

May 4
S U
By
Rowship
a Christa
of Cade
in the M
arn 108
details
n Fellow
udies in
at 847
er detai
an Cow
Study
ng at P
97 Dr
Andy
Associa
and W
10 p.m.
in and
n. in the
Main
y 7. In
ver, Co
s of A
try in
ders u
y 7. In
colleg
le near
all Show
"We just
to the
people
supported
us," he
said. "We
want to
make
sure the
count is
right. If
the vote
had gone
the other
way, the
people
who support
it would
do the
same thing."
Citizens,
by a 1,947
to 1,894
vote, defeated
an ordinance
limiting
the city council
from extending
using, lending
or granting
funds for the
development
or construction
of a public parking
garage at Northgate.
The proposed
four-story, 752-
space garage
would be located
on 1.65 acres
between College
Main and Second
Street that the
city would acquire.
Research
updates
available
online
The oceanography
department
has launched
a new web site
that will allow
students and
teachers to
follow Texas
A&M scientists
as they cruise
the world's seas.
As researchers
embark on
different cruises,
the department
will post
background
information
on the trip as
well as the
objectives
the researchers
hope to
accomplish.
Visitors to the
site can register
to receive e-mail
updates as the
cruise progresses
or e-mail
questions
to participating
scientists.
Found at
<http://gulf4our.tamu.edu>, the
"Reefs of the Gulf"
web site is
currently set up
to follow
oceanographers
Ian MacDonald
and Will Sager
as they map
the wreck of
the USS Monitor
off Cape Hatteras,
N.C., and survey
the Gulf of Mexico's
hydrocarbon seeps
using the Navy's
NR-1 submarine.
The cruise will
run through
most of May
with the two
scientists posting
descriptions
and pictures
of their research
as it's conducted.

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University

93
65
TODAY

93
65
TOMORROW

104TH YEAR • ISSUE 141 • 14 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TX

TUESDAY • MAY 5 • 1998

NEWS BRIEFS

Sopasakis requests referendum recount

A College Station restaurant owner announced Monday he plans to submit a petition to the city that requests a recount of Saturday's referendum in which citizens narrowly decided to support the construction of a Northgate parking garage.
George Sopasakis, owner of Burger Boy, said he expects to turn in the petition before the end of the week.
Sopasakis, who has criticized the garage plan openly, said the very close vote prompted him to start a petition.
"We just have to be responsible to the people who supported us," he said. "We want to make sure the count is right. If the vote had gone the other way, the people who support it would do the same thing."
Citizens, by a 1,947 to 1,894 vote, defeated an ordinance limiting the city council from extending, using, lending or granting funds for the development or construction of a public parking garage at Northgate.
The proposed four-story, 752-space garage would be located on 1.65 acres between College Main and Second Street that the city would acquire.

Research updates available online

The oceanography department has launched a new web site that will allow students and teachers to follow Texas A&M scientists as they cruise the world's seas.
As researchers embark on different cruises, the department will post background information on the trip as well as the objectives the researchers hope to accomplish.
Visitors to the site can register to receive e-mail updates as the cruise progresses or e-mail questions to participating scientists.
Found at <http://gulf4our.tamu.edu>, the "Reefs of the Gulf" web site is currently set up to follow oceanographers Ian MacDonald and Will Sager as they map the wreck of the USS Monitor off Cape Hatteras, N.C., and survey the Gulf of Mexico's hydrocarbon seeps using the Navy's NR-1 submarine.
The cruise will run through most of May with the two scientists posting descriptions and pictures of their research as it's conducted.

Student scores up with minority teachers

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Researchers from Texas A&M University and the University of Texas-Pan American found that minority and Anglo students score higher on standardized tests when attending schools with an increased number of minority teachers.
Kenneth Meier, co-director of the study and the Charles Puryear Professor of Liberal Arts at A&M, said he did not expect Anglo students to show improved standardized test scores in environments with increased minority teachers.

