

TOWING THE LINE



All-SWC offensive lineman Calvin Collins does the dirty work for the Aggies.

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KEEPING THE FAITH

Pawlikowski: Catholic students should use the film *Priest* as a way to grow spiritually.



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VIDEO HONORS

Dr. Dre, TLC and Weezer lead the way at the MTV Video Music Awards.



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THE BATTALION

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Encephalitis carrier found in College Station

Staying indoors during early evenings, using insect repellent and changing water in flower pots are ways B-CS and campus residents can fend off mosquitoes that may carry the disease.

James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M campus is being searched for possible breeding grounds for mosquitoes that may carry a fatal strain of the disease encephalitis, which recently killed a 33-year-old College Station man.

Dr. William Conkling, with the Brazos County Health Department, said the man who died from the disease had traveled in several other counties, but was most likely infected in town.

Conkling said traps were set in the area around Francis Drive, and a mosquito with the virus was identified.

"We had known we had a case of St. Louis encephalitis, which precipitated the search," Conkling said. "That (the presence of infected mosquitoes) has now been confirmed."

Dr. Jim Olson, a Texas A&M professor of entomology, said the virus is carried by birds and can be transported to humans when mosquitoes bite the birds and then bite humans.

"[The mosquitoes] preference for feeding is, first and foremost, birds," Olson said. "But on occasions when birds and humans get in close proximity, the mosquito spins off and goes for an opportunity."

The *Culex* mosquito, otherwise known as the southern house mosquito, is the only carrier suspected, but

other mosquitoes may transmit the disease as well.

Once a person is infected, they cannot infect others by direct contact, and the disease is fatal in 15 percent of the people who are infected.

The primary symptoms of St. Louis encephalitis are fever, nausea and/or vomiting, sleepiness, confusion and disorientation, delirium and very strong headaches.

The people most at risk are infants and the elderly, but only 1 percent of mosquitoes are likely to be infected, and only one in 250 people bitten actually get the disease.

The majority of those infected survive with no permanent health problems.

There is no treatment for the virus itself to date, Olson said, but antibiotics can be given to help the body's immune system.

Olson said mosquitoes breed anywhere where there is standing water and often can be found in flowerpots and pools.

"The first concern we have, therefore, in order to break the cycle ... is to stop the breeding," he said. "And that falls on the [home] owners."

Charles Sippial, assistant vice president for A&M's Physical Plant, said the University is taking quick action to minimize the danger.

"We started today looking for areas where we have standing water," Sippial

said. "If we can't drain them, then we will use larvacide."

Sippial said the Physical Plant will also look at areas where grass is being watered to determine whether it should be stopped.

"We will evaluate areas where we have runoff, and if we have standing water, then we will cut back," he said.

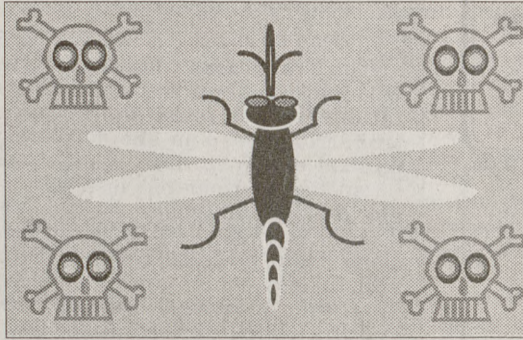
Conkling said the main things area residents can do to protect themselves are to stay indoors during the mosquito's prime feeding hours, which are in the early evening, and change any water in flower pots or other areas every three days.

"Don't panic, but the public should protect itself by stopping mosquito feeding and mosquito breeding," he said.

Olson also cautioned residents to be careful with "bug zappers."

"Based on the research we have, they attract far more insects than they kill," he said. "If [people are] going to use [bug zappers], they should put them as

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RCC relocates to Read Building

The computing center was moved to allow for the reconstruction of Cushing Library. The new computer lab offers more terminals.

James Bernsen
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students looking for the Remote Computing Center can find it beneath Kyle Field, where the center was relocated from the Cushing Library this summer.

Renamed the Read Lab, the computer center is housed in 50 Read Building beneath the east stands of Kyle Field, adjoining G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Dr. John Dinkel, associate provost for computing, said the move was as a result of renovations to the Cushing Building.

"For the past couple of years, we have been looking for a place for the RCC," Dinkel said. "We wanted something central to campus, and [the Department of] Health and Kinesiology came forward."

The center was combined with an existing, smaller computer center in the health and kinesiology department.

Loren Cervera, a senior meteorology major, said the new lab was difficult to find.

"The RCC was in the middle of campus," Cervera said. "I guess I just found out about this through friends."

Becca Musseiman, a senior elementary education major, said there are benefits to the center being near Kyle Field.

"It is hard to find," Musseiman said. "The only good thing is for commuter students who want to stop by in the morning."

Waine Newland, Read Lab second shift supervisor, said many students do not know the center is there, and the ones who do know say it is too far away.

"I've been told by users and faculty and staff that it's an inconvenience," Newland said. "I really don't think so."

Dinkel said the new location is probably better than the old one.

"There's parking nearby," he said. "It's right by the MSC. It's a little bit off to the side, but the necessity of parking negated that."

The change also allowed for a much-needed expansion of the center, he said.

"The existing RCC was too crowded, and we couldn't get more equipment in there," he said. "We've got more computers, and it's not filled-out yet."

