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TODAY



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TOMORROW

NEWS BRIEFS

Excellence awards to be presented

International Excellence awards will be presented Thursday during the International Excellence Reception, which will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the J. Wayne Stark University Center galleries. The awards recognize efforts by faculty and staff members to enhance international education and awareness at Texas A&M. Ronald Douglas, executive vice president and provost, is host for the event. The program is open to the public.

Company provides scholarship to A&M

The agricultural cooperative that was once the world's largest exporter of wheat has given an endowed scholarship in the amount of \$31,700 to Texas A&M's Department of Agricultural Economics. The Producers Grain Corporation educational trust fund was established 10 years ago when the Producers Grain Corporation began to downsize and prepare for the company's liquidation. Tom Engelke, trust fund executive director and a 1975 Texas A&M graduate, said the original planners wanted to create a fund for Texas A&M students who wanted to further their study of agricultural cooperatives.

Texas history book to be given as gift

A rare book on Texas history will be added to the Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M in honor of this year's Aggie Muster. The volume, "Reports of the Secretary of War with Reconnaissance of Routes from San Antonio to El Paso," was purchased with a gift from Jean W. Kaspar of Elmer. Published in 1850, the report is a seminal document that contributed to the opening of travel and settlement in West Texas and New Mexico. The explorations in this volume surveyed a supply and potential railroad route across West Texas that became the main passage-way for soldiers, settlers and gold seekers. The report contains two folding maps and 72 lithographed plates, several of which are hand colored. A longtime library supporter, Kaspar is a member of the Friends of the Sterling C. Evans Library, a former chair of the Library Development Council and a former president of the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs.

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Students, male and female, take charge to reclaim safety for the night.

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online

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

'Mud lot' to close this December

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

The "Mud lot" parking lot at Northgate, which is used by an estimated 700 motorists each day, will close at the end of this year.

Jack Culpepper, owner of the Mud lot, has decided to use the lot for hotel and retail development, Larry Haskins, his attorney said Tuesday.

"The agreement with the operator of Mud lot expires Dec. 31," he said. "Jack doesn't anticipate renewing the contract, and it is extremely unlikely that it will continue to exist as a parking lot."

Haskins said he and Culpepper are in favor of a Northgate parking garage because they are convinced the parking garage will be able to

support itself.

"The proposal is to charge \$2 per day, the same amount as mud lot," Haskins said. "Mud lot makes \$1,400 per day and offers less parking spaces than the garage would."

College Station citizens will vote on a proposed ordinance that would stop the city from spending, using, lending or granting funds for a Northgate parking garage on May 2. A "no" vote supports the garage, and a "yes" vote opposes the garage.

Haskins said he cannot think of a good reason why students would not be in favor of the parking garage and vote against the ordinance.

"All of the students who used to park in Mud lot will have to find other places to park," he said. "This will affect everyone. A garage also

would benefit the community and the city because it'll bring better development to the Northgate area."

Councilman Dick Birdwell was one of three who voted to approve the ordinance without a public vote. He placed an ad in Tuesday's *The Bryan-College Station Eagle* encouraging citizens to vote to stop this "unsound project." He said he does not support the project because there is no need for a parking garage.

"I was out in Northgate this afternoon," he said. "And there were over 120 empty spaces. They've (College Station) overestimated the parking needs. It's going to be big money for the taxpayers."

George Sopsakis, owner of the Burger Boy restaurant in Northgate, said the city's parking consultant's

analysis is filled with mistakes.

"It (the analysis) was done in a very sloppy manner," he said. "The analysis has about 80 percent of the parking which is in Northgate. Obviously, there are mistakes. They (the city) cannot, in good faith, solicit investors when there are errors like this."

Sopsakis organized a meeting Monday night to study the parking consultant's review of the Northgate area and to present his own interpretation of the facts.

Sopsakis also said the city officials have overestimated the need for Northgate parking.

"I believe the parking is adequate," he said. "They went to the bar owners to find out the demand for the area. The city would be spending our money to accommo-

date the late-night businesses."

DeShazo, Tang & Associates, a parking consulting firm, was hired by the city to do the analysis. DeShazo recommended building a four-level, 752 space garage between Second Street and College Main south of Louise Avenue.

Mayor Lynn McIlhane said they wanted to maximize spaces and minimize the amount of land to purchase.

"Some people think that we don't need a garage and we just need to add more parking lots," she said. "The problem with that is it is difficult to get the land. I support a decision to go ahead with the garage. This issue has been going on for 20 years, but this is the first time we have gotten the property, business and city together on this."

Summer's here



Tania Fongemie, a sophomore political science and French major, serves snowcones outside the MSC Tuesday at a part of Class of '00 week.

JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

FBI notifies UPD of rape suspect release

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

The FBI and Dearborn, Mich., and Texas A&M University police are investigating the 30 tips they have received from America's Most Wanted viewers in their continued search for alleged rapist Don Richard Davis Jr.

The *America's Most Wanted* episode aired for the third time on Saturday, after the FBI in Washington D. C. learned that the fingerprints of a man arrested and released in Dearborn in January 1997 matched Davis's.

Davis is wanted in connection with two campus rapes in 1995. In August 1996, Davis was out on \$150,000 bail when he disappeared from his parents' Houston home two days before his scheduled pretrial proceedings. Davis' father served six months in jail after giving him \$6,000 and a car to escape.

