



# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## aggielife

• The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History showcases the creatures of the ice age.

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## today's issue

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## Battalion Radio

For information about the robbery of a College Station video-rental store yesterday, listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m.

## opinion

• Leaving graduation early shows disrespect for fellow Aggies' accomplishments.

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## Traffic violation leads to three-car collision



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Officials at the Bryan Police Department said the driver of a Ford Explorer hit a Toyota pickup truck after the driver of the pickup truck failed to yield at the intersection of FM 2818 and Sandy Point Road Monday. Those involved were taken to St. Joseph Regional Health Center and Columbia Medical Center. Officials said the people involved suffered only minor cuts and bruises except for the driver of the pickup truck, who suffered a broken rib.

# Officials look to streamline graduation

BY RYAN WEST  
The Battalion

In response to the number of people leaving graduation ceremonies early, A&M officials and student leaders are searching for ways to restructure the commencement events.

SEE RELATED COLUMN ON PAGE 7.

This summer's graduation ceremony will offer less time between each of the names called as officials continue to stress that audience members stay through the entire ceremony.

Don Gardner, associate registrar, said the large number of people departing graduation ceremonies has become a major concern.

"We would like for everyone to treat graduation like an Aggie football game. Leaving early is not fair to Aggie buddies."

Gardner said students leaving graduation ceremonies has been more of a problem at Reed Arena than when graduation was held in G. Rollie White Coliseum. He said A&M authorities had tighter control in G. Rollie because graduation officials were able to use their own ushers and staff. Reed Arena employees are used at ceremonies in the new facility.

Carroll Albritton, general manager of Reed Arena, said that although ushers are placed at all exits on the lower level, the Reed Arena staff is not in a position to

hold anyone there.

"At high-school graduations, authorities have more control," Albritton said. "But at the college level, we are dealing with adults."

"We have signs posted that request students stay, but families are leaving early too, so it's happening at both levels."

Lichar Dillon, Class of '99, received his undergraduate diploma at G. Rollie in 1996 and his master's certificate at Reed.

In comparing the two ceremonies, Dillon said people leaving early did not seem to be as much of a problem in G. Rollie White as in Reed Arena.

**"We would like for everyone to treat graduation like an Aggie football game. Leaving early is not fair to Aggie buddies."**

— Don Gardner  
Associate registrar

He said there were rows of empty seats within the first 30 minutes of people walking the stage at Reed Arena. Dillon said he thought if the ceremony had been shorter, people might have stayed.

Bryan Atchison, Class of '98, said that during his graduation, he heard complaints about the lengthy ceremony from his family as well as other people in the audience.

"They need to work on keeping it short and sweet," Atchison said. Student Body President Will Hurd said if students continue to leave, the University will have to drastically change the commencement ceremony.

"We've talked about holding college-based ceremonies — or maybe even just mailing out degrees," Hurd said. "This means students

SEE GRADUATION ON PAGE 2.

# Program targets drunken driving

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

Beginning this fall, a new student sponsored program called Car Pool Inc. will offer students a safe alternative to potential disaster after a weekend night of drinking.

Beginning Sept. 16, Car Pool Inc. will offer students a ride home from 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Car Pool Inc. consists of four directors, 11 leaders and 132 members.

Angela Winkler, adviser for Car Pool Inc. and adviser for student activities, said volunteers went through an application and interview process.

"It really impressed me how students came together and showed such passion for this program," Winkler said.

The program is headquartered in a Plantation Oaks apartment donated by the complex. Two volunteers a night will answer phones.

Each of the seven vehicles used will be equipped with cell phones and will be driven by two volunteers, one male and one female.

Jeff Schiefelbein, founder-chair of Car Pool Inc. and a senior marketing major, said the idea for the project began after he was charged with DWI on Harvey Road.

In November of 1998, Schiefelbein said he reluctantly attended a Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) victim-impact panel in which victim's of drunken drivers and their families talk about the impact a drunken driver had on their lives.

He said this experience led him to the idea

of the program. His original plan was to tell his friends to call him on his cell phone, and he would pick them up if they felt they were unable to drive.