Musseiman said she likes the new lab better than the old RCC.

"I think this lab is better because there's more space and many more terminals," she said. "It doesn't seem crowded. You used to have to wait in line sometimes to get into the RCC."

The Read Lab has 33 of 486s, 33 of Macintosh Centris 610s, 28 of Power Macs and 32 of VT200 terminals, which are used exclusively for network applications.

Amtrak issues its last call in CS

The train service in College Station will end Sunday, despite marketing ideas to introduce "Aggie Special" revenue.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

Amtrak will end Texas Eagle train service to Bryan-College Station Sunday as a result of the company's national effort to reduce service and cost.

Since 1988, the train has provided southbound service to Houston and northbound service to Dallas from College Station.

The train service will be replaced by two Thruway bus services beginning Monday.

Buses will run to Longview and Houston, where passengers can board Amtrak trains.

The station on Marion Pugh Drive in College Station will operate the bus service for a few weeks, but in October will move to the new Brazos Transit Terminal in Bryan.

Cathy Locke, College Station city attorney, said the service will change locations because Amtrak leases the land the station is on, and the City of College Station chose not to renew its land-lease for the station site.

"City council decided not to renew the lease because Amtrak is terminating their services," Locke said. "The decision was made after Amtrak announced it was terminating service."

Sherman Frost, chairman of Passenger Rail Initiative, a citizens group of Bryan-College Station residents, said Amtrak has been in serious financial trouble since January and would go bankrupt if they did not cut services.



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

Passengers board one of the last Amtrak trains to come through College Station. Amtrak is discontinuing service to and from College Station effective Sunday.

Mark Willis of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce said Amtrak was losing \$1.6 million a year because they did not have a constant flow of passengers.

"They didn't market well and did not run at the right times to meet clientele," Willis said.

Amtrak publicly announced the nationwide reduction of train service in April and has already cut 25 percent of its service throughout the United States.

Despite community efforts over the last six months, Willis said there was no way to save the station.

"They have to cut somewhere, and they (Amtrak) are looking for the smallest opera-

tions that are losing the most money," he said.

In Fall 1993, Amtrak reduced the daily train service to three times a week after the passenger count dropped from more than 7,000 in 1989 to 4,000 in 1994.

Although there was a significant decrease in passengers over the last five years, Tex Owens, local volunteer coordinator for Amtrak, said there were plenty of Texas A&M students who rode the train home to Dallas on Fridays and came back on Sunday.

"There were at least 50 to 60 student [passengers on weekends] because their parents didn't want the young ladies to drive late at night on the highway,"

Owens said. "Then the guys found out about it, so they would park their gas guzzling trucks and ride the train."

Shutting down the train service takes away 1,000 seats available for traveling, Owens said, since a bus does not have as many seats as a train.

Because of the discontinued service, more travelers will hit the roads, he said.

"This will turn a lot of people on the highway that were satisfied traveling [by train], otherwise," he said.

Willis said offers were made by B-CS residents to try and help the train live up to its mot-

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Black former students come together

"Aggie Umoja" will feature workshops, forums and a banquet to bridge the gap between the former and current A&M students.

Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Several generations of African-American Texas A&M students will meet during the Black Former Student Reunion today.

More than 75 former students, representing 22 years of African-American graduates, are expected to attend the three-day conference that will feature workshops, forums and a banquet.

Aggie Umoja, the theme of the reunion, is

designed to bridge the gap between former and current students.

Felicia James, assistant to the vice president for student affairs and Class of '87, said umoja is the Swahili term for "unity," representing the reunion's purpose.

"This is a chance to build networks between the former students and the current students," James said. "It will update the former students on how much the University has changed, and it gives the current students a chance to meet and interact with successful former students."

Those who attend the reunion will discuss the changes facing African-American students

Steven Traylor, a junior finance major participating in the reunion for the first time, said he thinks the former students will be surprised by the changes in the University.

"We still face some of the same issues that [the former students] faced," Traylor said,

"but there have been a lot of changes in the policies and rules that affect African-American students."

James said she can see how the University has changed since beginning her studies at A&M in 1983, and believes other former students will notice it as well.

"The former students will realize that, as far as African-Americans are concerned, there have been changes, especially in [class] size," she said. "When I began my studies in 1983, there were maybe 500 African-American students on this campus."

"Now there are 1,200. That's a small percentage of the student body, but a big jump in numbers."

Traylor said he is looking forward to meeting the former students and creating contacts.

"Basically, it's a chance to get advice from

See REUNION, Page 6

The show goes on

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, rejected an appeal by concerned Catholic students who wanted to block tonight's screenings of *Priest*.

Jennifer Below, a senior English major and spokeswoman for the Catholic Student Association, said the film attacked the beliefs and sacraments of the Catholic Church.

The MSC Council Executive Committee decided to show the film after hearing Below's concerns on Wednesday.

The Catholic Student Association will have a table set up in the Rudder lobby during

tonight's screenings to provide literature on the beliefs of the Catholic Church. An announcement about the table will be made before the movie starts for students with questions about the film's portrayal of the religion.

Despite some students' charges, Below said she was not arguing for censorship or trying to cover up problems in the Catholic Church.

"The issue has been about our attempting to combat the misunderstandings on this campus that Catholics are not Christians," she said. "We most certainly are."