

BRIEFS

Bush to open first meeting in center

Former President George Bush will convene the first conference at the George Bush Presidential Center at 4 p.m. today.

The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, of which Bush is chair, has brought 19 Chinese fellows to Texas A&M as part of a two-month program designed to give them an understanding of American society.

The Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, which is non-partisan and non-profit, is an international leadership exchange program.

A&M MD named chapter president

Dr. Walter P Dyck from Texas A&M has been elected president of the Texas Academy Chapter of the American College of Physicians at its annual scientific meeting at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

Dyck is associate vice president for Clinical Affairs and senior associate dean at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine and administrative director for Research and Education at Scott & White.

Dyck was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1974. In addition to his leadership roles in the Texas Academy chapter, he served on several committees of the national organization and was program chair of several graduate education programs.

Formed in 1915 and originally patterned after the Royal College of Physicians of London, the American College of Physicians is the oldest and largest organization of its kind in North America, representing specialists in internal medicine.

Suspect in murders moved due to crime

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Police say Daniel J. Blank told them that he was a serial killer who stabbed, strangled or shot six people — wives, neighbors, and customers — to pay for his gambling habit.

Folks in the piney woods town of Onalaska, Texas, say Blank told them he had moved there last summer to get himself, his wife and their four kids away from crime.

Sheriffs of the three parishes where Blank, 35, lived until a few months ago, said he admitted killing six people and trying to kill two others in October 1996. Most were well known in their 60s and 70s.

So are a lot of people in Onalaska. "This is basically a retirement community where people come to get away from the city and crime," Mayor Jeanne Ann Byrd told The New Orleans Times-Picayune. "We live without murders for 20 years. He seemed like a nice man."

Blank was arrested Friday

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Overseas Development Network gives students the chance to learn about life abroad.

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The Texas A&M Soccer Team was eliminated from the NCAA Tournament by SMU.

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Student understanding of diversity proves important as Puerto Rican Week begins.

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online

http://battalion.tamu.edu
Look up with The Wire for up-to-date news coverage of the U.S./Iraqi standoff

Saddam stresses non-violent solution

Non-emergency hospital patients evacuated as Iraq prepares for possible U.S. air strikes

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein stressed Sunday that Iraq "does not seek conflict" with the United States and expressed hope that a solution to a weapons inspection crisis could be worked out, even as officials ordered citizens to be prepared for a possible U.S. air attack.

Saddam, who provoked the standoff by expelling American members of the U.N. arms inspection team, met with his Cabinet on Sunday and said he hoped an escalation of the conflict could be averted.

He praised other Arab countries for opposing the use of military action in the crisis. He did not, however, signal any willingness to compromise on the controversy over American inspectors.

"Iraq does not seek conflict with the United States and if there is a solution to this crisis ... we would be happy," he said in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency.

Kuwait and Syria, which supported strikes against Iraq during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, said they were opposed to the use of force in the current standoff, which began on Oct. 29 when Iraq decided to expel American weapons inspectors working for the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Iraq again offered to defuse the standoff if the U.N. inspection team were reorganized.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told a Paris newspaper that the crisis could end if the teams included fewer Americans and better represented the makeup of the U.N. Security Council.

The proposal was rejected by the United States when it was first offered a week ago. And Washington reiterated its stance Sunday, saying Iraq was in no position to dictate the composition of the team.

Aziz, who traveled to Morocco Sunday in a first stop in a tour of Africa to rally support

for Iraq's cause, warned of a backlash by "Arab masses" against the United States in the event of a military strike.

Aziz stopped short of predicting that terrorism could be a possible response, but said individuals should act "according to their own judgment."

The United States on Sunday pressed forward with its military buildup, sending the aircraft carrier USS George Washington through the Suez Canal toward the Persian Gulf.

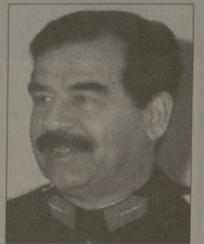
Though several Arab states have joined Kuwait and Syria in opposing a military strike against Iraq, President Clinton's top security adviser said Sunday that the White House is confident the Arabs won't stand in the way of any U.S. action.

Sandy Berger said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that Arab nations understand the threat posed by Saddam. "In the end of the day, they are not going to impede our ability

to do what's necessary," Berger said.