Schiefelbein said he wanted to use the experience and partnerships he had made through student government to implement this program.

Since November, Schiefelbein has been researching similar programs at other universities and talking to lawyers and officials to put this program together.

"The program is not going to be judgmental or look down on students that choose to drink," he said. "We just want to provide a safe ride for anyone that wants one."

SEE DRIVE ON PAGE 2.

## Bugged out

Weather brings added insects

BY STUART HUTSON  
The Battalion

High rainfall over the past month combined with a series of mild winters has led to a rise in mosquito and grasshopper populations in the Brazos Valley.

Jim Olson, a professor of medical entomology at Texas A&M, said the College Station area is currently experiencing above-average number of "flood-water mosquitoes."

Olson said flood-water mosquitoes do not lay their eggs in standing water like normal mosquitoes but lay them in damp places where the eggs remain until they hatch during the next rainfall. He said the recent cycling of wet and dry weather has caused a boost in the population of the flood-water mosquito.

"It's like instant mosquitoes," he said, "Just add water and boom."

Olson said flood-water mosquitoes usually bite humans more than mosquitoes that lay eggs in still water but tend to transmit fewer diseases such as encephalitis, which may lead to flu-like symptoms, paralysis and death.

He suggests staying away from mosquito-prone areas such as wooded areas and creek beds, especially during the late afternoon and early evening hours.

He also suggests keeping mosquitoes from breeding in backyards by not allowing water to stand in a container more than three days and placing "bug-zappers" for remote areas of the backyard.

Raymond Frisbie, head of the Department of Entomology at A&M, said the cricket and grasshopper populations also have been a nuisance this summer.

## Preventing Mosquitoes

(from www.mosquito.org)



1. Do not allow water to accumulate in containers kept outdoors for more than two or three days.
2. Clean debris from rain gutters and remove standing water under or around structures, or on flat roofs.
3. Mow lawns regularly.
4. Destroy or dispose of tin cans, old tires, buckets, plastic sheeting and other containers that are kept outdoors that collect water.
5. Irrigate lawns and gardens.

JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

tomology at A&M, said the cricket and grasshopper populations also have been a nuisance this summer.

Frisbie said the insects are usually killed by the cold temperatures that occur when winter arrives, but recent mild winters have allowed the insects to survive.

He said the increased population has been causing problems all over central Texas where the grasshoppers eat crops, especially cotton.

SEE BUGS ON PAGE 2.

# ISA to host Northgate celebration

BY STUART HUTSON  
The Battalion

Racially motivated assaults in Northgate have sparked Planet Northgate, a joint attempt between the International Student Association (ISA) and Aggies For a Safe Community to facilitate relations between peoples of different cultural backgrounds.

The event will take place on Sep. 10 and 11 in Northgate on Church Street and College Main.

Suzanne Drolesky, executive director for international programs for students at Texas A&M, said the event will bring all the communities of A&M together.

"This is just a way of saying to everyone, 'hey folks, we are all just human,'" she said.

Gustavo de Sousa, ISA president, said booths offering foods representative of different ethnic groups along with several booths presenting displays from a variety of A&M student organizations will be set up in the Northgate Area.

He also said there will be bands which will play many different forms of music on the Northgate promenade including reggae, salsa, Brazilian samba, meringue and country-and-western.

"We want people to be able to hear the music and taste the flavor of different cultures," he said.



CODY WARES/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M International Student Association will present "Planet Northgate," a diversity celebration Sept. 10 and 11 at Northgate.

Holly Doughty, former chair of Whoopstock and a senior agricultural development major, said such activities as Planet Northgate and Whoopstock are needed to further understanding of cultural diversity both on and off campus.

Sousa said Planet Northgate will offer many ways for an individual to experience aspects of cultures different from their own.

"We just want to get as many different people together as possible in hopes of teaching them a little more about cultural diversity," he said.

He said the early dates in September were chosen because no A&M football games are scheduled for that weekend. The event is being sponsored by the College Station Chamber of Commerce, the College Station Police Department and the Northgate Business Association.

Organizations who are interested in having a booth at the event are encouraged to contact the ISA.