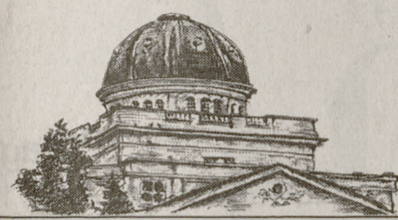


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THE BATTALION

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Students celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Some local restaurants and bars will serve green beer and Irish cream drinks.

By JOY JEANNETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Shamrocks and shenanigans — today is green day. Saint Patrick's Day commemorates the death of the saint famous for converting Ireland to Christianity. St. Patrick died in

461 at the age of 76. James O'Reilly, Irish historian for the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, said the holiday offers a little something for everyone. "This day everyone becomes Irish," O'Reilly said. "And people have a chance to learn more about our history." Some may wonder what shamrocks and pinching have to do with St. Patrick's Day. O'Reilly said the explanations are simple. "The shamrock became linked to the holiday because St. Patrick

used it to explain the Trinity to the kings," O'Reilly said. "He used the three leaves of the shamrock to show the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Four-leaf clovers meant the finder of the plant would go to heaven and join God. Pinching started in Ireland, O'Reilly said. "Those who do not wear

they were told they were being pinched by the deceased pagan spirits," he said. "It was scary for them." The history of St. Patrick begins in Scotland, when he was captured by an Irish band of raiders as a teen and put into slavery. He was then taken to Ireland to work. While in his twenties, Patrick, which means "no-green were considered unlucky, and

become a bishop. He then set a goal to rid Ireland of druid and pagan worship. Patrick became famous for banning all snakes from the Emerald Isle. The snakes were considered evil. Although St. Patrick's fame is celebrated, some think the holiday is not appreciated. Tonya Daughtery, an Irish descendent and a sophomore accounting major at Blinn, said she feels the holiday has lost meaning. "People go and drink beer and laugh and wear green, but they

don't know why they are doing it," Daughtery said. Ireland made the drinking of ale famous on the holiday by creating green beer. Some local bars are prepared for the holiday with green beer and Bailey's Irish Cream drinks. Bennigan's Irish American Pub will be putting on the emerald decor for the holiday. Brandy Talasek, a hostess at Bennigan's and a freshman agribusiness major, said they will be serving green beer and giving away prizes.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Dedicated Fan

Lindy Holder, a freshman biomedical science major, watches the Aggie baseball team play Oklahoma State Sunday afternoon. For coverage of the game, see Page 7.

Search continues for alleged rapist

TV programs profile A&M graduate

By BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

Alleged rapist and Texas A&M graduate Don Davis will be profiled on NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* April 25. Segments of the show were filmed in Bryan-College Station during spring break.

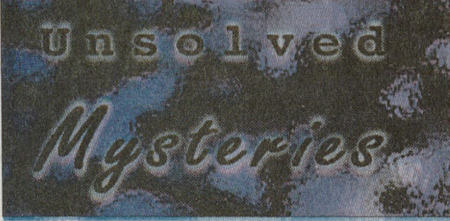
Davis was indicted on charges of aggravated sexual assault last March for two rapes on the A&M campus in 1995. Davis disappeared from his parents' home in Houston five days before his Aug. 21, 1996 trial.

John Delaney, 272nd district judge, had released Davis on a \$500,000 bond. In September 1996, Davis' parents were arrested and charged with helping their son flee from authorities. They were released on a \$50,000 bond.

Davis' case was profiled on FOX's *America's Most Wanted* Jan. 25. Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said UPD received 39 leads from people calling in to *America's Most Wanted*. The Federal Bureau of Investigation worked with UPD on following up the leads.

Police in Arkansas found Davis' abandoned car at a Little Rock hotel in September 1996.

"We have no idea where he is now," Wiatt said. Wiatt said *America's Most Wanted* has



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

been effective in helping law enforcement officers apprehend fugitives.

"Even if you catch one of them, that's successful," Wiatt said. "They've caught a bunch."

Michael Pallazo, the producer of Davis' segment in *Unsolved Mysteries*, said the television program has helped catch 40 percent of the fugitive cases it has profiled.

"Thirty million people see our show every week," Pallazo said. "We're like a giant billboard."

Unsolved Mysteries interviewed a friend of Davis' and the UPD detectives working on the case, Sgt. David Villarreal and Sgt. Jim Lindholm. Pallazo said an interview with Davis' parents could not be arranged.

He also said some people think Davis is innocent of raping the two women.

"It's an interesting and fascinating story," Pallazo said. "Some people think one thing and others think another."

U.S.-Russian summit delayed

The meeting was postponed one day to give President Clinton more time to recover from surgery.

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the request of a hobbled President Clinton, Russia's Boris Yeltsin agreed Sunday to delay their summit meeting this week by one day to give Clinton an extra day of recuperation from his knee surgery.

