

Bagpipe blowout



MATTHEW CRAWLEY/THE BATTALION

Jennifer Hamel and E.J. Jones of the Houston-based Celtic band, Clandestine, perform Saturday night on Northgate.

WAKONSE

Continued from Page 1

A day at Wakonse included small-group sessions, large group discussions and role reversals where students would attempt to teach the professors — often without success.

"We were horrible learners," said Larry Dooley, an associate professor of adult education, "but we learned that we as faculty have to reach students differently instead of just one learning style for all students."

Originally only for professors, the 1998 Wakonse Conference added a new component: students. The Association of Former Students sponsored 11 undergraduate students from A&M to attend the conference.

"I learned more from those students in five days than I have learned from students in 15 years," said Marty Louder, a professor of accounting.

The students from A&M, who were chosen through an application process, were in high demand at Wakonse. Professors from all universities wanted to learn more about what the typical student is thinking.

"They asked us all sorts of questions like 'When

do you go to bed?' and 'Why don't you don't you read your textbook,'" said Brad Abraham, a sophomore biomedical science major. "Then we asked them questions. We were supposed to be teaching them, but I learned a lot about them as well."

Shalene McNeil, a lecturer in nutrition, said she applied what she learned at the conference into her summer session course.

"About halfway through my lecture I stopped the class, told them to turn to the person beside them and tell them what they just learned," she said. "At first, they all just looked at me and laughed. Then they realized they really didn't know what I had just said, and I realized I needed another approach."

Another approach is exactly what Mike Woster, a sophomore civil engineering major, was looking for in his classes.

"I don't want to be just a receptacle," Woster said. "Wakonse taught me that I have to interact with my professors and tell them that."

The Wakonse fellows agreed the hardest part about teaching is making improvement a priority.

"We're what stands between the knowledge and the student," said Doolan. "It's an incredible responsibility."

Death of Texas youth raises child abuse concerns

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The death of a 12-year-old boy whose body was covered with scars, bruises and sores has led to his father's and stepmother's arrest in South Texas.

Clayton R. Durham died June 13 of blunt force trauma that caused his brain to hemorrhage, a coroner said.

Clayton's father, Glenn L. Durham, and stepmother, Barbara P. Durham, remained jailed Sunday in lieu of \$1 million bonds each in the Ricardo boy's suspected injuries and apparent slaying.

"He was beaten to death," Nueces County Medical Examiner Lloyd White told the *Corpus*

Christi Caller-Times. "I don't think we're looking at focusing on a single episode. This is a battered child."

He said Clayton's back and buttocks were covered with recent bruises and he had scars over much of his body.

"What are massive pressure sores doing on the knees of a 12-year-old boy?" White asked. "That would be very painful."

He said deeply infected, inflamed wounds covered Clayton's knees and toes, and one toenail was missing — indicating he may have been forced to kneel on a hard surface for long periods of time.

White said the teen, who died

at his home, was probably a victim of systematic abuse and torture for weeks or months before his death.

But Glenn Durham, 36, told investigators that his son's death may have been a suicide.

Clayton's father and 33-year-old stepmother told investigators that the last time they saw Clayton alive, he was taking a bath and that they later found him lying on the other side of the room covered with ants.

The couple were arrested Friday night, Kleberg County officials said.

State Child Protective Services is investigating the death.

Correction

In the June 11 issue of *The Battalion*, a front page story concerning the "Our Gulf" conference should have listed Jenny Toups as the assistant editor of the Texas Sea Grant College Program. The conference did not stem from the research of Dr. David Owens, a specialist in sea turtle biology, but was funded by the Texas Sea Grant College Program.

The Greys

By Gabriel



Andy in Aggieland

By Stephen



Education fund for Jasper man receives donations

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King donated \$100,000 to an education fund set up in the name of the African-American man killed in Texas by being dragged behind a pickup truck for two miles.

At a memorial for James Byrd Jr. at the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters in Harlem, King said: "If we educate ourselves and if we learn to contribute and be with one another, we can rise to the occasion to bring about a change that's much needed."

On June 7, Byrd was chained by his ankles to the truck and fatally dragged near Jasper, Texas. Three alleged white supremacists were charged.

Byrd's father was in New York for the memorial organized by Sharpton, who said his group will give \$50,000 to the education fund.

Sharpton and other black leaders including the Rev. Jesse Jackson attended Byrd's June 13 funeral in Texas.

Lawsuit seeks wasted taxpayer funds

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars have been wasted because the state and the company that administers Medicaid in Texas failed to collect money they're owed by private insurance companies, a whistle-blower lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit contends state health officials and those at National Heritage Insurance Co. resisted efforts to force insurance companies to reimburse Medicaid when they were responsible for medical bills, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported Sunday.

The suit was filed last year by James M. Churchill of Austin, a former lawyer for the Texas Department of Health. Documents related to the case, set for an October trial in Austin, were unsealed this spring.

Churchill, who retired from TDH before filing the lawsuit, contends the state and NHIC ignored a federal law that requires them to seek reimbursement from insurance companies for certain expenses.

He said about \$1 billion had not been collected in the last 10 years, calling that "an extremely conservative estimate."

"For 21 1/2 years, I tried to get people to do what they were obligated to do. It's a shame it has to get down to this sort of thing, but I was just totally frustrated," Churchill said.

About 2.8 million people are eligible for Medicaid, a federal health program for the poor and disabled. NHIC receives \$1 billion from the state in fiscal year 1997 to administer the program.

According to the *Express-News*, Medicaid paid out \$10.7 billion in Texas in fiscal year 1997, the cent for which statistics are available. About two-thirds of it came from federal government and one-third from the state.

But according to Churchill, the state and the federal government would have paid out far less if commercial insurance companies had been forced to pay the Medicaid for which they were responsible.

Churchill said he first learned the problem in late 1994 when he was a Health Department supervisor. He wanted to examine collection procedures outlined in the state's contract with NHIC. Churchill said he found little money was being collected.

Ultimately, Churchill said, he was told by senior Health Department officials to keep his mouth shut about the problem.

Under the whistle-blower law, Churchill said, he would be entitled to a portion of the money recovered, if he wins the lawsuit.

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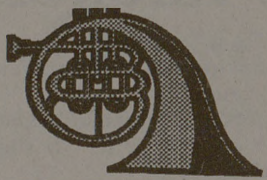
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WHAT'S AN ALIAS AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Many students are not aware of the phonebook directory system at A&M called Ph. The Ph directory contains information, including phone numbers, e-mail addresses and aliases of faculty, staff and students.

By default, a student's alias is often a variation of their first and middle name or initial, and last name (i.e., john-q-smith or juan-martinez-jr). You can look yourself and others up from www.tamu.edu/phonebook.com.

An alias allows e-mail that has been sent to alias@tamu.edu to be forwarded to the e-mail address specified in the Ph e-mail field. This is advantageous because even if a student changes their e-mail address, people can continue sending it

to their alias at tamu.edu, as long as the forwarding address is current.

Students are responsible for changing their directory alias if necessary; the University will not update profiles for them. There is a large amount of flexibility in choosing a new alias. As long as the new alias is unique (students can not use an alias that someone else is already using) and is at least 3 characters long, students can change it from the web change form located at www.tamu.edu/phonebook.com.

To learn more about Ph, call Help Desk Central at 845-8300 or visit the Student Computing and Information Page at www.tamu.edu/scip.

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