

The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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aggielife

• The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science is bringing Africa's Serengeti to Texas.

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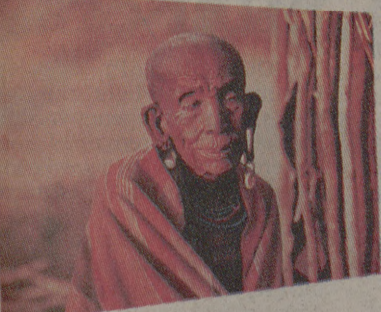
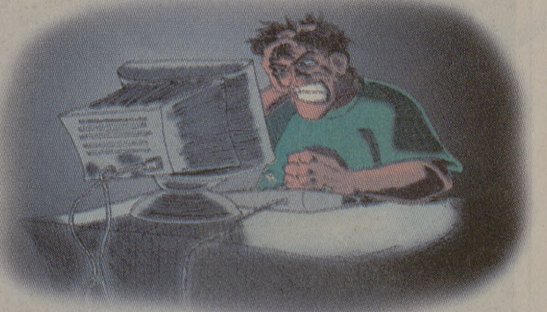
Battalion Radio

For details about the A.P. Beutal Health Center's program on the benefits of smoothies, listen to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m.

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opinion

• Computerizing the GRE is a step in the right direction of standardized-test reform.



Graves welcomed to campus

University officials honor new System chancellor with reception

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and his wife, Sally, welcomed the new chancellor for the Texas A&M University System, Gen. Howard Graves and his wife, Gracie, to A&M with a reception held yesterday at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries in the MSC.

More than 100 A&M employees from various departments attended the reception, including Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs; Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration; and Student Body President Will Hurd.

Bowen introduced Graves and said A&M has a great responsibility to support the goals of the large system of universities and of the new chancellor.

"I wanted [Graves] to have the opportunity to meet some of the wonderful people that make the University a unique place for students," Bowen said.

He said the culture found on the campus at A&M is not an accident — it is created by the faculty, staff and students who attend and work at the University. Bowen said he hopes people will look back in history to this time and acknowledge the chancellor's critical role at A&M.

Graves said it is significant that a relationship between himself and the University begins with an event such as the reception.

"An event like this lets us appreciate what [the employees] do," Graves said. "We want to thank [the employees] for the job [they] do."

Graves said he is looking forward to getting to know the faculty and staff.

"We are looking forward to becoming contributing members of the community," Graves said.

He said all of the universities in the A&M system are important, but A&M, the flagship campus, has a special role.

Graves was officially appointed as new System chancellor by the Board of Regents in June.

His responsibilities will include overseeing the nine universities in the System, the eight agencies and health sciences centers, which serve over 88,000 students and reach more than 3.5 million others through outreach, and continuing education programs.

Graves will officially assume the title of chancellor on Aug. 1 but will work with the current chancellor, Barry Thompson, until Thompson's retirement on Aug. 31.



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

New A&M chancellor Gen. Howard D. Graves greets Maj. Brian Carlson of the Air Force ROTC in a procession Monday at the J. Wayne Stark Gallery.

Peace Corps looking for Ag recruits

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT
The Battalion

Representatives from the Peace Corps' regional recruiting office in Dallas will be on campus this week speaking with students and advisers as well as conducting interviews with individuals interested in joining the Peace Corps.

Peace Corps representatives will have a booth in the MSC today and tomorrow from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. In addition, a video presenting the benefits of a career in the Peace Corps will be shown at 7 p.m. in MSC 138.

Patrick Niemeyer, an on-campus Peace Corps recruiter and a soil and crop sciences graduate student, said the Peace Corps is seeking individuals with a willingness to adjust to any situations.

"Currently we are experiencing a shortage of individuals to work in the environmental, business and agriculture fields and people who speak French," Niemeyer said. "These skills aren't required. We're looking for an ability to adapt to different situations and a desire to go the distance to help others. Patience is a definite virtue we look for also."

