

TODAY

HIGH 96°
LOW 78°

TOMORROW

HIGH 102°
LOW 82°

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Opinion:

Student organizations should not be criticized but recognized as enhancements to education.

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THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Emergency readiness

When it comes to domestic terrorism, 'the best defense is offense,' Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison says

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison announced the congressional appropriations committee will target millions of dollars to train first emergency response units for situations of domestic terrorism.

Hutchison made her remarks at a press conference at the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center at Texas A&M University Friday.

A&M's Texas Engineering Extension Service will receive \$2.5 million to continue research and training for such incidents, she said.

"After the Oklahoma City bombing, we have been looking for a center to train first responders," she said. "We have seen attacks at the World Trade Center, Oklahoma, and we've even seen it happen in a subway in Japan. We'll save the most lives if we try to contain these tragedies."

Hutchison said 25 percent of terrorist attacks are targeted against U.S. citizens and property.

"Studies have shown that terrorists go elsewhere if they know people are prepared to react," she said. "Our first line of defense is our police, our firemen and our medical units that arrive on the scene first. In the case of domestic terrorism, the best defense is offense."

TEEX is a member of a consortium that includes four other counter-terrorism training centers.

Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center at New Mexico Tech, The National Center for Bio-Med Research and Training at Louisiana State University, The Nevada Test Site, and the National Center for Domestic Preparedness at Ft. McClellan, Ala. make up the consortium.

By establishing a budget for the entire consortium, the training schools will receive more funding than they would if the appropriations committee had lobbied for each individual school, Hutchison said.

"In the consortium, they will be able to come together and plan for domestic terrorism acts and be better prepared to react," she said. "A&M has done a phenomenal job and is known as the leading training center."

Gary Stinson, president of SO Technologies and representative of the Nevada Test Site, said all first response units are trained at the Nevada Test Site.

"Our training center in Nevada is larger than the state of Rhode Island," he said.

Each member will receive \$2.5 million in funding for the next year, but Ft. McClellan will get a higher share to build new and updated facilities.

SEE HUTCHISON ON PAGE 2.

'Fallen heroes' honored Tuesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Capitol officers cut down in a burst of gunfire will be honored Tuesday at a special ceremony at the historic building where they worked and died. Their remains will lie in the Rotunda, where the coffins of presidents and commanding generals have rested.

Capitol Police Chief Gary Abrecht announced plans to memorialize the two "fallen heroes" as the suspect in the shooting, Russell E. Weston Jr., lay in a hospital bed in serious condition.

Coffins bearing the remains of officers Jacob J. Chestnut and John Gibson will be in the Capitol Rotunda early Tuesday and remain there all day.

"Those wishing to pay their respects may file past the remains," Abrecht said, speaking at a news conference a few yards from where the gunman had entered the Capitol 48 hours earlier. An afternoon service is planned, with members of Congress, other officers and families of the slain men in attendance, he said.

Abrecht said Gibson, 42, will be buried Thursday at a location to be announced. Chestnut, 58 and an Air Force veteran, will be interred the following day at Arlington National Cemetery.

The two Capitol police officers died of the wounds when the gunman, a loner with a history of mental illness, burst into the Capitol Friday afternoon and opened fire with a .38-caliber handgun.

The condition of Weston, 41, from Rimini, Mont., was upgraded from critical to serious during the day. "His cardiac status has improved," D.C. General Hospital spokesperson Donna Lewis Johnson said. Weston was shot in the chest, arms, thigh and buttocks and brought down in a furious exchange of gunfire with Gibson.

Authorities arranged a hearing in absentia for Weston on Monday in federal court, a few blocks from the Capitol. Papers filed in court in the District of Columbia on Saturday charged him with killing the two officers; the purpose of today's hearing is to bring the case into federal court.

While events were set in motion to honor the fallen — and bring the suspect to justice — tourists roamed the Capitol by the hundreds, some pausing before a pile of flowers that has grown on the steps outside in tribute to Gibson and Chestnut.

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PHOTO BY STEPHANIE CORLEY / THE BATTALION

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison speaks about domestic terrorism at A&M's National Emergency Response Center Friday.

