



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY

April 7, 1999

Volume 105 • Issue 122 • 12 Pages  
College Station, Texas



## aggielife

• True confessions: men profess their love for the melodramatic in the form of soap operas.

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## today's issue

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## Battalion Radio

Find out about Bryan's new concert series at 1:57 p.m. on KAMU-FM 90.9.

## sports

• The sixth-ranked Texas A&M Baseball Team blasted the Sam Houston Bearkats 15-4.

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## U.S. prepares for refugees

### Albanians seek shelter from Kosovo, 20,000 to begin arriving in Cuba

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Ethnic Albanians continued to seek refuge yesterday in various tent cities in efforts to relocate away from the conflict in Kosovo.

In the past 13 days, more than 430,000 refugees have left Kosovo — 262,000 have fled to Albania, 120,000 to Macedonia, 36,700 to Montenegro, 7,900 to Bosnia-Herzegovina and 6,000 to Turkey.

The United States, Germany, Norway, France and Canada have agreed to grant temporary asylum to refugees. The United States will accept 20,000 people, and Germany, Norway, Sweden and Canada will accept 40,000, 9,000, 12,000 and 5,000, respectively.

Western nations flew 3,000 more Al-

banians from Macedonia to temporary homes in Turkey yesterday. Turkey said it will accept 20,000 refugees. Turkey has had strong historical and religious ties to the ethnic Albanians.

The first group arrived at Corlu, in western Turkey, and were taken to a tent city near the town of Kırklareli, close to the Bulgarian border.

Preparations were made yesterday to transport 3,000 refugees to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where 51,000 Haitian refugees sought asylum in 1994. Out of fear that the ethnic Albanians will be displaced from their homeland permanently if they choose not to return after the conflict is over, the Albanian government has agreed to shelter refugees currently fleeing to Macedonia.

Many western nations are helping refugees. Greece and Italy are setting up tent cities for 100,000 refugees in Kukës, Albania, a northern border town.

Many of the refugees have now been transported to Brazda, a tent city near Brace.

Refugees caught on the Yugoslavian side of the Yugoslavia-Macedonia border were forced to return to Kosovo by Serbian forces. It is thought that these refugees may be used as human shields to prevent NATO air strikes, according to a CNN report.

A NATO spokesperson in Brussels, Belgium, said six other tent cities are being prepared by alliance troops who will also provide food, water, medical aid, beds and blankets.

## Group to research Wellborn rail line

BY AMANDA SMITH  
The Battalion

The railroad tracks that divide the main part of the Texas A&M campus from West Campus may become the subject of research, if the Bryan-College Station Municipal Planning Organization (BCSMPO) approves a resolution authorizing the staff to conduct a rail study.

The BCSMPO will meet today at 10:30 a.m. in room 102 of the Brazos Center, located at 3232 Briarcrest Dr.

Michael Parks, BCSMPO director, said the policy committee's authorization to engage in a working relationship with Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and Union Pacific Railroad could allow the BCSMPO to apply for matching grant dollars from the federal govern-

ment for further research on the railroad.

The BCSMPO, consisting of the cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos County and Texas A&M, began reviewing the current status of the Union Pacific Railroad line in February 1998.

Union Pacific Railroad has committed \$100,000 to the study.

Currently, 24 trains a day travel along the tracks that parallel Wellborn Road. Trains traveling along the Union Pacific line average 20 mph, in comparison to some trains averaging 60 mph along rural routes.

Eddy Handley, assistant vice president of Union Pacific Railroad, said at the BCSMPO meeting last month the Bryan-College Station community must brace itself for an increase in train traffic along the Wellborn Road line.

Handley said Union Pacific Railroad is considering building a second track through the community, which would double Union Pacific Railroad's carrying capacity and train traffic through Bryan and College Station.

In response to the increased pedestrian, car and train traffic, the Texas A&M Board of Regents appropriated \$10 million for the design and selection of an architect/engineer design team for the proposed Wellborn Road pedestrian passageway.

The proposed crossing would run under the Wellborn Road/Union Pacific Railroad corridor connecting main campus and West Campus.

The proposed passageway would be integrated into the new West Campus parking garage and the new Kyle Field entry plaza.

## Tibetan art.



CARINO CASAS/THE BATTALION

Palden Tinley, a Tibetan monk from the Drepung Loseling Monastery in India, adds sand to the mandala painting in the MSC Visual Arts Gallery Tuesday. This particular painting represents longevity. It will be dismantled today at the closing ceremony, symbolizing the impermanence of life.

SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3.

## A&M students to 'fight' for charity in boxing bout

BY ANDREA BROCKMAN  
The Battalion

Texas A&M students and amateur boxers will duke it out for charity tonight at Kappa Sigma Fraternity's third annual Fight Night benefiting the American Parkinson's Disease Association (APDA).

Fight Night will be at Rodeo 2000 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and there are approximately 15 bouts scheduled.