"I was very surprised by the results," Meier said. "We had found that minority teachers generally helped (performance of) minority students. But we were surprised to find that Anglo students benefited as well."
The study was conducted as part of the Texas Educational Excellence Project and examined the 350 largest multiracial school districts in Texas from 1991 to 1996.
Meier said he began his study at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee using a database from the Texas Education Agency (TEA).
The data compared minority

and Anglo students in school districts having a higher percentage of minority teachers to those having a lower percentage of minority teachers. TAAS scores were used to measure student performance in the study. The experiment controlled for other factors influential on test performances such as poverty levels, expenditures and teacher qualifications.
Meier, who arrived at A&M in January, said he hopes to continue more studies in an area that he began researching in 1984.
"This study grows out of a research agenda with an emphasis on

minority education," Meier said. "This will probably keep us busy for the next year."
Meier said past studies indicate that there is a link between teachers and student performance on a national level. He said he decided to use information from Texas schools because the state makes the information more available than most others.
"My interest started out nationwide," Meier said. "However, we are somewhat data driven in this type of research."
Meier said he co-directed the experiment with Bob Wrinkle, a profes-

sor of political science at the University of Texas-Pan American.
Wrinkle said he was surprised by the results.
"We have documented that both Anglo and non-Anglo students benefit from the presence of minority teachers," Meier said. "There is no trade-off. No one has to give up success for one group in order to benefit another."
In the future, Meier said he plans to examine why some school districts perform better than others and to further address the educational relationships among educators and students.

Feel the chill



Harold Baustian, a delivery driver for Sunbelt Distributors, unloads frozen treats for the Commons Monday afternoon.

Students honor Cinco de Mayo

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

Cinco de Mayo, a celebration of cultures symbolizing the strength and determination of Hispanics, is celebrated today with local festivities which include dancing, food and special events.
Cinco de Mayo marks the victory of the Mexican Army over French forces at the Battle of Pueblo on May 5, 1862.
Armando Elonzo, a history professor at A&M, said Cinco de Mayo is one of the two most important holidays in Mexican culture.
"Cinco de Mayo is important because it commemorates the defeat of French troops by well-armed and well-trained Mexican troops," Elonzo said.
Elonzo said that during the 1850s and 60s, Mexico had a series of civil wars against the French. During the Battle of Pueblo on May 5, 1862, General Isacio Zaragoza and his men forced the withdrawal of French troops.
"Cinco de Mayo allows the Mexican-American people to reconnect with their past history and with their culture," Elonzo said.
Elonzo said in the 1800s ranch communities would form a plaza to celebrate a victory with food and dancing, and it has evolved into the present holiday.

"Cinco de Mayo is important because it allows Mexican-Americans an opportunity to stay in touch with their own heritage and cultural roots," Elonzo said.
Angelica Castro, advisor for the Committee of Mexican-American Culture, said Cinco de Mayo is usually celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico, similar to the Irish's St. Patrick's Day.
"The holiday is the official independence day celebrating Mexican independence from Napoleon's domination," Castro said.
Janie Guajardo, coordinator of the City of College Station Parks and Recreation Cinco de Mayo Festival, and the festival aims to educate the community about the unity of the Hispanic culture.
Guajardo said that while growing up in the Bryan-College Station community, she never fully understood what the holiday was about.
"We are trying to reach the kids in the community and educate them on the culture so they can be proud of who they are and be proud of their culture," she said. "We are trying to set role models for the other kids."
Guajardo said the festival celebrates the battle in which the Hispanic people united, and the holiday celebrates this unity.
Elonzo said the commercialization of the holiday sometimes takes away from its meaning.

INSIDE aggie life

Texas A&M student proves the pen is truly mightier than the sword by garnering a literary award.
See Page 3

Texas A&M prepares to make bid for NCAA Regional Baseball Tournament.
See Page 7

Huffines: Columnist offers the naked truth about A&M's journey for world-class status.
See Page 13

Hook up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Few dancing bears in Waco