Just a few weeks ago it was Boris Yeltsin who many doubted was healthy enough to meet with Clinton. Yeltsin was so weakened by pneumonia in January, after heart surgery last fall, that the summit was changed from Washington to Helsinki to accommodate him. Some thought the meeting would have to be pushed back until April or later, but Yeltsin's recovery has since accelerated.

Thus it must have given Yeltsin some much-needed delight to tell Clinton in a get-well telegram he was ready to meet Clinton "as soon as your health allows."

The meetings will be Thursday and Friday in Helsinki, Finland. Clinton is to leave Washington Wednesday night.

Clinton's state visit to Denmark, scheduled for Friday, is being delayed until July. Clinton told reporters he hopes to fit in the Denmark visit while in Europe to attend a NATO summit meeting. In Copenhagen, Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen issued a statement expressing "great understanding" of the need to postpone. White House officials said Clinton was

going ahead with a planned presummit meeting at the White House on Monday with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov. Primakov met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Saturday and was at the Pentagon Sunday to see Defense Secretary William Cohen.

As he entered the Pentagon to meet with Cohen and the military service chiefs, Primakov was overheard asking Cohen, "Do you remember me?" Cohen replied, "Of course I do," and recalled that they had traveled together to Bangor, Maine. Sunday's meeting was their first since Cohen became defense secretary.

In Moscow, the Kremlin press service announced the summit was pushed back a day "by mutual agreement" and said the delay was made necessary by Clinton's recovery from surgery to repair the tendon he tore Friday in Florida.

Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, said the decision to delay the summit's start by 24 hours was made Saturday night by Erskine Bowles, the president's chief of staff, and the National Security Council staff.

"It gives the president an additional day to convalesce and an additional day to learn to be mobile," McCurry said.

Asked whether the summit's schedule of meetings had been shortened, McCurry made a veiled reference to earlier U.S. worries over Yeltsin's bout with pneumonia in

January and his slow recovery from heart surgery last November.

"Remember," McCurry told reporters, "the schedule had been designed to accommodate everyone's health needs."

Clinton will be on crutches for weeks as he recuperates from Friday's knee surgery. In addition to the regular medical team that normally travels with the president, an orthopedist and a physical therapist will accompany him to Helsinki.

Clinton returned to the White House from Bethesda Naval Medical Center on Sunday afternoon in a wheelchair. "I think I'll be perfectly mobile and perfectly fine," a grinning president told reporters as he arrived at the White House.

Even before going into surgery, Clinton vowed not to let his injury stop him from attending the Helsinki summit, where an unusual mix of tough and sensitive topics will be discussed, including NATO's plans to expand eastward.

Clinton considers NATO expansion his top foreign policy priority — linked to other festering security issues such as overcoming the Russian parliament's reluctance to ratify the START II nuclear weapons treaty.

Yeltsin said in an interview published Sunday in Finland's leading newspaper, *Helsingin Sanomat*, that Finland should not think of joining NATO. The Russians already have made a fuss over NATO's intention to invite some former Soviet-bloc nations — probably Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — to join.

"To us, bringing the alliance's military infrastructure closer to Russian territory is absolutely unacceptable," Yeltsin said in the Finnish interview.



Clinton

THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

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State lawmakers seek new ways to curb uninsured motorists

One proposal calls for six days of jail time for any motorist caught more than once without coverage.

DALLAS (AP) — You did not cause the accident, but the driver of the battered pickup that rammed into your new Lexus does not have insurance. Sorry. You pay. Ron Vines, an Allstate insurance agent in Plano, said an accident involving uninsured drivers is the biggest headache in his business.

"You can almost feel your customers burning up on the other end of the line when you explain to them why we have to take money out of their pocket," he said.

Many legislators say the problem is getting out of hand, and they are searching for ways to catch Texans who ignore the state law that requires all drivers to have auto insurance coverage.

More than a dozen bills to curb uninsured motorists have been filed, including one that would automatically jail for six days any driver caught more than once without insurance.

"We need to solve this problem one way or another," said Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, chairman of the House Insurance Com-

mittee. "When you have a law on the books that is being ignored on such a wide basis, that sets a bad precedent. Unfortunately, there is not any solution that has jumped out at us so far."

Industry spokesman Jerry Johns said drivers who comply with the law and carry coverage are paying higher premiums every year because of the large number of uninsured drivers.

"The cost for uninsured motorist coverage has risen dramatically over the past five years, and that can be directly attributed to the number of people roaming around on Texas roads without insurance," said Johns, president of Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

The situation is worst in Cameron County, where 34.2 percent of the drivers are uninsured, according to the Department of Public Safety. El Paso County is next with 32.4 percent, then Dallas County, 22.6 percent.

The statewide average is 17.5 percent. State law has required drivers to carry auto insurance since 1982. The compulsory insurance law was beefed up in 1991 when the Legislature voted to require that motorists show proof of insurance when obtaining a license tag, auto inspection or a new driver's license.

But in addition to those who never get insurance at all, there are those who obtain insurance but cancel it once they have gotten the license or permit they needed.