

BRIEFS

Assistant professor receives award

Dr. Karen Butler, an A&M assistant professor of electrical engineering, is recognized by the National Technological Association as a Top Minority Woman in Science and Engineering. Butler has been at A&M since 1994 and is the assistant director of the Power Systems Automation Laboratory in the electrical engineering department.

When choosing minority women to honor, the NTA considers professional achievements and awards as well as community service and leadership.

Professors honored for research papers

The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) South Texas Section awarded two Texas A&M professors with best paper awards. Rayford G. Anthony, senior fellow at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and head of the chemical engineering department, won the Best Fundamental Paper Award. Dr. D.B. Bukur, professor of chemical engineering, won the Best Applied Paper Award.

Anthony's paper was co-authored with Suracha Udomsak, a former doctoral candidate at A&M. Bukur's co-authors were J.G. Daly, former doctoral candidate, and S.A. Patel, a former postdoctoral fellow.

Friday yell practice to be at Billy Bob's

Midnight yell practice will be at Billy Bob's Texas on Main Street near the Worth Stockyards Friday night. The football game between Texas A&M and the University of North Texas will be at 2:35 p.m. Saturday at Texas Stadium.

Gag order possible in tobacco lawsuit

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge in Texarkana is considering whether to prohibit tobacco industry officials and the Texas attorney general's office from talking publicly about their upcoming \$1.4 billion court fight. Attorney General Dan Morales Tuesday released a two-page proposed order to gag state and industry officials from talking with the news media and public about the suit or any other litigation involving the tobacco industry.

Anti-DWI activists push for standard

DALLAS (AP) — Anti-drunken driving activists say they will press Congress to act where the Texas legislature did not: to tighten the standards for legal intoxication. Bills pending in both houses of Congress would set a national standard for driving intoxication at .08 percent of alcohol in the bloodstream. That would be 20 percent more stringent than the .10 now used by many states, including Texas.

INSIDE lifestyles

Student tells horror stories of learning to use a computer.

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sports

Senior left guard Steve McKinney has stepped up as a team leader for A&M.

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opinion

Editor: Marv Albert should be treated as any other person would be under law.

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online

http://bat-web.tamu.edu
Look up with state and national news through The Fire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Author defends book against ban

BY RACHEL GEORGE
Staff writer

Author Leslea Newman said her children's book *Heather Has Two Mommies* should not be banned because children of homosexual couples need to be represented in literature.

Newman said last night at Rudder Theater that censorship still exists in the United States.

"It is important to realize that censorship is happening all over the country, all the time," she said. "We can't take for granted the freedom of expression."

The MSC Literary Arts committee sponsored the forum as part of Banned Books Week.

Peggy Philpot, MSC Literary Arts committee adviser, said the goal of the forum was to educate A&M students about banned books.

"We want to help the campus ad-

dress the issue of challenging books, not stir up controversy," she said. "We want the students to come and hear the information and then form their

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PEGGY PHILPOT
MSC LITERARY ARTS
COMMITTEE ADVISER

own opinions. We are striving to create a very neutral view."

Newman's book is about a girl who lives with her mother and her mother's lesbian companion. The book addresses the issue of children raised in ho-

mosexual households.

Newman, a lesbian, said the book tries to teach the important thing about a family is the love in it.

Newman wrote the book in response to a woman in Massachusetts who stopped her one day on the street. The woman said a book should be written about lesbian couples raising children together.

Newman said she decided to write the book because as a child, her family's beliefs were not represented in books.

"I never read a book about a Jewish family in New York," she said. "I was seduced by the media to believe that my family was different because we did not celebrate Christmas and Easter, so I knew how it felt to never see myself represented in a story."



Author Leslea Newman addresses issues surrounding the banning of books. Her book, *Heather Has Two Mommies*, was banned because of its promotion of homosexual themes.

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Under cover



Students attempt to keep dry as they leave the Chemistry building during one of Tuesday's showers.

DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION

Speaker addresses role model mythology

BY MANDY CATER
Staff writer

Women in higher education faced difficulties because of the practice of heroine worship, an A&M professor said during the Fallon-Marshall lecture last night at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

Pam Matthews, director of Texas A&M's Women Studies program, said women in American institutions of higher education are having difficulty in academia due to emphasis on the exceptionalism of successful women and mythological female figures.

Matthews, who also is an associate English professor, said women who succeed in academia are seen as exceptions to the rule and role models for women which often are impossible to emulate.

Matthews used Texas A&M's man-to-woman faculty ratios to illustrate the disproportion of genders in academics.

