

NEW Motorola BRAVO PLUS \$29.95 \$4.95 AIRTIME

If You Have Something To Sell Remember: Classifieds Can Do It Call 845-0569 THE BATTALION

ENJOY A PEACEFUL SHOPPING EXPERIENCE DISCOVER EarthArt

news BRIEFS

Cohen appointed to state space board

Aaron Cohen, Zachry Professor of Engineering at Texas A&M, was recently appointed chairman of the board of the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Sesame Street takes on a Russian twist

MOSCOW (AP) — Bert and Ernie are learning Russian. Soon to be known as Vlas and Enik, they and other Sesame Street characters will help teach a new generation of Russian children to live in a free, democratic society.

Presidential candidate doles out cheap shots

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Bob Dole, it is a scenario all too familiar: Just when he thinks the presidential nomination is within reach, a preppy challenger with inherited wealth threatens his grip.

Correction:

In Tuesday's Battalion, a political diversity graphic should have reported that there are 8 members of the faculty senate who are registered with no party listing.

University computer system safeguarded against break-ins

Students who tamper with A&M software could be suspended from the University.

By Kendra S. Rasmussen THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students with ambitions of breaking into the University's computer system and changing their 1.85 grade-point ratios to 3.78 with a swift stroke of the delete key will most likely find their efforts thwarted.

Dr. John Dinkel, associate provost for Computing and Information Services, said A&M's computer system is safeguarded against grade changes.

"You don't just access a student's record and change the grades," he said. "It's not that easy."

He also said that unauthorized grade changes rarely, if ever, occur.

"There are several layers of security that would have to be violated for that to happen," he said, "and we have no reports of any such violation."

But he said A&M's system is susceptible to intrusions of other sorts, since it is accessible from numerous locations.

"Any computer system that allows remote access has the potential for security violations," he said. "But we have in place sophisticated software that monitors and prevents break-ins."

A&M's system uses protective measures to restrict access from off-campus computers. "Within the administrative computing system, there are several additional layers of security to assure that

only authorized users get access to the system, Dinkel said.

The software monitors all activity taking place on the system and immediately reports illegal activities.

Dinkel said he is unaware of any serious attempts to gain unauthorized access to the administrative system.

Though administrative invasions are not a major problem at A&M, minor computer violations are detected almost daily.

These violations include unauthorized use of computer accounts and software piracy.

George Kemper, project director for Computing and Information Services, said many students are intrigued by the challenge of committing computer violations.

"They do it for the thrill and glory of ... being able to brag about it," he said.

But it is not mere mischief, he said. It is criminal activity, and violators are sent to Student Judicial Services and the University Police Department.

Kim Walter, coordinator of Student Judicial Services, said punishments for computer violations range from probation to suspension from the University, depending on the student's criminal history and the crime's severity.

Walters said that though most students learn their lesson after one trip to her office, some students are repeat offenders.

"I would say we have had one, if not two, cases of students that have been given warnings but continued to violate (University policy)," she said, "and they were suspended from the University."

Walters said the number of computer violations is increasing as more students are becoming computer literate and as the Internet gains popularity.

A&M prof to make dreams come true with new local playground

Whittaker said he wants A&M students to get involved with the "miniature Epcot Center" he is designing for Bryan-College Station.

By Danielle Pontiff THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M professor's dream of creating an educational playground for Bryan-College Station children is about to come true.

Dale Whittaker, an associate professor of agricultural engineering, was awarded a \$35,000 grant last week by the Kellogg National Fellowship Program to build a children's museum.

The children's museum, he said, will combine education and entertainment.

"Children learn best when they are having fun," Whittaker said. "A children's museum is a safe place where children can play while learning more about the

world and their own heritage.

"There are surprises everywhere, and in each surprise there is something educational."

Whittaker described his vision for the museum as a "miniature Epcot Center" with play areas representing several global cultures.

"We have a really rich heritage in the Brazos Valley," Whittaker said. "There are Indians, Italians, Japanese. People of different cultures are everywhere, and we will use their influence to create playscapes at the children's museum."

The playscapes will include street scenes from cities around the world, where children can try on clothes, listen to music and shop in foreign markets.

Leslie Borski, a senior Russian major and kindergarten teacher, said the children in her classes would benefit from the cultural education that will be offered at the museum.

"The children's museum sounds like a good idea because it seems hard to find cultural things to do in the Brazos Valley area," Borski said.

Hilary Jessup, a professional counselor in the College of Business, has been helping Whittaker finalize the museum concept.

"Children from ages 1 to 13 will enjoy it," Jessup said. "Parents will enjoy it too. I have visited children's museums all over the country with my family and have had to drag my kids out when it's time to leave because they were having so much fun."

The museum is scheduled to be completed in 3 years, and the first step is to find a location.

"We still haven't decided on a location for the museum," Whittaker said, "although a prime candidate for location is the old municipal building in Bryan."

As the project gets underway, Whittaker said he hopes A&M students will take an interest in the museum.

"The children's museum will be a fun place for student organizations to do volunteer work," he said.

Whittaker was one of 41 people selected from 521 applicants to receive Kellogg grants, which fund projects outside each applicant's area of expertise.

Julia's Silver Boutique Casual and Elegant Silver Jewelry

MSC FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS... THE POSTMAN DELIVERS!

JIM CARREY ACE VENTURA WHEN NATURE CALLS

Attention Seniors! Gig 'em 96!

WIN \$500.00 For your student organization AT AGGIE BASKETBALL

Dr. Robert E. Kotch Family Practitioner

Take a Free Test Drive LSAT MCAT GMAT GRE

THE BATTALION STERLING HAYMAN, EDITOR IN CHIEF

THE B... Wednes... January 31... Apply now... Discover... Take the tim... you to this... Investing in... self dining... Presentation... during The... Country R... Appli...