, but they are working to find out.

Dr. Leonard Pike, professor of horticulture and director of the Vegetable Improvement Center at A&M, said potatoes are only one of the vegetables A&M researchers are analyzing for disease-fighting chemical content and trying to breed with higher levels of the chemicals.

He said other experiments include producing carrots with more carotenoids; producing onions and bell peppers with more quercetin; and producing bell peppers with more vitamin C. He said the research is focused on onions, carrots and peppers because large numbers of these crops are produced in Texas.

Pike said doctors from the

M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston are educating the researchers about what is nutritionally healthy and important.

Increasing nutrient levels in vegetables has no known negative effects, he said, it just makes each vegetable healthier. "We're only going to eat a certain number of carrots a day or week," Pike said. "If we ever raise the nutritional content way above normal, we'll check with the medical people first."

The Aggie maroon carrot, an example of an improved product, has higher levels of beta-carotene, is sweet and has a smooth texture, Pike said.

Pike said such products can be marketed so they are easily recognized as healthier.

"It's possible to promote and sell these, identifiable from other

vegetables," he said. "Either they will have genetic markers like maroon carrot, or they can be marketed in special containers with stickers."

Pike said physical qualities of the enhanced vegetables will attract people to them.

"The Aggie carrots, maroon the outside and bright orange

"You always hear about broccoli being good, but we didn't know potatoes were too."

— Dr. Luke Howard
TAES food scientist

Sketch



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