



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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sports

• Soccer's rising popularity offers a challenge to football's dominance with fans.

PAGE 3

today's issue

News 2

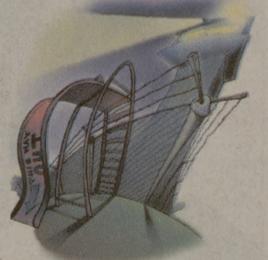
Battalion Radio

Listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. to hear how A&M's College of Science is helping high-school teachers keep up to date.

opinion

• Recent breakouts call for a reevaluation of security efforts at the Huntsville State Prison.

PAGE 5



University endorses direct-deposit plan

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

University Payroll Services and the Department of Human Resources are promoting direct deposit, in which an employee's paycheck is deposited directly into his bank account rather than mailed, because of the benefits direct deposit offers over the system of issuing paper checks.

Keri Robertson, director of University Payroll Services, said University Payroll Services and the Department of Human Resources have been meeting with different departments each week to provide information and answer questions regarding direct deposit.

"Transferring money electronically eliminates paper handling and reduces the likelihood of lost, stolen or misdirected checks," she said.

The University policy regarding electronic direct deposit says that it "encourages all employees to participate in electronic direct deposit of their payroll check."

Gregg Baird, Vice President of Aggieland Credit Union, said a rumor that employees of A&M would be forced to use direct deposit probably

started because the federal government is beginning to require income tax refund checks and benefits such as Social Security to be deposited electronically.

"People need to get prepared for the possibility [of having only direct deposit] in the future," Baird said.

Robertson said direct deposit is available to employees who bank with national and state banks and credit unions. She said the bank has to be a member of the Automated Clearing House (ACH).

Robertson said an electronic file containing the amount the employee has earned is prepared a few days before payday. When producing paper checks, the information would be sent to a printer and those checks would have to be sorted by hand.

When funds are sent by direct deposit, the electronic file is then sent to a clearing bank, the bank A&M uses, and then to the ACH. The pay amount is then sent to individual financial institutions.

She said the information sent via the electronic file is tested in advance to check for problems with the transmission which can be solved before employees are aware of it.

"When there are mistakes, and there can be, they can be cleared up before payday," Robertson said.

She said the pay amount gets to the bank at the beginning of the banking day on payday and the transaction can be verified through phone, the Internet or ATM. She said all banks have at least one of these systems and most offer all three.

"[Paper] checks are so vulnerable nowadays," Robertson said. "Direct deposit just does away with the piece of paper that's so vulnerable."

She said generating the paper checks costs the University money, too.

"Direct deposit eliminates man hours spent organizing and delivering checks," she said. She said the most common obstacle is that people think they cannot afford a checking account due to service fees and charges.

"Some local financial institutions are promoting direct deposit by offering free checking accounts to A&M employees," Robertson said.

SEE PAYROLL ON PAGE 2.

Direct-deposit payment process

1. Electronic file of the employee's pay is prepared.
2. Employee's file is sent to clearing bank.
3. Bank sends file to Automated Clearing House (ACH).
4. ACH sends amount to employee's bank.
5. Employee's account credited for amount.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

The grand tour



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Tim Duvall (left), a junior speech communications major, explains the woodcarvings in the Memorial Student Center Sunday to participants in the Summer Engineering Experience (S.E.E.), an engineering competition for high-school students.

Bush Library offers Maine history exhibit

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum has seen an increase in attendance since the opening of the exhibit "An Anchor to Winward: The Maine Connection."

The exhibit features two distinct styles of artwork that are enhanced by a dividing wall that runs through the gallery, setting up the contrast of the two collections.

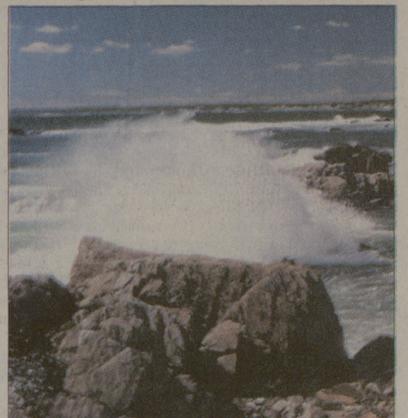
The first half chronicles the history of Kennebunkport since the 17th century, and the second area of the exhibit flashes forward to the 20th century to chronicle Bush's time at his summer retreat in Maine.

Patricia Burchfield, curator for the museum, said the Bushes have made a trip to see the display, which shows the history of Kennebunkport, Maine, and how the shipping and fishing industries in the area helped shape America.

"We were also trying to show that Kennebunkport is not just a resort area," Burchfield said, "but that there is a connection between how Maine shaped [George] Bush as a person."

There are different types of paintings on display in the gallery. The paintings depict the diverse landscapes of the New England town, with the diversity being highlighted by the variety of canvas sizes and frame styles.

Bush's great-great grandfather and grandfather purchased a peninsula in Kennebunkport in 1903 known as Walker's Point, which has numerous houses on it for the large Bush family.



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

This photo is one of many depicting the history of Kennebunkport and its ties to the Bush family in an exhibit currently featured at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

unkport in 1903 known as Walker's Point, which has numerous houses on it for the large Bush family.

"Bush has gone there for a month every summer his whole life, except for when he was in World War II," Burchfield said.

SEE MAINE ON PAGE 2.

Conference stresses need for diversity

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

One hundred higher-education professionals from around the state attended Friday's Texas Higher Education Diversity Conference at A&M where ideas concerning diversity were shared and educators were taught how to facilitate diversity on their own campuses.

The conference sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Services at A&M and the Division of Student Affairs, featured workshops that addressed issues including the role white males play in diversity, problems faced by disabled people, the media's effects on diversity, methods of diversity counseling and how children's games affect their perceptions of diversity.

Crystal Thomas, a hall director from St. Edward's University in Austin, said diversity is like a sheet of music.

"We are all different kinds of notes that are just



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Bill Proudman, spokesperson for Inclusivity Consulting Group, leads a group discussion during the Diversity Celebration in Rudder Tower Friday.

sounds on our own," she said. "But when we come together, we make a beautiful song."

Patti Reardon, staff assistant for the Department of Residence Life, said she enjoyed the children's games workshop because it illustrated how games can create the attitudes and perceptions people bring into the workplace.

SEE DIVERSITY ON PAGE 2.

Medical gala honors representative

BY VERONICA SERRANO
The Battalion

U.S. Representative Chet Edwards was honored with the "A Star for Texas" Award at a gala last Thursday in Temple hosted by the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine, which benefitted the program's Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI).

Edwards received the award in front of 400 people, which "recognizes and shows appreciation each year to people who have contributed to A&M's Health Sciences Center system goal of bringing quality health care to all the citizens of Texas."

Drayton McLane, keynote speaker and owner of the Houston Astros, said Edwards was chosen to receive the award because of his commitment to health care in Texas and his support of the institutions that have collaborated to form the CVRI. These institutes include the A&M System Health Science Center College of Medicine, Scott and White Memorial Hospital and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Alliance.

J. Jay Noren, president of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, said Edward's mother had thanked him for the efforts of the CVRI because she has personally benefitted from research done at the institute.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards (left) receives the "A Star for Texas" Award from Michael L. Friedland, M.D., Thursday.

SEE GALA ON PAGE 2.