A&M, state officials recognize AMA president for medical leadership

By SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

Dr. Nancy Dickey, a faculty member of the College of Medicine and the first female president of the American Medical Association, was honored at a reception and dinner at the George Bush Presidential Library Conference Center Friday.

Dickey, who also is director of the Family Practice Residency Foundation of the Brazos Valley, said she wants to emphasize ethics, health-care reform and the revitalization of professionalism among physicians.

"Medicine is clearly at a crossroads, and at such a challenging time, this is an extraordinary opportunity for leadership," she said.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate, spoke at the reception.

"I am so proud of Nancy," she said. "Having a family practitioner as the leader of the medical community of the nation is ideal."

Hutchison stressed health-care reform issues in her speech.

"I still want to make sure the smartest kids in the class want to be doctors," she said. "I don't

want someone to go into medicine because he or she wants to work for the government. We don't want doctors to be federal bureaucrats."

Hutchison said Congress wants to reform the health-care system to make medical care more accessible and to give people the ability to make choices about health care.

Dickey said she too wants to work to reform the health care system.

"Congress is working on passing a bill of rights for patients," Dickey said. "There is something wrong if we have to protect patients from insurance if we have to issue a bill of rights."

Hutchison said she wants to see more money going to medical research.

She said she is proud of Texas A&M University for its program in rural health care and stressed the importance of bringing quality health care to rural areas.

Hutchison said Congress is working on reforming HMOs.

"HMOs are a major part of health-care coverage," she said. "We are working on a plan to reform HMOs that will give patients choices. We also want to make it possible for patients to select doctors outside of the HMO plan to get second opinions, especially Ob./Gyn. physicians and pediatricians."

In an Associated Press story published earlier this year, former AMA president Dr. Lonnie Bristow said the AMA will benefit greatly from Dickey's leadership.

"The emphasis of Dickey's career has been on patient care, but she also has a thorough grounding in medical issues, particularly ethics, on a national level," Bristow said. "She will bring her talent and vision to those who need it most of all: our patients, the country's physicians and the Association itself."

