

# THE BATTALION

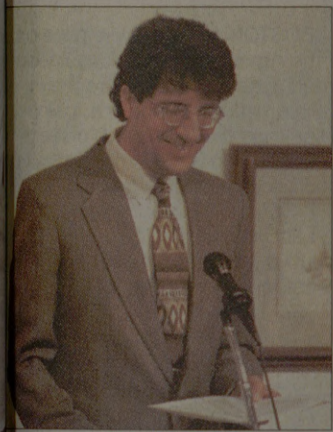
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## Profs share views on Spanish Civil War



Dave House, THE BATTALION  
Dr. Tom Mitchell, a modern and classical languages professor, discusses Spanish women's organizations at a symposium on the Spanish Civil War Wednesday.

By ERICA ROY  
THE BATTALION

Two A&M professors said the Spanish Civil War helped start the women's movement in Spain and prevented a German Civil War in the 1930s at a symposium Wednesday night in the John Wayne Stark University Center Galleries.

Posters on display in the gallery were brought by U.S. volunteers in the Abraham Lincoln American Brigade, one of the international brigades that fought during the Spanish Civil War against the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco.

Dr. Tom Mitchell, a professor in the department of modern and classical languages, said liberal and modern Spanish citizens fought against the formal church teachings of negative sexual messages.

"The projected divorce of the church and state was not going to go uncontested," Mitchell said. "It would lead to the worst civil war of all times."

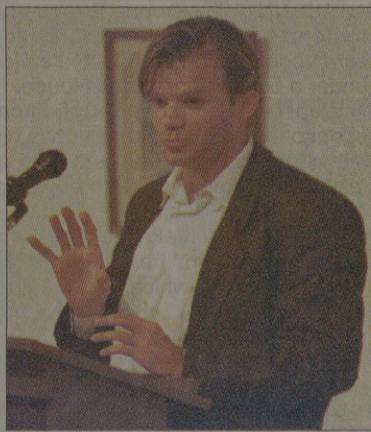
Mitchell said Spanish women's political organizations formed and quickly became aggressive following conflicts with the church.

Mitchell said the women groups wanted equal rights for both sexes.

During the Spanish Civil War, women known as "militianas" (military women) became figures in Spain.

Mitchell said posters depicting beautiful women holding guns were powerful recruitment tools of men, but the majority of women soldiers were in non-combat situations. Some of these posters are displayed in the exhibit.

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Dave House, THE BATTALION  
Dr. Robert Shandley, a modern and classical languages professor, explains German influences in the Spanish Civil War at a symposium Wednesday night.

### ► MSC Great Issues

## Panelists debate church, science

By JACKIE VRATIL  
THE BATTALION



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION  
Monica Ashour, campus minister for St. Mary's Catholic Church, discusses the relationship between science and religion.

Science vs. Religion. Six panelists representing various religious views explored the interaction of scientific research and the church Wednesday night in the Memorial Student Center, sponsored by MSC Great Issues.

Natalie Berger, programs coordinator and a sophomore computer engineering major, said the program was prompted by the Pope's recent declaration that evolution is in agreement with biblical beliefs.

"The recent cloning argument was also one of the reasons we thought this presentation would be appropriate," she said.

"We just really wanted to bring in different outlooks so people would have a broader sense of the issue (the conflict of religion and science)."

Dr. Jon Alston, program moderator and a sociology professor, began the presentation with a brief introduction of each speaker. Alston said the conflict between religion and science arises when each discipline begins to deal with each other's subject matter.

"They (religion and science) are not mutually destructive," he said. "Rather, they can coexist."

Monica Ashour, campus minister for St. Mary's Catholic Church, began her presentation

with a quote from Albert Einstein. "Science without religion is lame," Einstein said. "Religion without science is blind."

Ashour continued addressing the relationship between the two.

"Religion ensures science is compatible with the natural law," she said. "Once science crosses that line, religion steps in. Otherwise religion has no say in science."

Ashour used the analogy of two overlapping circles to illustrate her point.

"One circle is faith and the other is reason," she said. "They interact only at certain points. Where they do not interact, they ought not."