Lack of participation surprises Baylor administration

WACO (AP) — They are not exactly two-stepping the night away at Baylor University.
A little over two years ago, university officials captured national headlines by lifting an unwritten 151-year ban on dancing.
But after all the ado, the Baptist school has hardly become Waco's version of Studio 54.
Only five organized on-campus dances have occurred since Baylor President Robert Sloan Jr. opened an outdoor dance dubbed "A Mir-

acle on 5th Avenue."
And one of those was alumni-only.
"I guess they haven't been as popular as (administrators) thought they would be," senior Anne Beggs, who attended the April 1996 dance, told the *Waco Tribune-Herald*.
Baylor officials agree there have been fewer dances than they had anticipated.
But they also believe the change was positive for the campus and

for students — a move more symbolic than anything else.
"Students really wanted to be able to dance on campus, but they didn't really want to dance on campus," said Dub Oliver, the school's director of student activities.
The school policy on dancing has several stipulations. Dances must be open to all students, and they may be held only four times a year — at homecoming, a spring celebration, fall orientation week and spring commencement.

New cancer drug stock soars

BOSTON (AP) — The stock of a company developing a new cancer treatment leaped from \$12 to \$85 at one point Monday, even while doctors cautioned against getting too excited over something that has been tested only on mice.
Cancer experts warned that while the approach is promising, treatments that look spectacular in lab animals almost never work so well in people.
"It's a very exciting observation in animals," said Dr. Bruce Cheson of the National Cancer Institute.

"That's a long step from curing cancer in people."
The treatment involves two newly developed drugs, called angio-statin and endostatin, that are designed to choke off tumors' blood supply. Scientists watched mice with huge tumors respond dramatically to these injections. Their tumors shrank and then went away entirely, and it seemed to work for all sorts of cancer.
The drugs were created by Dr. Judah Folkman at Children's Hospital in Boston, whose team pioneered the concept of attacking

cancer by blocking its ability to grow new blood vessels.
While his results have been written about frequently and are widely known to cancer specialists, an article about the work in Sunday's *New York Times* triggered a new round of enthusiasm.
"I am real skeptical that Folkman will be curing patients with these drugs," said Dr. Mark Ratain of the University of Chicago. "It would be wonderful if that happens. Oncologists will be looking for jobs if it's that simple."

SHIPWRECKED

A&M archeologists to study sunken ship

By KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

Archeologists from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M will begin trips Thursday to the remains of the Denbigh, the second most successful blockade runner of the Confederacy, located in December of last year outside Galveston Bay.
The 182-foot converted merchant ship made runs from Havana, Cuba to Mobile, Al. and Galveston during the Civil War. The Denbigh made more than 26 trips at a time when most runners averaged only four. The ship ran aground on the night of May 23, 1865 and was destroyed by blockading Union ships while trying to enter Galveston Bay. The shipwreck is located off Bolivar Peninsula, close to the North Jetty and not far off the beach of Bolivar Peninsula.
Barto Arnold, director of Texas operations for the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, said historic shipwrecks are property of the state of Texas and anything found in or around the shipwreck will go to a museum following inspection. Objects will be cleaned, cataloged, studied and published in articles, magazines and possibly a book, Arnold said.
"This is good for both tourism and educational reasons," he said. "It also deals with the romance of the sea and the excitement of discovery."
Arnold and his team have used a side-scan sonar, provided by Survey Equipment Services and EdgeTech of Houston, to identify wreckage sticking out of the sandy bottom. Their survey determined

that the paddle wheel, some of its machinery and the boiler are exposed with the rest of the wreck buried beneath the sand.
Andy Hall, research grant writer for the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, is conducting the historical research on the shipwreck.
Hall said the Denbigh remains have produced good reference material in maritime history.
"Historical nautical archaeology is interesting because it makes it possible to tie in analysis of physical remains with historical articles and documents," he said. "The traditional history combined with the physical analysis gives a greater idea of the ship."
Dr. Tom Iliffe, professor of marine biology at Texas A&M Galveston and diving officer for the university, said students taking his scientific diving course will be participating in the project with graduate students from Texas A&M in College Station.
Their first survey will include studying what is sticking up out of the low-visibility water and anything else sticking above the sandy bottom. The group will then map them out and probe the sand to find buried remains.
The scientific diving class is also working with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Johnson Space Center and the Texas Parks and Wildlife, Iliffe said. The scientific diving course is looking for experienced divers interested in scientific diving certification. A class begins May 17 and runs through May 31. Those interested may contact Dr. Tom Iliffe at (409) 740-4454 for more information.