



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• Native American Students Association hosts annual pow-wow in Bryan on Saturday.

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City Council workshop develops Munson Avenue plan

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

College Station City Council members are discussing the possibility of widening Munson Avenue, a plan that could be implemented if voters elect to reopen the street in May.

David Dickson, College Station mayor pro tempore, said during a workshop held by the City Council yesterday the council members discussed potential costs of widening Munson Avenue from 38 feet to either 38, 48 or 56 feet. "We took into account the volume of current cars and came up

with an approximate cost based on a 48-foot-wide road," Dickson said. "The cost was said to be \$95,000, but I believe this to be very conservative."

Dickson said if Munson Avenue is expanded 10 feet, the city would probably have to buy houses to provide space for the expansion.

Stephen Miller, a member of Citizens for Neighborhood Integrity, which is an organization in favor of the barricades placed on the residential street, said Munson Avenue would probably be expanded to the size of Southwest Parkway in order to accom-

modate the resulting increase in traffic.

"With expansion up to 38 feet, the city would definitely have to buy the houses at 1202 and 1204 Munson," Miller said. "A six-foot-wide sidewalk would also be built."

Miller said houses would have to be destroyed, unless the residents do not mind having 10,000 cars pass within five to six feet of their house every day.

Mike McMichen, a member of Friends of Our Community, which is an organization in favor of opening Munson Avenue, said the discussion of expansion is prema-

ture since the decision is not definite. He said he thinks city officials should collect more data before discussing the issue.

"Traffic counts have not been taken on Munson since the construction on Texas Avenue has been completed," said McMichen.

McMichen said the widening of Munson was first proposed by the City Council in the 1960s.

"The expansion of Munson has been part of the city's long-range plans, and I believe they should follow through," McMichen said. "The plan is to expand the rest of Munson to equal the width of South Munson, which is the part

in front of the sorority houses."

Miller said Citizens for Neighborhood Integrity wants to find alternatives other than the expansion to allow for movement throughout the city and conserve neighborhoods.

"Does progress mean the destruction of successful neighborhoods?" Miller asked.

Kayla Glover, head of Friends of Our Community, said expansion will be necessary, but not immediately after the election, should the outcome be to reopen Munson Avenue.

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Teleconference brings forum for spiritual debate

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Naturalist, Eastern and Christian were the three views presented at the Faith and Science Forum teleconference last night to discuss whether or not there is meaning to evil and suffering.

A topic discussed during the teleconference was the concept of moral law.

Dr. Ravi Zacharias, a Christian author, began the conference by trying to get people to conceptualize the reality of evil and suffering.

"There are two distinct tracks when people think about how to approach evil and suffering," he said. "These are the intellectual track and the emotional track."

Zacharias said God should be viewed as an author of the script of life. He said people should respond to life's storyline with love.

"Out of worship comes love of God and love of fellow human beings," Zacharias said.

Dr. Jitendra Mohanty, professor of philosophy and Asian studies at Emory and Temple Universities, presented the Eastern viewpoint. Mohanty said pain and suffering cannot be separated.

"Faith may help you deal with pain and suffering," Mohanty said, "but that does not help us understand why."

Representing the naturalist point of view was Dr. Bernard Leikind, a plasma physicist and the senior editor of Skeptic magazine.

Leikind said the purpose of people's lives are the things they create, and the glory and tragedy of their lives belong to them.

"The universe has no purpose," Leikind said. "All ideas about cosmic universe are speculations without credibility. The only moral law giver is you and me."

Leikind said God was a gambler and takes on propositions from Satan.

"Isn't it ironic how currently, any proposals for human testing are rejected, but in ancient times it was one big experiment," he said.

Dr. William L. Craig, a teacher at Talbot School of Theology told

SEE CONFERENCE ON PAGE 2.

Students for Peace sponsor conflict forum

BY PING-YA HSU
The Battalion

A forum last night offered Texas A&M students a broader perspective about the situation between the United States and Iraq. Sponsored by Students for Peace, an organization promoting world peace and non-violent conflict resolution, the forum featured experts on the Middle East from the University of Texas.

The speakers were Dr. Robert Jensen, head of campaign for Justice and Peace for the Middle East and an associate professor of journalism at UT; Zeynep Tufek, a journalist from Radio Television UT, an Austin television station; and Rahul Mahajan, a graduate student at UT involved with the Anti-War Committee in Austin.

"The United States is considered great power and behaves according to this status," Jensen said. "United States policy toward the Middle East does not have anything to do with international law."