Fall 1995 figures show 20 percent of instructional faculty at A&M are women, and 4 percent of full professors are women.

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UPD ranks theft top campus crime

BY KARIE FEHLER
Staff writer

The University Police Department reported theft is the most widespread crime at Texas A&M, with thousands of dollars in property stolen each year.

Sgt. Allan Baron of the UPD Crime Prevention Unit said some A&M students' items are stolen because the students are too trusting.

"A big part of the problem is that students are not locking up their stuff — they leave their houses unlocked and their backpacks, keys and wallets laying around," he said. "These are all great targets for thieves."

During the 1995-1996 fiscal year, more than \$400,000 in student and University property was reported stolen. More than 30 percent of the property was recovered.

UPD reported a decline in property loss and an increase in the recovery rate for the 1996-1997 fiscal year.

The Student Recreation Center reported losses of \$349,000 in student and University property. 40 percent of the stolen property was recovered.

From October 1996 to September 1997, 48 cases of theft, worth \$7,400, have been reported.

Rick Hall, associate director of Rec Sports, said the Student Recreation Center has made improvements to help curtail theft.

"We've really focused on educating students that theft is real and that everyone needs to secure

their stuff," he said. "We posted signs in the locker rooms and redesigned the free locker system meticulously."

Hall said the Rec Center hopes students will not continue to abuse the free locker system by storing belongings indefinitely.

"These lockers are free," he said. "Students need to realize these lockers are provided for them to lock their things up. If everyone plays by the rules, theft can be reduced."

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, supervisor of the Crime Prevention Unit at UPD, said most on-campus theft is opportunity theft.

"Students will leave their backpacks sitting on the ground, walk away for an hour and expect their stuff to be there when they get back," he said. "Many times that's not the case."

Kretzschmar also said Texas A&M is an open campus, which contributes to theft because anyone can enter or leave campus at any time.

He said students and faculty must stay alert during the day.

"Most people think theft happens during the night, but the majority of theft occurs in broad daylight," Kretzschmar said. "A person wanting to steal something can come onto campus and blend in very inconspicuously with the 40,000 others."

Baron said students can help to deter theft by participating in a UPD program called "Operation ID."

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Early edition

Costumed cadets deliver *The Battalion* to upperclassmen

BY COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

Despite performances by Michael Keaton, Val Kilmer and George Clooney as Batman, Texas A&M has created its own version of the caped crusader.

Freshman members of the Corps of Cadets dress up as "Batfish" and his sidekick Robin to deliver copies of *The Battalion* to upperclassman cadets.

Batfish and Robin run through the Quadrangle singing the theme from '60s Batman TV show while collecting newspapers.

Ross Bown, a junior finance major in Company L-1, said although Corps outfits have different versions of Batfish, it is a freshman duty to deliver *The Battalion* to upperclassmen.

"Our Batfish has nothing to do with Batman," he said. "When we were fish, our upperclassmen bought a bunch of stuff, like spandex and masks, for us to wear."

Will Weardon, a freshman mechanical engineering major in L-1, said the freshmen in his outfit look like drag queens in their Batfish costumes.

"Dressing up in tutus and leotards to run down the Quad makes you look stupid," he said, "but it definitely builds character."

Jennie Whitman, a junior history major, said she remembers seeing Batfish and Robin when she lived in Spence Hall.

"I'd see them running up and down the Quad singing the Batman theme, and they were hilarious," she



Disguised freshman cadets from Company L-1 capture *Battalions* from the enemy for upperclassmen. They have adopted their own version of "Batfish," dressing up in leotards and tutus.

DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION

said. "The most creative one I saw had a freshman in a shopping cart."

Freshmen in Squadron 8 converted a shopping cart into the *Battmobile* last year.

Corey Crowder, a junior business analysis major in Squadron 8, said the freshmen add to the tradition of Batfish every year.

"Our *Battmobile* was painted black with a pull-down top, headlights and fins on the side," he said. "But each year the next freshman class improves it, and our fish are planning Batfish right now."

Former Batfish said dressing up helped make the freshman duty more enjoyable.

Brian McDavid, a junior indus-

trial distribution major in Squadron 1, said when he was a freshman, Batfish were given permission to dress up however they wanted.

"The duty of delivering *The Battalion* every morning was annoying, but dressing up and singing made it fun," he said.

Company F-2 has disco Batfish. Matt Blackwell, a freshman business management major in F-2, said the disco-style costumes provide A&M students with early-morning entertainment.

"I've seen people smile and laugh when they see us coming," he said. "If we can add some energy and spirit to their day, Batfish is worth it."