

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 102, No. 150 (8 pages)

Serving Texas A&M University Since 1893

INTERNET ADDRESS: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

Tuesday • June 18, 1996

## Natural Highs



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Herbal supplements are being marketed as ways to lose weight, increase energy and build sexual drives.

## Herbal drugs gain popularity

James Francis  
THE BATTALION

There is an up-and-coming shelf stocker that may soon be cornering the market in local health-food stores and novelty shops: herbal drugs.

These packaged "enhancers" were introduced to the public about four years ago, and they do not discriminate against age, sex, religion or race.

What some consider to be the best aspect of these hot items are the fact that it is natural, legal and cheap.

Peter Schlendorf, a junior history and the-

ater arts major at the University of New York at Albany, encountered Ultimate Xphoria on spring break in Panama City.

On March 7, he was pronounced dead as a result of taking eight pills of the substance.

Kristina Humphrey, a 24-year-old sociology major at San Jose State University wanted to put an end to her pregnancy but not in a hospital or clinic.

Instead, she opted for a bottle of fresh pennyroyal herb which instructed her to add 20 to 40 drops of the extract to three warm water doses a day. Finding her in an unconscious state, Humphrey's boyfriend rushed her to the hospital where doctors had to re-

move an ectopic pregnancy.

Although her fallopian tube had not ruptured, Humphrey bled profusely and slipped into a fatal coma.

Her cause of death was cardiac arrest, as a result of liver damage and shock from the pennyroyal.

Newsweek and Newsday magazines recently chronicled these situations and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA has begun to consider requiring warning labels affixed to herbal drugs.

Even around College Station, one does not

See Herbal Edge, Page 3

## Senior cuts corners for degree

Christine S. Diamond and  
David Winder  
THE BATTALION

All names have been changed to protect those involved.

This spring Alex Kraft was accepted to a masters of business administration both Texas A&M and Texas Tech. What stood between Kraft and graduation was a summer of the three remaining credits of a 14-hour language requirement.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 7

When Kraft tried to register for the language class, he found every section closed. He then tried to register for the term but found those sections closed as well.

There is no way I am sticking and till the spring for a three-hour

language credit," Kraft said.

Kraft said he tried to get forced into a section but was told by the undergraduate coordinator of the Modern and Classical Languages department that he could not be put into a class unless it was his major. He was also informed that professors could not force him into any classes.

The undergraduate languages department encouraged him to take a class at Blinn Junior College.

"Blinn should be out of the question," Kraft said. "They just can't pen it off on another college. A&M is A&M."

Kraft said his adviser told him to work out a deal with the department. A&M professor Bill Gaddy, who also works at Blinn, said Kraft would risk not getting credits by taking a class at Blinn because the credits may not transfer in time.

Gaddy ended up breaking the rules

for Kraft by forcing him into one of his classes.

"Stuff like this needs to be exposed. Kraft said. "[The alumni association] ... needs to be informed of this."

Gaddy said the policy is a direct result of monetary problems in the department. "It is really sad," Gaddy said. "I believe the bottom line is money. [I don't know] whether the fault is with the College of Liberal Arts for denying the language department its appropriate funding or [with] the language department for not distributing the money."

Gaddy said the issue needs to be taken to the Student Senate, Faculty Senate, Dean's Office and the Board of Regents.

Kraft has a solution to the problem. "Either open other classes," Kraft said, "drop the requirement, substitute the class, force people in or bring in some extra seats."

## Mediation gives roommates chance to alleviate conflicts

The Student Conflict Resolution Center offers the service

by  
Protas  
THE BATTALION

After spending their days dealing with the pressures of college, most students look forward to relative peace at home. Some don't.

Roommate troubles become one of the biggest pressures of one's college career. Campus resources, however, can help alleviate and even prevent roommate conflicts.

The Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) offers roommates the chance to air their grievances to an impartial mediator.

Bridget Jackson, coordinator for mediation and mediation services in the Department of Student Life, said mediation is a way to avoid having to make a legal contract, the lease.

"Instead of trying to work it out, one of the roommates just leaves," Jackson said. "They do this without

realizing they are in a legal contract, and this leaves the other roommate in a bind. The party that's present is who the manager is going to be looking to for the rent. They don't want to hear that the other person moved out."

Jackson said roommates often let the conflict get out of control by trying to solve it themselves.

"It's really hard to try to bring something up with someone you're living with," Jackson said. "It's very sensitive. Many times when they try to work it out themselves, they approach it in the wrong way and communication breaks down."

Joe Weinman, a senior business analysis major, said having complications with a former roommate took its toll.

"I had a problem with this roommate who had bipolar disorder," Weinman said. "He was taking 2000

milligrams of Lithium a day and drinking beer every night. He was really bad. He wouldn't give me money for the bills. I finally had to ask his parents for the money."

Weinman said his grades suffered because of the roommate.

"Whenever things are going really badly at home, it affects you mentally and it's hard to concentrate," Weinman said. "You can't take care of things that you are here for and are important. This largely impacted my grades."

Weinman wanted to try mediation, but his roommate was unwilling. The roommate eventually moved out and let the lease run out.

Jackson said the most beneficial aspect of mediation is the unbiased facilitator.

"The benefit of a mediator is that

See Mediation, Page 8

## More black churches destroyed

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Two rural black churches just five miles apart were destroyed by fire at about the same time, the latest in a series of blazes that has plagued Southern black churches over the past 18 months.

It was not immediately clear whether arson was involved in the late Monday night fires at the two empty churches in the small town of Kossuth in northeast Mississippi.

"We will always survive," said Bill Dillworth, a deputy sheriff in Alcorn County and a deacon at Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church. "You look to the Lord at times like this. He will be your guide."

The fires at Mount Pleasant and Central Grove Baptist Church came the same day as flames destroyed a rural black church in Rocky Point, N.C., and heavily damaged a former sanctuary of a mostly white congregation in Georgia. All four fires were being investigated as arson.

President Clinton has mobilized federal agencies to help local authorities in their investigations of the dozens of church fires across the South since January 1995.

In Kossuth, about 190 miles northeast of Jackson, FBI and arson investigators were called in and Alcorn County Sheriff Jimmy Taylor ordered patrols for every other rural black church in the county.

"Two black churches burn the same night and they are not that far apart. It certainly makes you think it was arson," Dillworth said.

The churches were deserted when the fires were reported 17 minutes apart. The first call, reporting the blaze at Mount Pleasant, came in at 9:11 p.m., the sheriff's department reported. An officer en route to the Mount Pleasant fire spotted the one at Central Grove.

Fire departments had both fires under control by midnight. Mettie Walker, 22, who lives in the nearby city of Corinth, said she had attended Central Grove all her life, "as did my great-grandmother, my grandmother and my mother."

"I went to the church and it's completely gone," Walker said. "People are pretty upset. They don't know what to think."

Her mother, Fannie Mae Jones, is the clerk at the small brick and wood church.

Mount Pleasant, also brick and wood, was the larger of the two churches. It housed a 109-year-old congregation of about 125 members, Dillworth said.

"That church has been a landmark of this community," said Linda Lambert, wife of Kossuth Mayor Steve Lambert, who is also a volunteer firefighter who helped battle the blaze. "I was born and raised here with all those people. Words can't express the feeling I have. It's just awful."



Pat James, THE BATTALION

## AIRBORNE!

Goalkeeper Kelly Baggett makes a flying save while participating in an Aggie girl's soccer camp Monday afternoon.