Jensen said the government does not behave in correlation with international law by its staging of illegal bombing attacks on Iraq.

"We are now standing by while a holocaust is happening in Iraq," Jensen said. "It is really important to learn about the situation and make a difference."

Jensen said the victims of these attacks most affected are the Iraqi population, not its leader, Saddam Hussein.

Jensen said the destruction of major food and health provision areas caused nearly one million people to die.

"We need to collectively work responsibly," Jensen said. "The real work is to make people understand that this is not a question."

Jensen encouraged students to get involved with national organizations that lobby in Washington toward changing U.S. foreign policy.

He said the public needs to receive more education about this matter because the U.S. government and the media do not provide alternative sides to the public.

Zeynep Tufek provided statistical information on the number of people dying because of U.S. sanctions.

She said five people in Iraq die of malnutrition, starvation or disease every half hour. Most victims are children under age 5.

"Kids are dying of the need of very simple things," Tufek said. "The damage started mostly because of the bombings and sanctions."

The forum was opened for discussion and questions from students who attended the event.

Hussein hits home



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Elva Evans, of Saratoga, Wyo., reads information on Saddam Hussein and views his photo at the Desert Storm section of the Bush Museum. Museum hours are Mon. through Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Brazos Valley adds twist to Mardi Gras tomorrow

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

The streets of historic downtown Bryan will come to life tomorrow with a Mardi Gras celebration from noon to 6 p.m.

The celebration will incorporate the sights and sounds of Mardi Gras with entertainment from the Brazos Valley.

The fifth annual "Mardi Gras Brazos Style" will feature live entertainment at the Palace Theatre by the Red Brick Bunch, the Blue Valentines and John Wick and the Full House Blues Band.

101.9 KZTR-FM, and 98.3 KORA-FM will broadcast live from the celebration from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., offering free meals.

Joey Armstrong, program director of 101.9 KZTR-FM and morning show personality, said he is excited about the celebration

and wants to hear from the radio station's listeners.

"I am really looking forward to meeting everyone," Armstrong said.

Contestants from throughout Texas will compete in an International Barbecue Cookers Association-sanctioned cook-off, which will begin Friday and be judged Saturday.

Kali Wood, assistant coordinator for the Bryan Main Street Project, said the purpose of the event is to celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras and to attract visitors to the historic area.

"I think this is a good way to celebrate the spirit of Mardi Gras in downtown Bryan," she said. "Our goal is to bring old and new visitors into the historic downtown area to see what types of services and businesses are available to the public."

The Mardi Gras celebration

MARDI GRAS BRAZOS STYLE
5th Annual Brazos Valley Mardi Gras 12-6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

- John Wick
- Blue Valentines
- Red Brick Bunch
- Full House Blue Band

will be centered around the Palace Theatre, and visitors should park on Bryan Street or behind the Palace Theatre. Main Street will be closed.

A&M students from Middle East mourn the death of King Hussein

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

Majed Azouqah, a native of Jordan, said King Hussein will be remembered as a king who reigned in the best interests of his people.

Azouqah is one of 11 Jordanian students attending Texas A&M University, according to International Student Services.

Azouqah, the president of the Arabian Students Association and a junior electrical engineering major, said King Hussein's death has left a void in Jordan, where the country's citizens will remember him as a leader who dramatically improved the state of the nation.

"He always had the the best interests of the people at heart," Azouqah said. "He won their loyalty, and he won the hearts of the people."

Azouqah, whose family lives in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said Hussein provided stability to the Jordanian government.

While the Jordanian constitution allows for the practice of free speech, Azouqah said most Jordanians supported Hussein's leadership.

"Jordan is one of the few Arabic countries where people can say what is on their minds," Azouqah said. "I did not hear anything negative of him when

I was in Jordan."

Raad Al-nasser, a sophomore electrical engineering major who moved to the United States to attend college, said Jordanians were less critical of King Hussein than the criticism many Americans direct towards the U.S. president.

Al-nasser was born in Jordan but grew up in the UAE, the country where his family lives.

Al-nasser attributes Jordanians' admiration of Hussein's leadership to his works, including the organization of a military, a Parliament and a judicial system.

"Jordan was kind of like a desert before [King Hussein]," Al-nasser said. "King Hussein made it a full country with a judicial system. He definitely set an example. He had a lot of love for his people."

In Hussein's place, his son and successor, Abdullah, will lead Jordan.

Al-nasser said Abdullah is prepared to take over where his father left off.

"He is going to have everything, but he is going to have to gain the respect of the people," Al-nasser said. "The road lies ahead of him."



HUSSEIN