**By Tauma Wiggins** THE BATTALION

For the 67th summer at Texas A&M, students are seeing red as more than 2,500 fire fighters from around the world arrive on campus for three weeks to perfect the skills of extinguishing fires and saving lives.

Firefighters are placed in worst-case scenarios as part of the week-long daily training at the Municipal Texas Fireman's Training School.

However, many students have already faced "worst-case" scenario.

Bev Rosson, a volunteer firefighter from Canyon Lake, chose to be a volunteer firefighter after her best friend's mother was killed in a structural fire.

"She died in the fire while he and I watched," she said. "I decided I didn't ever want to be in that position again. If some-body calls for help, I want to be able to do

The fire students conduct drills on the 62acre Brayton Fireman Training Field, but classes are held on the A&M campus.

Firefighters said the heat index of 120 degrees this past week, combined with the necessary fire-proof gear and heat of the flames, made conditions extremely challenging

Mike Hoke, a firefighter student from Blessing Fire Department, said temperatures can rise up to 1000 degrees during the firefighting

drills on Brayton Field.
Richard Dewberry, a volunteer firefighter from Southern Oaks Fire Department in St. Elmo, said the fire school's level of difficulty compares with basic training he received in the

Dewberry said a drill called the "smokehouse" was the most challenging he completed. "In the smokehouse, you have to work your

way through a burning building using a self-containing breathing apparatus," he said. "You can't see anything - you only have two senses, feel and sound.

"You have a left wall and a right wall to choose which way to go, and you are responsible for leading and communicating to your partner, who is behind you. It's hot, and if you have any kind of claustrophobia it would be hard to get through.

The drills are often more serious and dangerous than previous fires students have experienced, which prepares them for possible fu-



Firefighters combat an inferno on a mock industrial site at the Municipal Texas Fireman's Training School on the 62-acre Brayton Fireman Training Field.

Firefighters said the training they receive this summer is essential to the expansion of rescue skills for their fire departments at home.

"On-the-job experience is good, but you can take this experience back and share with others," Dewberry said. "I've only dealt with two or three grass fires, and one structural fire.'

Rosson said volunteer firefighting can be

"We worked all night Saturday on a grass fire before driving here for fire school," Rosson

Rosson said the summer's heat has made firefighting drills more difficult.

"One of the toughest things I've experienced here is the 120-degree heat index combined with wearing the full bunker gear," she said. Rosson said women are an obvious minority in the fire school.

"Out of 200 people in my class, there are only two women, including myself," she said.

She said while certain drills present more of a challenge, she has not experienced any gen-

der discrimination.

"The instructors mostly work your butt off," Rosson said. "Teachers haven't given me a hard time, though. They let me do what I can do. I'm not going to pick up a 80-pound piece of machinery when there's a big guy next to me who

Rosson said the training she received in College Station will benefit her entire fire department. "A lot I've learned I can take back, like

shortcuts for rescuing people shortened from 30 minutes to 2 minutes," Rosson said. "The idea is you go back and don't forget what you've

"Here they give us alternatives like Mac-Gyver — do what you can with what you've got." Hoke said using the "MacGyver" principle, he learned how to make a body stretcher out of a tarp and two sticks.

Other hands-on training at the fire school requires students to fight fires in a mobile home, a wrecked car, a derailed passenger train

# Team 2000 prepares for computer revolution

THE BATTALION

As the new millennium approaches, computer owners will be dealing with the

Apocalypse.
At midnight on January 1, 1999, many computers will become so much plastic and

Personal computers will crash and the financial information in corporation's computers will be misread.

The Team 2000 was created last February to tackle these problems that will inevitably affect Texas A&M.

Kim Reverman, Year 2000 team leader for Computing Information Services (CIS), said the Year 2000 problem will create some serious problems.
"The dates in computers

have been stored for many years in just two-digit form," Reverman said. "We perceive time as a continuous thing and after the year 1999 comes 2000.

"But on computers it's going to be 00, and on some PCs it's going to be 1980 or 1984. What it does [is] it just starts over on their clocks"

This date-related problem will show people with negative ages. It will also show credit cards as being expired because the year registered in the computers will be 00

"Our team's purpose is to develop a list of Year 2000 computer-related issues and identify possible solutions for CIS and our customers, Reverman said.