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## A&M grads find success as legislators

By GRAHAM HARVEY  
THE BATTALION

Graduates of Texas A&M can be found in all walks of life — including government.

According to the Association of Former Students, 12 state legislators and two U.S. congressmen are A&M graduates.

State Senator Jeff Wentworth, Class of '62 and a Republican from San Antonio, is one of the state legislators who graduated from A&M.

Wentworth said he was most active as a cadet major in the Aggie Band. He also served as a senior class representative to the MSC Council and chaired the Who's Who selection committee

for the Corps of Cadets.

"Being in the Corps and going out in the field in practical warfare taught me the value of persistence and overcoming obstacles," Wentworth said.

After graduation, Wentworth worked for Army counterintelligence, became a legislative assistant for a U.S. congressman and later went to Texas Tech Law School. After serving as a Bexar County commissioner and a state representative, Wentworth today practices law and legislates in the Texas Senate.

"I'm just damn proud to be a graduate of Texas A&M," Wentworth said.

Democratic U.S. Congressman

Chet Edwards is another A&M success story. A biographical memo from Edwards' Washington, D.C., office outlines his accomplishments.

Edwards, who currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee for Texas' 11th District, graduated from A&M in 1974 with a degree in economics. He has received several awards as a Congressman, including the National Security Leadership Award, given by the American Security Council for pro-fense voting in the 103rd Congress, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Spirit of Enterprise" award, honoring his pro-business legislative record.

Kyle Janek, Class of '80, also is a member of the Texas legislature. A

Republican from Galveston, he serves the 134th District in the Texas House of Representatives.

Janek said he was a resident adviser for Aston Hall and an active Bonfire participant while at A&M. He graduated with degrees in zoology and premed and eventually became a doctor, practicing in Houston.

In Austin, Janek serves on the House Committee on Public Health and the House Committee on Business and Industry. He said his time at A&M helped prepare him for these leadership positions.

"The camaraderie and teamwork of Texas A&M taught me the spirit of getting things done," Janek said.



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION  
**Cold Feet** Nelson Burns, MSC president and a senior international studies major, waits to be dunked during a Traditions Awareness event organized by the Traditions Council.

## Proposed curriculum rewrite causes uproar

Texas Eagle Forum leaders contend that the state's plan will weaken academics.

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed state curriculum rewrite is tainted by a national effort at "dumbing down" schools that includes putting students to work early, a Texas Eagle Forum leader charged Wednesday.

Dr. Marc Tucker of the National Center on Education and the Economy — described by the conservative Eagle Forum's Stephanie Cecil as pushing a plan that would weaken academics — said the group actually is working to strengthen education around the country.

"We would have virtually all the kids in the United States meet academic standards that are way above (current) high school graduation standards in any state," Tucker said in a telephone interview, accusing the Eagle Forum of purposely misrepresenting his group's work.

Whether standards advocated by the NCEE are adopted around the United States is up to state and local officials, Tucker emphasized.

Texas and Tucker's group are linked through the New Standards Project, a joint effort of the Washington-based, non-profit NCEE and the University of Pittsburgh's Learning Research and Development Center.

The state has spent \$1.6 million on membership dues for the program over several years. Officials said payments were suspended recently after conservative board members backed by groups including the Eagle Forum raised questions about the project.

The State Board of Education this week is continuing its consideration of the curriculum rewrite. Backers describe it as an effort to make academic standards more rigorous while giving schools leeway in how they achieve the standards.

Ms. Cecil and others criticize a proposal by Tucker to give students a "certificate of initial mastery," although that idea has not been advocated by Texas education officials.

Tucker said this proposal would identify the countries with the most stringent standards in various subjects, look at what their students are required to know by age 16, and require U.S. students to meet that standard by the time they graduate from high school.

"That is an academic standard that is way above what is now expected by any state of their students as a high school leaving standard," Tucker said.

U.S. students could begin trying to pass an exam to prove they have met that standard at age 16, earning a certificate. They then could go into a rigorous college preparatory program or into technical or professional preparation program, he said.