The amateur boxing competition is Kappa Sigma's annual spring philanthropy project. Last year, the fraternity raised \$4,500 for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Regina Ragan, coordinator for the American Parkinson's Disease Association's Information and Referral Center,

said Fight Night will be the first charity event for the year-old Brazos Valley chapter. She said the money raised will assist local Parkinson's patients and fund educational symposiums.

Muhammed Ali, world champion boxer, recently became one of the most visible spokespersons for APDA.

Zac Restad, a Kappa Sigma alum and an organizer of the event, said the majority of the bouts are between fraternity and Corps of Cadets members.

"The event usually draws a crowd because of the rivalry between the Corps and frats," he said.

Students participating in the event trained at the Bryan Boxing Club and Darryl's Gym, two local gyms supported by the Brazos Valley

Boxing Association. Amateurs from the community who train at the gyms will also fight.

Restad said amateur boxers from Houston and Huntsville will compete with the community boxers because they are typically more experienced than the students.

Restad not only helped organize the event, but he will also participate in the super heavy-weight division.

"I'm really pumped about the competition, but I'm also a little nervous," he said. "My nose was broken last week during practice."

Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance at Rodeo 2000, Greek Boutique, Disc-Go-Round and the Rothers on Southgate and Harvey Road.

## Gay Awareness Week to address prejudices

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

Hate crimes and involvement in Greek life are among the issues to be discussed at Gay Awareness Week events the remainder of this week.

Brooks Bell, president of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA) and a senior computer science major, said Gay Awareness Week, celebrated each spring, is similar to Coming Out Week each fall. He said Coming Out Week is a national event, and Gay Awareness Week is an additional celebration at held annually at Texas A&M.

The week's events include "Hate Crimes," a speech by licensed therapist Gary Norman, Wednesday; "Gay and Greek," a discussion Thursday inspired by the book *Out on Fraternity Row*, which features personal accounts of homosexual students involved in Greek organizations; and "ALLY Rally, March on TAMU," Friday.

"Hate Crimes," sponsored by Gender Issues Education Services, will be at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder; "Gay and Greek," sponsored by GLBTA, will be at 7 p.m. in the Governance Room in Koldus; and "ALLY Rally, March on TAMU," sponsored by ALLIES, will begin at noon at Rudder Fountain.

Bell said GLBTA covers various topics affecting the gay community at the week-long celebrations, and this year, the organization chose to discuss gay students' involvement in Greek life.

Bell said Delta Lambda Phi is the only national fraternity he is aware of that openly accepts the gay community in membership.

Bell said in the 1980s the gay community presented requests to the Texas A&M Board of Regents to be allowed to form a recognized on-campus organization. The board rejected the request, and the students sued the Texas A&M University System. He said the case advanced to the U.S.

### Gay Awareness Week Events

Wednesday: Gary Norman "Hate Crimes" at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder

Thursday: "Gay and Greek" discussion at 7 p.m. in Governance Room in the Koldus Building

Friday: "ALLY Rally, March on TAMU" at noon starting at Rudder Fountain

Supreme Court who approved the proposal. He said the approval for the Greek community to found organizations on campus occurred as a direct result of the court decision to allow homosexual organizations.

"A lot of people don't realize that the reason we have the Greek system at A&M is because of the gay people," he said.

## Tools, fishing methods offer insight into ancient sailors' lives

BY RACHEL HOLLAND  
The Battalion

Navigating tools and fishing methods are characteristics that help to define the medieval North Atlantic sailors, a nautical archeologist said last night.

Brad Lowen, a doctoral candidate at the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada, told an audience of 30 that the features of North Atlantic navigation indicate the region sailors traveled in. He said knowing the characteristics helps define more clear boundaries between the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean regions.

"Nautical archeology can be used to show the mentality of the sailors and then define the boundaries of their space," he said.

Lowen said lead sounding tools and compasses are used to navigate the environment of the North Atlantic. He said the fog, the tides and the continental shelf of the region made these tools necessary.

He said lead-sounding tools indicated depth and soil type, which, in turn, indi-

cated the location.

"The lead tools measured the depth of water and also had a plug of wax used to sample the soil of the ocean floor," he said. "In this topsy turvy world where lead tools indicated geographic location, time was conquered with a compass."

Lowen said the most precise use of the compass was to tell lunar time, the position of the moon at high tide.

Another characteristic that defined the North Atlantic sailors, Lowen said, is the fishing society that dominated the region. He said the North Atlantic sailors changed from a traditional system where the captain and the crew shared the profits, to a more modern system.

"Merchants, called hosts, would sponsor the captain and the crew," he said.

"The outfitter, the captain and the crew would share the profits in this three-part arrangement unique to the North Atlantic."

Lowen's lecture was the second in a series designed by the Nautical Archeology Program to evaluate potential faculty members.