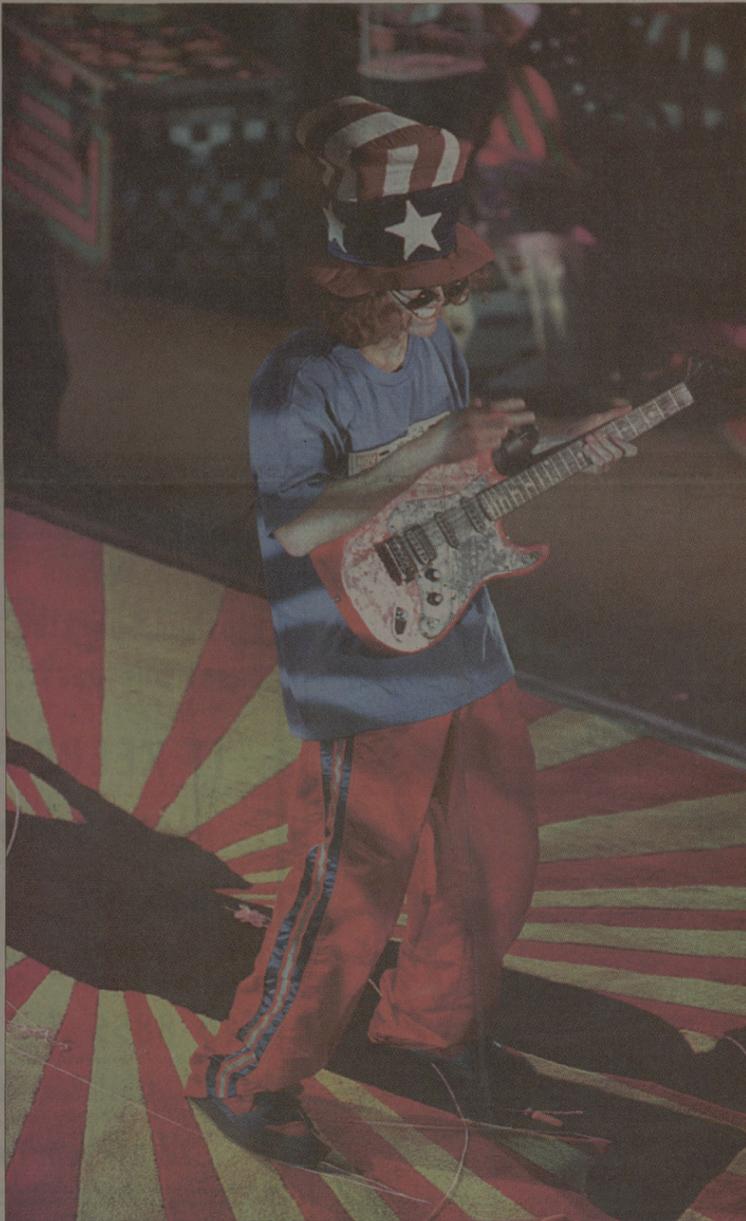
There was no indication Sunday if U-2 flights had resumed. Clinton, who was in Los Angeles visiting with daughter Chelsea, was asked by a reporter about the flights over Iraq, but he ducked into his limousine without answering. Iraq has threatened to shoot down planes flying over its territory.

Meanwhile, Iraq ordered Baghdad hospitals to evacuate non-emergency patients in preparation for a possible U.S. air attack. It was not clear how many people would be removed.



Saddam

Making a good impression



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Comedian **Carrot Top** gives his impression of rock performer Tom Petty during his show last Thursday night at Rudder Auditorium. See related story on page 4.

Safety Week focuses on residence halls

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Safety Week, sponsored by the Residence Hall Association and Mosher Hall, focuses on the safety of Texas A&M students in residence halls, relationships and daily choices.

Safety Week begins today and ends Nov. 20.

Andrea Sellers, the Mosher Hall programs director and a freshman mechanical engineering major, said the idea for Safety Week emerged from a program sponsored last year in Mosher Hall.

She said Mosher Hall, with support from RHA, decided to expand the focus of the program this year.

"I decided that safety was an issue that needed to be addressed campus wide," she said. "The program is targeted towards female dorms. There are responsibilities and actions that need to take place."

Last night, male resident advisers and other participants in the Shadow program, which promotes safety in residence halls,

entered female residence halls in an attempt to monitor the safety of the dorms.

Sellers said the men entered female residence halls to determine which ones were locked. After the men entered they tried to see how far they could go in the hall without a female resident asking him to leave.

"Although some dorms have an open-door policy, it brings awareness [to the residents]," she said. "I hope that students become a bit more aware about locking the door and getting a Corps escort."

Kara Wilson, a member of RHA Crime Stoppers and a senior agricultural journalism major, said students need to be aware of safety issues on campus.