Ms. Cecil said the national center's work would result in "dumbing down academics by replacing

a strong emphasis on core academics with hundreds of training courses ..."

"Under the Marc Tucker plan, four years of rigorous academics (in high school) have been squeezed into two. For the second two years, students will focus on career programs which have interpersonal skills, personal qualities and work involved in them," she said.

Ms. Cecil said the agenda is reflected in a decrease in the number of math and science courses under the proposed curriculum, while she said the number of career and technology courses have increased.

Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe, however, said the rewrite would cut the number of career and technology courses available to schools from about 400 to 263. She said some courses were combined, while some that were experimental or had low enrollment were dropped.

Mrs. Ratcliffe said a couple of science courses were eliminated either because of low enrollment or weak content. She said some other courses were combined, and some were placed in a different category.

As part of an effort to stop any influence by the "Tucker agenda" and support board members who have spoken out against it, Ms. Cecil and her group are organizing a march on the Capitol.

The march will begin following a board vote on the proposed career and technology course curriculum scheduled for Thursday, Ms. Cecil said.

## Record rain brings mosquito invasion

DALLAS (AP) — They send kids running inside on warm Texas summer days, ruin poolside family reunions and hamper outdoor barbecues — and this year they are back with a vengeance.

Researchers say record rains will mean thousands of bloodthirsty mosquitoes are poised to invade Texas cities.

And while the little bugs are usually just an itchy nuisance, health officials say the pests can carry diseases like encephalitis that make the population boom a serious health threat.

"If you're a mosquito you couldn't ask for a better year than this one," said Jim Olson, an entomologist at Texas A&M University. "Heavy rains have left a lot of stagnant water and that's where many mosquitoes lay their eggs."

The larger threat, Olson said, comes from flood water mosquitoes, which lay eggs in or near depressions in the ground in anticipation that rain will flood the areas.

Olson says that for two years, thousands of eggs from the flood water species have been dormant in Texans' yards, drainage pipes and community parks — waiting for a spring like this one.

"I call them instant mosquitoes ... just add water," Olson said. "And the past few months have added plenty of water."

In Houston, R.P. Jones, an entomologist working for the city's Mosquito Control Department, is preparing to lead a public and private war against the insect invasion.

Every morning he walks out of his suburban home, swatting away mosquitoes before heading to work to direct 30 vehicles and 60 workers in the fight to control the pests.

"We're already getting swamped with citizen complaints and we know this summer is going to be worse," he said. "It's going to be a war — and unfortunately the enemy is designed for survival."

Usually, South Texas cities like Corpus Christi, Victoria and Laredo get hit hardest by mosquitoes. But this year, because of heavy rains, North Texas cities may be worse off.

The sprays commonly used to fog neighborhoods require the tiny insecticide droplets to come into direct contact with the insects and

killing them. But this year, Texans will hold fate in their own hands.

"Now is the time to start emptying out dog bowls, cleaning drainage pipes and throwing out old plants," Olson said.

Although mosquitoes are leading the charge, the wet breeding grounds are resulting in a predictable parade of fire ants, black flies, fleas, outdoor cockroaches and termites.

F. Bradleigh Vinson, a fire ant specialist at Texas A&M University, said Texans can expect the fight against the perennial picnic spoilers will be especially tough to fight this season.

"Fire ants do well in wet conditions because the soil is easier for them to till, making production of their mounds easier," Vinson said. "The water also carries ants to places where they shouldn't be and they develop new colonies."

Meanwhile, several species of termites are taking advantage of the moisture to lay their claim.

The voracious, rapidly multiplying Formosan termites have been identified as a problem in all five Gulf Coast States. As they leave wooden walls to set up new colonies, their swarms look like a cloud of dust from a distance.

The termite clouds already have led dozens of people to B&G Chemical in Dallas.

"People are coming in to try to get rid of the flying ones without realizing that the flying ones mean their walls must be infested," said John Villareal, an employee of the insecticide business.

**"If you're a mosquito you couldn't ask for a better year than this one."**

Jim Olson  
Entomologist, Texas A&M

### THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY

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