

# THE BATTALION

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## University EMS may join B-CS automatic aid

If service hours are expanded and its computer system is improved, the University EMS may automatically answer emergency calls in Bryan-College Station.

Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

The latest system to provide speedy response to emergencies, developed between the cities of Bryan and College Station, does not yet make use of University Emergency Medical Services.

The First Response Automatic Aid System, in official operation since July 10, integrates Bryan and College Station computer systems so that the nearest fire truck or ambulance is sent to an emergency scene, regardless of

which city the emergency occurs in.

The integration of Bryan and College Station fire and ambulance services decreases response time because it is often quicker for a closer unit to respond to an emergency on the perimeter of the other city.

With automatic aid, Bryan and College Station "run cards" have been combined. Run cards are plans of attack for different types of emergency calls in a number of geographic areas.

Jim Bland, Bryan fire chief, said University EMS was not included because its level of service was not comparable to city standards when the system was organized March 8.

"At that time they weren't providing services 24 hours, 365 days a year," Bland said. "They couldn't guarantee that an ambulance or advanced life-support paramedics would be available at all times."

Because changes in the organization of University EMS have occurred since then, Bland said including them in the automatic aid agreement will be considered.

"We're in the process of setting up some appointments to see exactly what is going on and what their level of service is," he said.

Eric Scott, chief of University EMS, said the operational change put into effect May 15 requires paramedics to be on board A&M vehicles en route to emergencies and to be on call every day year-round.

Scott said that if the A.P. Beutel Health Center approves funds necessary to ensure that these changes will be sustainable, University EMS will be ready for integration into the automatic response system.

Bart Humphreys, College Station Fire Department's battalion chief training officer, said one of the reasons University EMS is not included in the automatic aid system is because they do not use a comparable computer system.

"The problem with adding them (University EMS) into automatic emergency services is that they have no way of knowing where



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Emergency Medical Services may be upgraded and automatically answer emergency calls in Bryan-College Station.

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## Aggie Extra links Web users with A&M home pages

Aggie Extra is an addition to the Houston Chronicle's on-line service. A&M is the first Texas university to have Web sites directly linked to a newspaper home page.

Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

The Houston Chronicle and Texas A&M have linked up to give World Wide Web browsers a new gateway into the University and its information.

Aggie Extra, a special addition to Houston Chronicle Interactive (HCI), the newspaper's on-line service, allows subscribers to navigate through A&M's vast number of home pages. Users can access data ranging from botany to economics, forestry to food technology.

Kathleen Davis, communications specialist with the agricultural communications department, said Aggie Extra gives Web surfers an easy avenue to look through the mountains of information in the A&M home pages.

"This is just a way to organize all the information that we have, so people using the Web don't have to look all over the place for the data they want," she said.

Aggie Extra has its roots in Ag and Fore, an electronic communication system used by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX) to provide state-wide media, such as the chronicle, with articles, press releases and information.

Davis said that when HCI was being developed, she was approached by Chronicle reporter who asked if the on-line newspaper could use the press releases from Ag and Fore. Davis suggested creating a Web site that would link all the different home pages offered by TAEX and the University.

"Since then, it's just grown," she said.

Because a Web page is easy to manage, the Aggie Extra can be expanded and updated quickly as new A&M and TAEX pages are brought on-line. Davis said that as new sites are created, they may be added on.

"If the page looks like it would be useful, we would provide the new links," Davis said.

The Aggie Extra is one of a kind. While other universities in the state have developed Web sites, A&M is the first to have a site linked to a newspaper.

Jim Townsend, on-line editor of HCI, said he is pleased with the relationship between the University and the newspaper. The success of Aggie Extra has prompted HCI to explore possible links to other universities, he said.

"I think it helps [HCI] to perform that part of our mission to serve as a magnet for information," Townsend said. "Of course, we don't intend to be the manager of all that information."

But if someone doesn't know where to find this information, we want to show them where it is."