"We thought that if Davis knew his father was serving time in jail," Wiatt said, "he might feel bad and turn himself in."

University Police Department Director Bob

Wiatt said Davis was arrested for shoplifting wool gloves, a hat and socks. Davis gave them the false name of William Allen Webster, had no identification, \$13 on him and pretended to be homeless.

Dearborn police scanned his fingerprints on the Michigan database, did not find a match and released him, Wiatt said.

"Sometimes, because of the cost, state databases are not integrated with the other 49 states," he said. "They didn't get a hit on the prints, so they let him go. The police then sent hard copies to the FBI for files because they didn't have a hit. The FBI made a hit and notified us last week."

Wiatt said when Davis was arrested in 1997 he had a full beard and was 20 to 30 pounds heavier than when he left in August 1996.

Of about 30 tips from the Saturday episode of *America's Most Wanted*, 12 have been from the Michigan area, Wiatt said.

Wiatt said two previous episodes of *America's Most Wanted* and one *Unsolved Mysteries* episode of Davis' story resulted in 125 to 150 tips.

"Nothing has panned out yet," he said. "We're not holding our breath, but we'll see."

A&M professors pay increases, still lags UT

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Texas A&M University professors are receiving an average of 5.9 percent more in their paychecks during the 1997-98 school year than last year, according to the annual salary report by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

According to the report, the salaries of University of Texas professors increased by an average of 3.9 percent this year. The figures indicate the average increase for full, associate or assistant professors.

William Perry, the dean of faculties and associate provost of A&M, said the increase is good, but A&M still lags behind other state universities in faculty pay.

"Any (salary) increase is welcome," Perry said. "As far as Texas A&M, we have a ways to go. We are going to need several substantial increases."

The 1997-98 Report on the Economic Status of the Profession indicates average faculty salary levels increased 3.4 percent from last year.

The AAUP report attributes the salary in-

crease to a prosperous U.S. economy.

Texas A&M pays full professors an average of \$73,400 per year, compared to \$69,500 last year. Despite a smaller percent increase, the University of Texas pays an average of \$82,400 to full professors.

Perry said A&M still lags behind the University of Texas at Dallas and the University of Houston. The University of Texas at Dallas pays full professors \$77,400 and the University of Houston pays \$79,800, according to the report.

Perry said the next opportunity to increase faculty salaries is the next legislative session.

"The main opportunity for increase is legislative appropriations," Perry said. "There is a connection between the state of the economy and the ability of the Texas legislature to increase funds."

Texas A&M pays associate professors an average of \$52,400, compared to \$53,700 at the University of Texas.

The Permanent University Fund (PUF) is designated to the University of Texas system and the Texas A&M system. Perry said the Available University Fund (AUF) of the PUF is primarily used to fund special projects by the University.

Practice makes perfect

Young drivers have more deadly vehicle wrecks, report finds

WASHINGTON (AP) — More 16-year-old drivers are dying in car accidents even as traffic fatalities drop for older teens, prompting an insurance group to call for limits on the privileges of America's youngest drivers.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which analyzed fatal accident reports between 1975 and 1996, reported Tuesday that the death rate for 16-year-olds nearly doubled, from 19 per 100,000 licensed drivers in 1975 to 35 per 100,000 in 1996.

The overall number of deaths declined, from 15 per 100,000 in 1975 to 12 deaths per 100,000 in 1996. The numbers also fell slightly for 17- to 19-year-olds, from 27 deaths per 100,000 in 1975 to 25 deaths per 100,000 in 1996. That age group had accounted for the most teen driving deaths until the mid-1980s, when it was surpassed by the 16-year-olds.

The insurance institute said it suspected a number of factors, including the belief that more 16-year-olds are driving in high-risk circumstances, including at night and with friends in the car.

The institute, which is financed by insurance companies, urged more states to adopt a graduated licensing system, which increases driving privileges as experience increases.

The insurance industry favors a three-step system with a learner's phase of at least six months; a half-year intermediate phase in which drivers cannot drive at night or with other teens in the car; and full privileges for drivers who complete the other phases without incident.

Driver deaths

A look at accident death rates among the nation's licensed drivers.



Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

"We want to try to build up driving experience while keeping people out of the high-risk situations," said Allan Williams, the institute's senior vice president.

Internet increases speed, faster than imagination

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three high-tech communications companies will offer an ultra-fast data pipeline and some of the needed network equipment as part of a \$500 million contribution toward developing the next generation of the Internet.

"We will end the days when the World Wide Web is known by some as the world wide wait," said Vice President Al Gore, who announced the contributions today at the White House.

The revolutionary network — so fast it will transmit the contents of the 30-volume *Encyclopedia Britannica* in one second — will make possible new ways of using computers, from long-distance learning to allowing a specialist in another city to look at real-time images of a beating heart and make a diagnosis.

"That's a startling advance, and it will make a huge difference," Gore said. "Change sometimes comes not slowly and gradually, but when we cross thresholds, beyond which the reality is just completely different."

The announcement coincides with the spring meeting of the project's organizers, the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, which begins today in Washington.

Gore also announced a \$50 million investment in Internet-related projects by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research and development organization for the Defense Department. The existing Internet — originally called ARPANET — grew from investments by the agency during the 1960s.