

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING



Raylene Mercer, Special to THE BATTALION

Eating Early Mike Meadors, a senior engineering technology major, grabs a breakfast burrito at the Bus Stop Snack Bar on the way to class.

► This day in history

Today is Thursday, April 24, the 114th day of 1997. There are 251 days left in the year.

On this date:

- In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise," was composed by Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, an officer stationed in Strasbourg.
- In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
- In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting America's ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba.
- In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Empire began the brutal mass deportation of Armenians during World War I.
- In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin, including the General Post Office. The rising was put down by British forces several days later.
- In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In 1968, leftist students at Columbia University in New York City began a weeklong occupation of several campus buildings.

In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red."

In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

► Today's birthdays

Critic Stanley Kauffmann is 81. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 63. Author Sue Grafton is 57. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 55. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 55. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 54. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 52. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 44. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 42. Rock musician Billy Gould (Faith No More) is 34. Rock musician Patty Schemel (Hole) is 30.

Here kitty, kitty — DNA from cat hair leads to murder conviction

NEWYORK (AP) — Here is an odd tale from the annals of DNA evidence in the courtroom: A Canadian man was convicted of murder after hairs in a bloodstained jacket were genetically matched to his parents' cat.

The man lived with his parents and Snowball, a white American shorthair.

The case, reported in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*, is one of the few times that nonhuman DNA has been used this way in a murder trial.

The murdered woman was 32 when she disappeared from her home on Prince Edward Island in 1994. Her body was found in a shallow grave a few months later, and police suspected her former common-law husband.

By then, the brown leather jacket had been discovered, stuffed in a plastic bag and left in the woods. Tests showed the bloodstains belonged to the woman.

The cat hairs were found in the lining. Police recalled seeing Snowball at the man's home during their investigation.

They sent a blood sample from Snowball and hair from the jacket to Stephen J. O'Brien of the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Md. O'Brien has studied cat genetics for 20 years.

O'Brien and colleagues report in *Nature* that Snow-

ball's DNA matched genetic material from the one of the hairs.

To help O'Brien compute the likelihood that the match would occur by chance, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had a local veterinarian draw randomly from 19 cats. O'Brien studied DNA samples, plus data from a prior survey of nine cats in the United States.

The likelihood that the jacket hair DNA would match Snowball's DNA just by chance was one in about 1 in 45 million.

The suspect was convicted of second-degree murder last July, and the DNA evidence was "a major contributing factor," said Cpl. Phoshe MacNeil of the Mounties in Summerside, Prince Edward Island.

Nonhuman DNA evidence has been used in other murder cases. In Arizona in 1993, a man was convicted after DNA from seed pods in his pickup truck matched to a palo verde tree at the site where the victim's body was found.

Edgar Espinoza, deputy director of the government National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Portland, Ore., said he had heard of another case in which hairs on a blanket that wrapped a murder victim matched by DNA to a suspect's dog.

► Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 77°F
Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with variable winds.	Mostly sunny with light wind.	Tonight's Expected High: 62°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High: 80°F
			Tomorrow Night Expected Low: 68°F

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Undergraduate Student Requirements:

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 95 credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).
- 60 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 resident credits, this requirement will be waived after your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- 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 transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements

If you are a May 1997 degree candidate and you do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have completed all of your degree requirements and can obtain a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies, the original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Thursday, April 24, 1997 to complete the application for eligibility verification.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on June 12, 1997, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) no later than April 25, 1997.

Men's 10K - \$307.00	14K - \$418.00
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