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Saturday, May 1
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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Software to help prevent loss of data to computer crashes

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

A product from Symantec, Norton CrashGuard 4.0, is a computer program that warns users of crashes before they happen, allows them to save their work before any data is lost and walks them through the crash recovery process, but Texas A&M network operations specialist Bob Brooks said he is skeptical of the software.

Omar Garcia, public relations coordinator for the Symantec Corporation, said although crashes are inevitable, protection from the loss of data saves students time and work.

Garcia said the most significant features of the CrashGuard are Crash Assistant, Vital Save and Crash Advisor.

"CrashGuard Assistant and Crash Advisor allow users to understand what went wrong with

their computer systems and recommend what the user should do," Garcia said.

Vital Save is prompted when the system crashes and allows work to be saved.

Garcia said the installation process is simple and uses a small amount of drive space.

"It comes on a CD-ROM, so all you have to do is follow the instructions," Garcia said. "It's intuitive, it guides you through the process, and it takes up only 5 megabytes of hard-drive space."

"The program runs in the background, so users don't have to do anything. Users will be prompted before anything happens. The program is built for the not-so-technical user."

If a user experiences a crash while surfing the Internet, CrashGuard allows users to restart the crashed Web browser quickly and return to the last URL visited.

Brooks said CrashGuard is beneficial for people who use older versions of Windows, but not necessarily for others.

"The older versions of Windows were notorious for locking up and crashing, so if someone is using one of the earlier versions of Windows, it's a good thing to have," he said.

Brooks said, as far as students are concerned, he thinks the program is a waste of money. He said the best and cheapest protection against losing data is to save work often.

Norton CrashGuard 4.0 is compatible with major programs, including Microsoft Office '97 and Microsoft Office '98, Quicken and Adobe Photoshop, and it will save any information that is open at the time of the crash.

CrashGuard can be purchased at for about \$30 in most computer stores or on the Symantec Website.

Discoverer of Titanic says future of exploration lies on ocean floor

BY EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

Dr. Robert D. Ballard shared his experiences of the study of the Mid-Atlantic ridge, the discovery of the Titanic and his ongoing uncovering of the mysteries of the sea.

"Deep Sea Exploration" was the third and final event of the inaugural season of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

Ballard is most known for his discoveries of the RMS Titanic, the German battleship, Bismarck and the U.S. aircraft carrier Yorktown.

Ballard said he and his team discovered the Titanic in the summer of 1986 by finding a trail of debris from the massive ship on the floor of the north Atlantic ocean.

He said once they discovered the remains of the ship's boilers, it was not long until they found

the sunken ship.

Ballard said the ocean serves as an exceptional preserver of ships and artifacts. He said the Titanic's chandeliers were still hanging in the dining room when they discovered the foundered luxury liner.

Ballard said he and his team have been able to excavate artifacts and antique remains in near pristine condition.

Ballard said the discovery of the RMS Titanic sparked interest in the world's youth population in deep-sea exploration.

To keep young people motivated, he started the JASON project. The JASON machine is a robotic exploration tool used to view underwater life.

The project is in its 10th year and consists of a variety of specialized scientists who compose a curriculum for junior high-school students to learn about and participate in deep-sea ex-

ploration.

Students participate in deep-sea dives throughout the world by down linking by satellites in classrooms built for the JASON project. Down link sites are in 37 states.

Future plans for Ballard include a long-awaited exploration of the Black Sea.

Ballard said he and his team have two major foci: to discover terrestrial remains of ancient populations that were wiped out by a catastrophic flood and to discover artifacts along the continental shelf of the sea.

Ballard also wants to explore the thousands of feet of stagnant, anoxic water, which provides perfect conditions for preservation.

Ballard said the next generation of deep-sea explorers will have the opportunity to discover more aspects of the ocean than any other generation.

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Denver... preempts... after comm... about sho...

(AP) — Days after Stern made wise... the Columbine... massacre, a Denver... pre-empting the... Saturday night... on the rampage... "It's not disreputable," said Mar... KCNC-TV's vice president... general manager... pline Howard Stern... sibility here in terms... the community is... think is appropriate... ment to address the... concerns and question... community. The... ate, meanwhile, passed... lution Wednesday... Stern for his comm... The day after the... Stern reportedly... aloud on his national... cated radio show... gunmen tried "to... any of the good-look... who fled the school... The radio show... Denver on KXP-FM... KXPK spokesperson... said Wednesday... has not dropped the... did run apologies for... marks. He also said... told Stern's producers... ments "were inappropriate... insensitive to the comm... On Wednesday's... Stern said he had taken... that is... parents about the comm... "I just said, 'You... be pl... so weary of all this... A&M... Stern said. "And then... for the... know what? So what... m... They take you off the... NCAA... cares? Who cares? ... 14-1... too short..." the Big... CBS, whose syndica... the Ja... Eyemark distributes... weekly television... declined to comment... The Colorado Senat... adopted 34-1, called... drop Stern's show... resolution passed... Tuesday by 57-4. Opp... jected on First Ave... grounds.