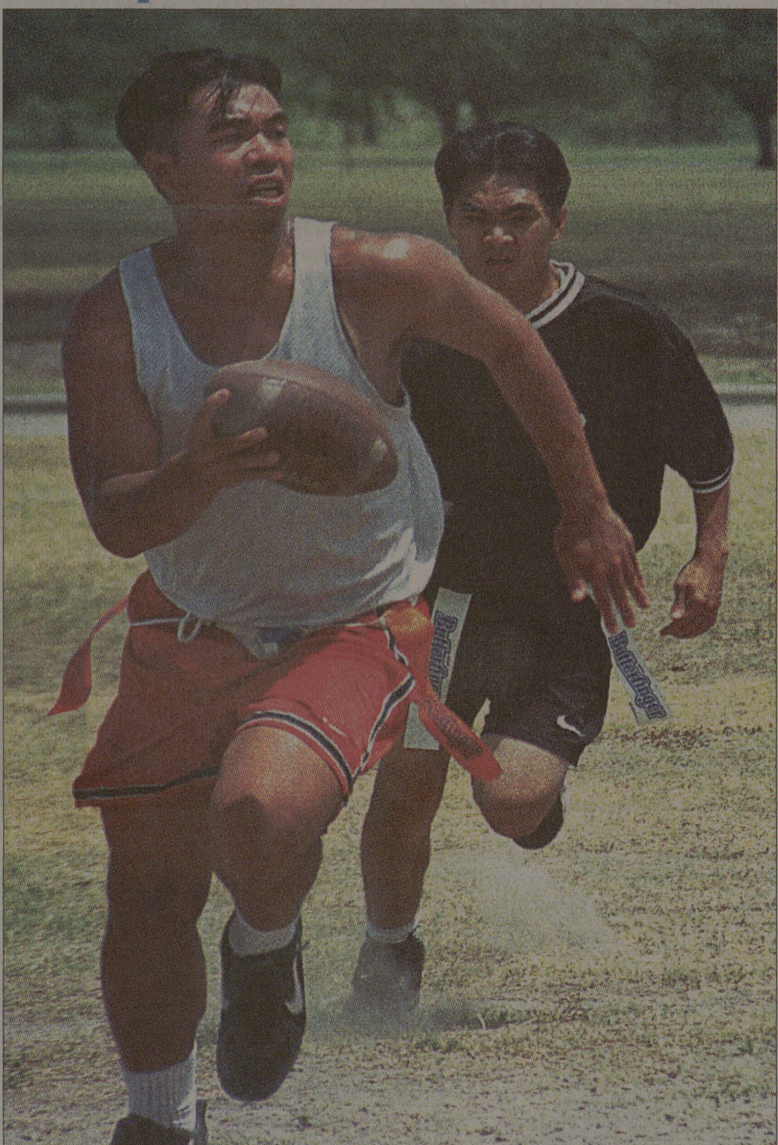


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE CORLEY / THE BATTALION

Dr. Michael Friedland and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison were present at the reception honoring Dr. Nancy Dickey (center), AMA president.

SEE DICKEY ON PAGE 2.

Hot pursuit



MIKE FUENTES / THE BATTALION

Long Ta, a member of the South Side flag-football team, is chased by a member of the Wrecking Crew flag-football team during the Vietnamese-American Student Association's flag-football tournament Sunday.

NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

Renovations to Evans and Sbis Dining Regents' decisions

The Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System held its summer meeting Thursday and Friday and voted on a variety of measures.

The Board approved renovations for Sterling C. Evans Library and Sbis Dining Hall.

Naming of the Cushing Memorial Library Reading Room for Mavis and Mary Kelsey of Houston was approved by the Board.

The Board also approved a master agreement between the A&M System and the Texas A&M Research Foundation.

The Board approved the 1998-99 System Calendar.

Two A&M students winners of 'Social Security Challenge'

A team from Texas A&M University was selected as the winner of the "Social Security Challenge" and will receive \$100,000 to implement its plan to

make Social Security a topical issue on America's campuses this fall.

A \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded to the two team members, Nathan Cray, of Lexington, TX, and Daniel Seyle of Eureka, MO.

The winning plan of the team from Texas A&M involves using the National Issues Forum as a mechanism for getting college students to talk about Social Security.

Sponsored by the Kettering Foundation, the NIF began college outreach last year through the National Collegiate Honors Council. Nathan Cray and Daniel Seyle are both experienced NIF moderators.

This proposal calls for scheduling forums about Social Security on 800 or more campuses.

A&M professor of psychology recipient of first JRP Award

John Fernandez Finch, professor of psychology, has been selected as a winner of the first JRP Award

for the best article published in the "Journal of Research in Personality."

Finch shared the award with Stephen West from Arizona State University.

Their article, "The Investigation of Personality Structure: Statistical Models," was published in the December 1997 issue of JRP.

"John Finch has done an outstanding job of teaching our undergraduate and graduate statistics courses," Paul Wellman, professor and head of the Department of Psychology, said.

The winners will receive a certificate and cash prize at the annual American Psychological Association meeting being held in San Francisco.

Forum allows students to meet director candidates

Students will have a chance to meet the prospective candidates for the position of Director of Student Activities. The Department of Student Activities is hosting a

series of open forums for students, faculty and staff to meet and speak to the candidates, including:

Monday (July 27) — Steve Ransom, director of student activities at Miami University of Ohio, 3:45 to 5 p.m., 404 Rudder Tower;

Wednesday (July 29) — Jim Waite, director of student life at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, 3:45 to 5 p.m., 504 Rudder Tower;

Monday (Aug. 3) — Kevin Jackson, senior associate director of the Memorial Student Center, 3:45 to 5 p.m.;

Tuesday (Aug. 4) — Ben Welch, director of Lowry Mays College of Business Fellows and Honors Program, 4 to 5:15 p.m.;

Wednesday (Aug. 5) — Jan Paterson, central office manager for the Association for Student Judicial Affairs, 1:30 to 2:45 p.m.; and

Thursday (Aug. 6) — Tim Sweeney, interim director of Student Activities, 3:45 to 5 p.m.

The last four candidates are from Texas A&M, and their forums will be held in 504 Rudder Tower.