Activities will kick-off with a presentation tonight by Sgt. Betty LeMay of the University Police Department, who will speak on safety issues in 342 MSC at 7 p.m. The Safety Week committee will recognize the "safest hall on campus" based on findings from the Shadow program.

PLEASE SEE SAFETY ON PAGE 8.

New program provides student input on classes

BY KARIE FEHLER
Staff writer

The Student Government Association is sponsoring a program today until Dec. 9 that allows Texas A&M students to give opinions about different courses at the University.

Students can write their opinions about courses on tables covered with butcher paper at the MSC, and other students can read about courses before registering for Spring 1998 classes.

Craig Rotter, Student Services committee chair in Student Senate and an agricultural education graduate student, said the "Howdy You Like It?" program provides a needed service to the student body.

"The 'Howdy You Like It?' program's main goal is to provide a method for students to express their perceptions of a class or professor—things you can't get from registration booklets or advisors—and to make this information more readily available to people," he said. "Students have always done this verbally, but now they will have an open forum to air their opinions

and spread the information more easily."

Robert Kimmel, Southside senator and a junior mechanical engineering major, said Student Senate likes the program because it gives students access to others' opinions.

"The evaluations that we all do at the end of the semester are not as readily available as we'd like. They are only open to the departments, and you have to hike down to Henderson Hall for grade distributions," he said. "We are all frustrated at the lack of tools available to students to help us make these decisions."

Wayne Wylie, Faculty Senate speaker and an associate health and kinesiology professor, said although the Faculty Senate has not taken an official stance on the program, he and several other faculty senators are opposed to the program.

"I am opposed to the program because I fear it will set back the good relations between the Student and Faculty Senates," he said. "I and some members of the Faculty Senate think that this program seems to encourage professor bashing in a very public way."

PLEASE SEE INPUT ON PAGE 8.

Aggies to celebrate Puerto Rican Week

BY STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

Puerto Rican Week, hosted by the Texas A&M Puerto Rican Student Association, begins today with a multicultural display in the MSC.

Every year this Latin American group celebrates their culture during the week of Nov. 19, the day Puerto Rico was discovered.

Cesar Ayala, president of the Puerto Rican Student Association and a senior business administration major, said this week is the only time Puerto Ricans have the opportunity to showcase their culture to the Bryan-College Station community.

"The reason for Puerto Rican

Week is to educate people in the area about our culture and traditions," he said. "We have activities every day of this week."

Ayala said this year the association is doing something different. Instead of just explaining the culture of Puerto Rico, they will focus on how Puerto Ricans have overcome obstacles and discrimination in the United States.

On Monday night, Luis Suarez, a consulting business manager for Hewlett-Packard Co., will speak at the MSC. Ayala said Suarez's speech will explain the path he took to become a successful Puerto Rican in the corporate environment.

PLEASE SEE PUERTO RICAN ON PAGE 8.

A&M hosts career symposium

Event offers students information on prospective job opportunities

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The MSC/MBA LAW Symposium Committee invited lawyers and business people to its annual symposium Nov. 14 and 15 to provide Texas A&M students with knowledge of career opportunities in their fields of interest.

Cliff LeBlanc, director of operations for the symposium and a senior electrical engineering major, said the event offered students an opportunity to gain knowledge from leading figures in the world.

"In the courses that you take [as an undergraduate], you do not have a good representation of the fields out in the world," he said. "It's a good experience. We hope

that the students gain knowledge in areas of business and law. It's a good experience."

Speakers gave presentations Nov. 14 as an introduction to the events of the symposium.

Ray Rothrock, a general partner of Venrock Associates and Class of '97, said the availability of knowledge is impacting the business world.

"As you are setting out upon your life's journey, you have really got to focus on learning more," Rothrock said. "What's happening today is a real transformation of the economy. The Internet is like spreading water on a table. It's going to spread everywhere. It's about knowing things."

James Fellars, a sophomore computer science major, said he

has considered pursuing a law degree or working on his MBA.

"I came to hear the real world sides of business and law that you do not get in class," Fellars said. "He [Mr. Rothrock] talked about his background and the path that he used to get where he is now. It makes you think about what you know."

United States District Judge Samuel Kent for Southern District of Texas focused on the impact of law in today's society.

"The law is a living and breathing dynamic," Kent said. "The law is reactive. It cannot anticipate a case but must respond to a case. If the law is not current, responsive, vibrant, it does not work."

PLEASE SEE CAREER ON PAGE 8.