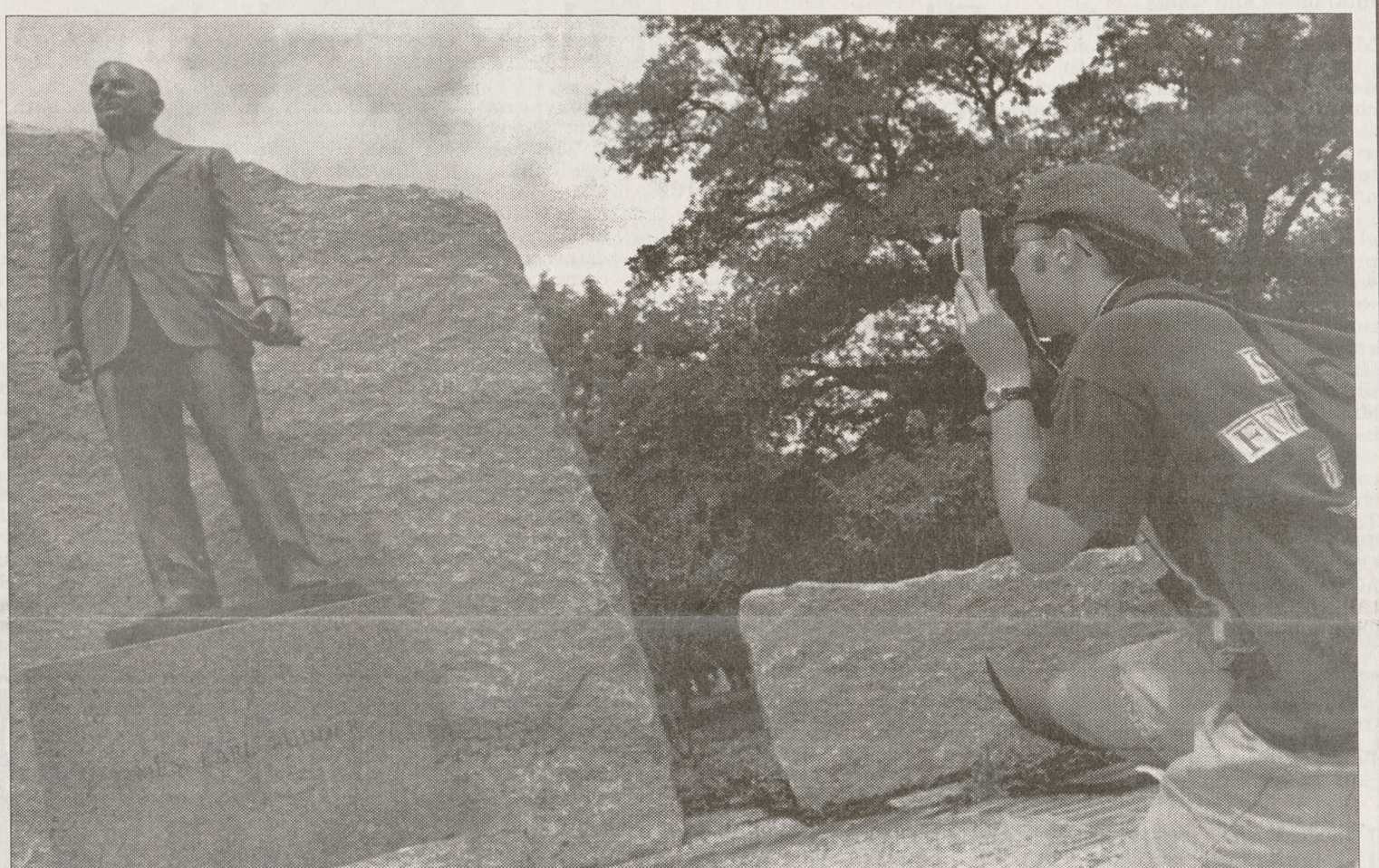
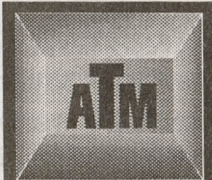
Larry Lippke, extension specialist for TAEX at A&M, said the joint operation is benefiting TAEX and the University as well.

"We are in the education business and the information distribution business," Lippke said. "This helps us fulfill our outreach mission. It's a new way to get our information out."

Davis said the Aggie Extra has a positive effect on the University's reputation.

"This definitely enhances our credibility," she said. "Not only do Web users see that we have all this good information, but they see that we use the most up-to-date and sophisticated technology available."

