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The Baseball Team
blows by UTSA.
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Hayman: Four years at
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about A&M and about life.
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A&M students are working
to save the Attwater prairie
chickens.
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THE BATTALION

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Radioactive sparks fly in Russia

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Fire raged through deserted villages around the Chernobyl nuclear plant Tuesday, sending wind-whipped radioactive particles skyward 10 years to the week after the world's worst nuclear accident.

Monitors flown in helicopters over the area of the fire recorded only a slight radiation increase, said Nikolai Komshensky, a spokesman for Ukraine's nuclear regulatory agency.

Old women sobbed and tried to shield grandchildren from the smoke as flames engulfed homes they were forced to abandon to radioactive contamination from the April 26, 1986, disaster.

Dr. Fred Mettler, a University of New Mexico professor who led a 1990 study into the health hazards of the Chernobyl disaster, said the risks from radiation were minimal.

Small forest fires are not uncommon in the exclusion zone around the plant. But Vasily Melnik, chief of the Kiev regional fire service, called Tuesday's blaze the "most significant" since the 1986 accident.

In Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, 19 activists from around the world were arrested Tuesday at a demonstration demanding the plant's immediate closure.

Victims' pain not forgotten

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

National Crime Victim Rights Week is being observed at Texas A&M and in Bryan-College Station with the dedication of a living memorial, a candlelight vigil and a children's art contest.



Amy Browning, THE BATTALION
Sherry Hostetter and Sgt. Betty Lemay, a UPD officer, tie a yellow ribbon around the memorial tree on West Campus.

The criminal justice system focuses on catching the perpetrator, he said, which makes victims feel forgotten.



Cory Willis, THE BATTALION

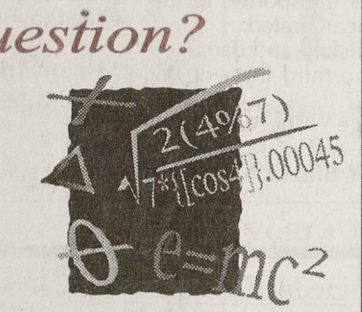
Travis Gulbis, a senior kinesiology major from Dublin, Ohio, digs a spike at the Student Rec Center Tuesday afternoon.

beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, a candlelight vigil will be held at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.

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Got a question? Physicists look for answers

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION



For millennia, man has searched for answers to the fundamental questions of life.

phenomena to simple formulas, they are hoping to find one or perhaps several equations to explain the fundamentals of the universe.

CS shaves utility bills through Oct.

The average residential customer will save about \$3 per month

By Kendra S. Rasmussen
THE BATTALION

College Station utility customers will soon share a \$990,694.40 refund from the Texas Municipal Power Agency for fuel cost overpayment.

\$800,000 (overpayment) estimate and deducted it from our last bill. Then, as they did the final reconciliation, they determined the balance to still be about \$190,000 and refunded that to us as well.

Current customers will receive a refund regardless of whether they were customers during the overpayment period.

overpayment occurred in the power cost adjustment area.

Bomb set to explode inside human cells

The experimental cure for cancer identifies cells by the protein produced

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists fighting cancer have engineered what they call the first genetic time bomb, set to go off inside tumor cells when they blow their cover by producing telltale proteins.

standers, too. Many scientists have been trying to identify landmarks that make tumors unique, then tailor medicines that zero in on them.

The gene bomb scans the innermost workings of the renegade cancer cells looking for proteins that only they make.

"As with any bomb, it has an explosive part and a trigger," said Luis da Costa of Johns Hopkins University.

While researchers have talked excitedly for years about using gene therapy to cure cancer and other ills, they are confounded by one serious drawback: How do you get the killer genes into the cells you want to eliminate?

One strategy is to use viruses as Trojan horses to carry them in. But cancer cells seem especially hard to penetrate.