Jaime Roman, a senior systems analyst with Stu-dent Information Management Systems (SIMS), said he joined the team to help prevent SIMS from being affected.

"I got involved because SIMS is an important part of administrative processes at A&M," Roman said. "It very well could be that a lot of data produced would be wrong. The services would just stop."

Not everyone believes the year 2000 will be the disaster many are planning for.

Joe Weinman, a senior business analysis major, does not see this issue as a

"I don't think it's going happen at all," Weinn said. "Computers are going to get smarter smarter. It's not hard to gram a computer to se as 2000 and not 1900. issue has never come my classes because it's n big concern."

10M

uly 29

Jon Pope, a supervisor ternal auditor with the l nal Audit Department, computer users still must attention to the date.

"It's coming and it's so thing that's going to have be addressed," Pope so "There's groups out the that understand it needs be addressed and those don't think it needs to be dressed today.

"Then there are oth that are totally oblivious

the whole thing."

Pope said this prob
will affect more people
just computer users. "I know that there are cars on the market to

that have a chip that not work in the year 20 Pope said. Roman said PC own who suspect their com

might have the Year problem can test them.

"You can change the to December 31, 1999, change the time to 11 he said. "Turn off the puter and wait for two

utes.

"When you turn it by on, check the date. A latthe older ones will displanuary 4, 1980."

Roman said if the con er displays this date, computer will need work before 2000. He people should back up software before they ru test and not run the te their software will expir

Computer authorities a calling this the biggest of puter virus ever and m institutions are alrea

"It is estimated that exprogrammer in the count will be working on this program in 1999," Pope said.

"Universities have had go back to paper systems cause their computers h already failed because this problem.'

## Co-op program gives Aggies a leg up lish 104 and we can be graders. I know for us, it's a

**By Amy Protas** 

In today's competitive job market, previous experience is almost a must to secure a job. At Texas A&M, students can obtain experience through a coop position or an internship.

Liberal arts students looking for internships or co-ops, however, often find fewer opportunities than their fellow students in engineering or business

Dr. Leigh Turner, director of the Career Center, said the origin of co-oping is one of the "Co-oping started in the Col-

lege of Engineering many years ago," Turner said. "It's more traditional for them to be the ones looking for co-op jobs."

Mike Balog, an undergraduate adviser in the Department of Political Science, said blame

lies with the companies seeking co-ops and interns.

"Liberal arts do have co-op-

ing students," Balog said. "Working through the co-op program, it's harder to get companies to get excited about liberal arts major even though we may be better in

the long run. Balog said efforts are being made to encourage companies to hire liberal arts majors.

"I had worked in the dean's office and I know the director, Dr. Turner, has made efforts to get more companies involved," Balog said. "Liberal arts started a career fair in 1993 and it's been growing every year since the initial one.

Pat White, assistant director of cooperative education, said engineering majors have more specific job skills.

"I was a liberal arts major," White said. "What I've found in the course of my career is we never find jobs listed in the same way as jobs for technical majors. Jobs for them are very specific about the skills needed. As a liberal arts major, we develop many more general

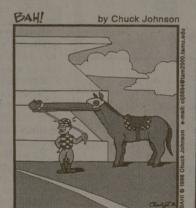
types of skills."
White also said students choose liberal arts majors for

Marilyn Lane, an English graduate student, said it is asier for graduate students to gain work experience.

"We have a co-oping program in graduate school," Lane said. "We are given the opportunity to have teaching experience. We can teach Eng-

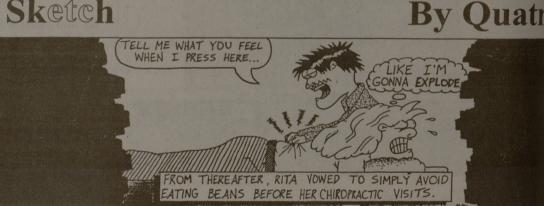
much better situation than for the undergraduate students. White said students must make the effort to find internships and co-op positions.

"It becomes very important for the job seeker to develop skills related to job searching," White said. "There are also things you may be interested in doing that people don't



Habitual Liar was a shoe-in to win the Derby

### Sketch



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You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University

You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or traifor past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc. Graduate Student Requirements

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