

## Sounding board



ERIC NEWMAN/THE BATTALION

Scott McCrosky, a senior journalism major, writes his comments concerning professors and courses offered by the University in the MSC Monday.

## Prof favors ability to determine sex

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN  
The Battalion

Anne Fausto-Sterling, a professor of medical science at Brown University, said sexuality is a life-long process and intersexuals should have the choice to decide to have an operation to define their sex.

Fausto-Sterling said a true hermaphrodite has one ovary and one testicle. An intersexual is someone who has both male and female sexual organs in any combination. "Most intersexuals are pseudo-hermaphrodites," she said.

Fausto-Sterling said for a long time, before internal surgery was possible, there was no way to know if someone was a hermaphrodite until their death.

When sophisticated medical technology became available in the late 20th century, many intersexual births were determined early in life, and physicians performed surgery to assign them one sex.

"They were referred to as medical and social emergencies," Fausto-Sterling said. "It became important for a sexual identity to be assigned."

Fausto-Sterling said human sexuality has to be understood as a structure continually developing.

She said intersexual infants should not be operated on until they are old enough to make their own choice of whether to be male, female or not have surgery at all.

The lecture was the second of a seven-part lecture series "Listening Across Disciplines: Sciences and Humanities" co-sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Group for Humanities Studies and Center for Science and Technology Policy and Ethics at Texas A&M University.

## A time for peace

### Baha'i Club prepares for candle vigil to commemorate International Peace Day

BY NONI SRIDHARA  
The Battalion

Students from different religious backgrounds will meet tonight at 7 in front of Rudder Fountain to host a candlelight vigil in recognition of International Peace Day, sponsored by the Baha'i Club.

Matthew Sherrill, president of the Baha'i Club and a junior electrical engineering major, said International Peace Day was first adopted by the United Nations in 1981.

"The main focus of the Baha'i Club is promoting peace," Sherrill said. "We just decided to take the idea of International Peace Day and run with it," he said.

Sherrill said they tried to include the different religious backgrounds on campus.

"We have invited people from about nine religious groups," he said. "These include three Christian groups, the Hillel Jewish Foundation and the Hindu Students Council."

Madhura Karle, treasurer for the Baha'i

Club and a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said the purpose of the occasion is to bring religions together in peaceful harmony.

"One of the biggest problems in the world today is war, and many of these wars are fought due to religious differences," Karle said.

Karle said last year they celebrated International Peace Day by reading prayers and scriptures from different holy books.

"This year we have invited members from all the different religious organizations to come and share a prayer or short story or something related to peace," she said.

Breana Busch, secretary of the Baha'i Club and a sophomore nutrition major, said the main reason for hosting the event this year is to expose people to different religions and cultures.

"There are many groups on campus that do not realize that other groups exist," she said.

## Mideast build up on hold

WASHINGTON (AP) — The move to bolster U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf will be put on hold while the Clinton administration watches whether Iraq allows U.N. weapons inspectors to do their jobs, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Monday.

"We will keep the forces that are already there for the time being. Those forces that did not yet arrive, will in all probability be recycled back in the next several days," Cohen told reporters at the Pentagon.

Several dozen F-16 and F-15 fighter planes, along with four F-117 Stealth fighters, arrived in Europe over the weekend — instead of heading toward the Gulf as originally planned.

About 4,000 Army troops at Fort Stewart, Ga., and Fort Bliss, Texas, that had been earmarked for deployment also will be allowed to stand down, Cohen said.

Those forces will "be ready to go at a moment's notice" and remain on watch to see that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein keeps his promises, the secretary said.

Once the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise arrives in the Gulf, the one there — the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower — is expected to be allowed to return home on schedule, the secretary said.

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