Aggie Extra has already gained nationwide attention. In its recent newsletter, the U.S. Department of Agriculture praised the Web site. Lippke said the exposure may encourage other extension services and academic institutions to develop similar ventures with computerized media.



Tommy Huynh, THE BATTALION

### YOU OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES

Mark Norris, a junior journalism major from Pasadena, takes photos of the James Earl Rudder statue for his journalism class.

## TAES awarded water research grants

A&M researchers will study water availability and management in Texas.

By Javier Hinojosa  
THE BATTALION

The Texas Water Development Board awarded Texas A&M's Texas Agricultural Experimental Station \$194,000 in grants for three water research projects in July.

Gordon Thorn, manager of the regional planning and research program for the Texas Water Development Board, said grant proposals were chosen and evaluated by a review team consisting of the board's staff members.

"The proposal receiving the highest

point total within each of the [nine research] topics were awarded grants," Thorn said.

The criteria for evaluating grant proposals was based on the project's funds, management quality, budget, time schedule, research quality and topic.

TAES submitted nine proposals, three of which were awarded grants.

The board requested proposals for grants on research topics through the *Texas Register* in May. Eight grants were awarded out of 33 proposals for the nine different topic headings.

Dr. William Dugas, an A&M professor of agricultural meteorology at the Blackland Research Center in Temple, received \$105,000 for his project on the effects of brush management on water availability in an aquifer under the Edwards Plateau.

The project focuses on the effects of the Ashe Juniper, a small brush, on the Edwards Aquifer water reservoir, which supplies the San Antonio area with water.

The San Antonio area recently had some problems with low water supply in the aquifer.

"It is possible that the surface brush may be absorbing the water and sending it back to the atmosphere," Dugas said.

The project team will make a model of the Edwards Plateau region. Researchers will be able to simulate the surface conditions with computers and examine possible solutions.

"There is potential for giving policy makers important information on land management practices that apply to the low water supply in the Edwards Aquifer

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## U.S.-Chinese relations suffer new blow from spying charges



China detained two U.S. Air Force Officers after allegedly catching them in a restricted military zone collecting intelligence.

BELJING (AP) — U.S.-Chinese relations, soured by clashes over human rights and Taiwan, suffered another blow Wednesday when China ordered the expulsion of two U.S. Air Force officers who it said were caught spying on military sites.

China took the unusual step of announcing the expulsions after holding the men for five days — an even more extraordinary act for holders of diplomatic passports, who are immune from

prosecution and usually would only be ordered to leave the country.

There was no criticism of China from the Clinton administration, and White House press secretary Mike McCurry said he didn't know of any reason there would be repercussions.

U.S. officials expected to meet with the two men on Thursday, State Department spokesman David Johnson said in Washington.

Chinese authorities said Wednesday they had 24 hours to leave the country.

Relations have been on a downward spiral because of China's arrest of a Chinese-American human rights activist, the U.S. decision to grant a visa to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui and evidence of Chinese arms sales to rogue states.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher

knew the two Americans were missing when he met Tuesday with Minister Qian Qichen, but didn't know they had been detained, Johnson said. He said Christopher didn't bring up the topic.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said the two officers "sneaked into a number of restricted military zones in China's southeast coastal areas and illegally acquired military intelligence by photographing and videotaping," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

China identified them as Joseph Wei Chan, Air Force liaison officer, and Dwayne Howard Florenzie, assistant Air Force liaison officer. Both are based at the U.S. consulate in Hong Kong, the Chinese government said.

Shen said the officers, who entered China on July 23, were caught "on the

spot" on Saturday "by Chinese soldiers on duty." He gave no other details.

Both sides said progress was made in the talks aimed at soothing shaky relations. And U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright said in Washington that she would lead a full American delegation to the U.N. women's conference in Beijing next month.

Xinhua reported the two officers applied for Chinese visas saying they wanted to hold consultations with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and with staff members at consulates around China.

"The activities of Joseph Chan and Dwayne Florenzie have violated the law ... on the protection of military facilities, the law ... on state security and the law ... on control of entry and exits of aliens, and seriously undermined China's national security," Xinhua quoted Shen as saying.