The Peace Corps was founded in 1961 by John F. Kennedy and was established to fulfill three goals: to teach other nations about the people of the United States, to teach people of the United States about other countries' cultures and transferring technological knowledge to other countries. The Peace Corps focuses on the areas of education, health, environment, business, agriculture and community development. Currently, there are over 6,000 volunteers serving in 80 countries worldwide.

SEE RECRUIT ON PAGE 2.

Justice to speak on court issues

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips will speak about judicial issues and the upcoming millennium this evening at 5:30 in the Oakwood Room at the College Station Hilton as part of the Ruth and Abraham Clearfield Millennium Series.

Tonight's dinner and lecture is sponsored by Larry Holt, a local attorney, and is part of a six-part series given by the Brazos Valley Arts Council concerning issues the

Brazos Valley may face at the turn of the century.

P. David Romei, executive director of the Brazos Valley Arts Council, said the council is trying to celebrate the millennium with a significant expression of where the community has been, where the community is and where it is going.

Romei said the Arts Council chose the chief justice because he has been involved with the way Texas judges are chosen and the way Texas law is interpreted.

SEE JUSTICE ON PAGE 2.

Fowl play



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Jimmy Evans, tree maintenance specialist for Texas A&M University, oversees the firing of propane cannons on campus yesterday. The cannons are being used to frighten troublesome birds away from campus.

Propane cannons fired to deter birds

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

The deafening sound of propane cannons blasting could be heard last night on Ross Street, between Spence Street and Ireland Street, as Texas A&M maintenance crews attempted to scare off birds that have infested the area.

Jimmy Evans, tree maintenance specialist for A&M, said they are trying to scare off the birds because of health concerns.

"This was becoming a health hazard due to the unsanitary conditions," Evans said.

He said the use of the cannon was a last resort. Previously, workers hosed down the bird droppings on the sidewalks, but this did not help eliminate the odors.

There were some reports that classes were canceled in the Chemistry Building due to the odor.

Evans said they had also put balloons called "owls" up in the trees to scare the birds, but the balloons did not scare the birds away either.

He said one expert said the reason for the increased number of birds this year is because of the increased feeding grounds they have.

"The increased number of mosquitoes and other insects is attracting more birds," Evans said.

Evans said the birds are not harmed by the cannon blasts.

"There are no plans to try to get rid of the birds," he said. "Many of the birds are purple martins, which are a protected species."

The cannons will be fired every evening this week from 7:30 until dark.

New vaccine offers alternative for flu shots

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

Recent medical advances in nasal drops may offer a painless alternative to the all-too-familiar needle prick to the arm for those hoping to avoid the flu virus during the winter season.

Dr. John Quarles, professor of microbiology at Texas A&M, said the nasal vaccine grew out of a series of nasal-drop flu studies conducted at the University over the past 20 years.

Quarles said FluMist is an attenuated live strain in the sense that it can reproduce but cannot cause disease. Through this weakened strain of the virus, the person is actually given a minor infection; the milder strain then causes the body to respond by producing an antibody.

"Flu vaccines are a good level of protection as long as the virus hasn't changed much," Quarles said. "We aren't anticipating any problems with the [FluMist] spray — we've been using the nose-drop vaccine on students and faculty volunteers for years."

Nancy Arden, research associate

at the Baylor College of Medicine, has been involved in a multi-year study at the National Institute of Health with the Baylor Influenza Research Center.

Arden said the study will look at the benefit of immunizing children with FluMist. She said children are believed to be both the group most likely to be infected and the group most likely to spread the illness.

Arden said researchers will compare the number of doctor visits in which patients are diagnosed with the flu in the Bryan-College Station area, which lacks a special vacci-

nation program. The results will be compared with another city, such as Temple, in which a high number of child vaccinations will be administered.

Arden called the FluMist study an "ecological study" because it does not focus on the individual but rather on the impact of influenza on the entire community.

"For Bryan-College Station, we will study the number of 'primary influenza visits to Scott & Whit clinic,'" she said.

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