

# The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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## opinion

• Gov. Jesse Ventura's return to pro wrestling shows the same attitude that won him votes.

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## today's issue

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### Battalion Radio

Tune in to 90.9 KAMU-FM at 1:57 p.m. for more information about the waiver of state sales taxes on clothing this August.

## sports

• Nolan Ryan's 27-year career left impressive statistics and fond memories for his fans.

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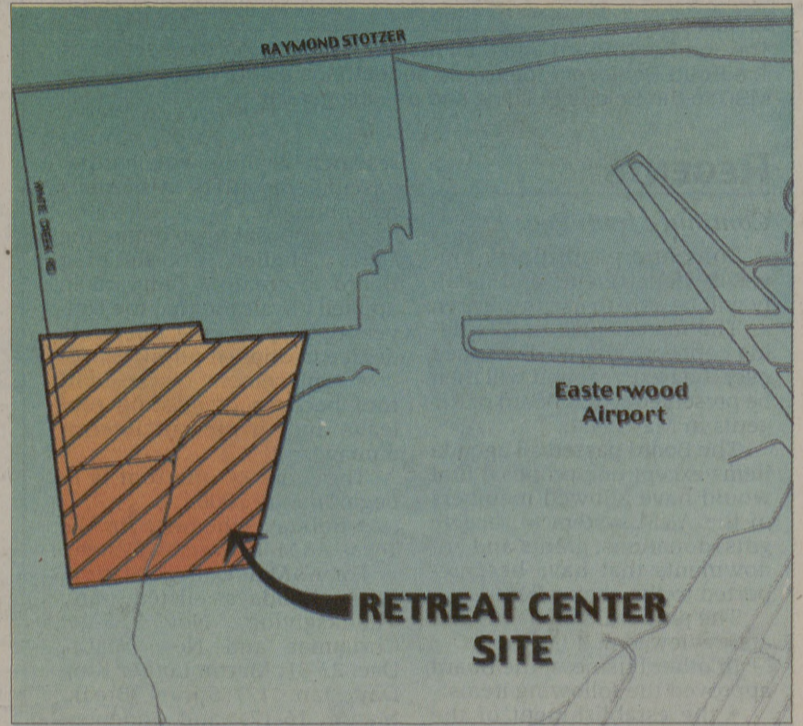
# Regents approve auditor, new facility construction

BY CARRIE BENNETT  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved the selection of the System's chief auditor and the construction of facilities both on and off campus at its meeting in Corpus Christi last Thursday and Friday. Catherine A. Smock was appointed to the position which was created at the December board meeting. The chief auditor is to serve as a direct link between the board and all A&M System auditing divisions. The regents passed a proposal to develop a conceptual plan and design of Phase I of the Joe Routh Plaza and Mall and to select an architect/engineer and obtain authorization for the design of the Student Leadership Retreat Center at A&M. The Joe Routh Plaza and Mall project will be divided into different phases of construction. The first phase will require the placement of vehi-

cle barriers at Clark and Throckmorton Streets, the relocation of the bus and vehicular drop-off area at the MSC, the relocation of vehicular access to the loading dock at the MSC and the construction of bollards to block Houston Street just north of the west side entrance and exit to the Koldus Parking Garage. The regents said the goal of the project is to provide a safe and protected pedestrian passageway from the residence halls to the pedestrian access ways to West Campus facilities and the planned West Campus parking garage. This project will also provide a main connection through the MSC to the north, G. Rollie White Coliseum, Kyle Field and West Campus. Regents said this will offer pedestrians a safe route from the MSC to the Koldus Building and parking garage. The remaining phases of the Joe Routh Plaza and Mall project will improve the underground utilities and finish the surface areas in the completed mall.

The proposed site for the Student Leadership Retreat Center is approximately 240 acres of densely wooded land southwest of Easterwood Airport. The proposed plans for the Center include a general assembly building, four smaller assembly buildings, four overnight facilities, four outdoor pavilions, an outdoor amphitheater, a lodge for visiting dignitaries and a stewards' house. The Board said there is a need for this kind of facility at A&M to accommodate the 768 student organizations that conduct retreats and workshops every year and are outgrowing the facilities available in the College Station area. The Board said the goal of the Center is to provide efficient, functional and convenient alternatives to the costly and distant travel that is currently required to hold meetings, dances, reunions, movies, seminars, orientations and other functions.



MARK MCPHERSON/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's new Student Leadership Retreat Center will be located west of campus near Easterwood Airport. The center will provide additional facilities for student organizations on campus.

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## Banner day



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Senior management major Kris Evans of Camp Siebert Classified paints a "Spirit of Aggieland" banner for camp-room decorations Sunday. Fish Camp runs throughout the summer and will continue until the beginning of fall classes.

# Prof offers flight theory

## Disorientation effect a possible factor in JFK Jr. crash

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT  
The Battalion

A Texas A&M professor is offering his theories on spatial disorientation, a condition that some speculate John F. Kennedy Jr. may have experienced the night Kennedy's plane crashed, killing Kennedy, his wife Carolyn Kennedy Bessette and her sister Lauren Bessette. Dr. Charles Lessard, an associate professor of biomedical engineering at A&M, spent two and a half years working with the United States Air Force researching and developing training programs concerning spatial disorientation. Spatial disorientation can occur when a pilot has little or zero visibility and must rely on the plane's instruments for guidance. A pilot who does not constantly consult the instruments but instead relies on his or her own instincts may become disoriented by sensations perceived by the body. Lessard said one theory as to why Kennedy's plane crashed is called somatogravic illusion.

"When the plane accelerates, gravity causes the pilot to be pulled back and think the plane is pulling up," he said. "Not being able to see

Lessard said that when the nose is pushed down, the pilot then feels like he is pitched forward, causing him to pull back on the nose. Eventually, the plane may decelerate and lose enough speed to stall. "When the plane stalls at a high altitude, the experienced pilot has a little time to correct himself," Lessard said. "But when a new pilot, as JFK Jr. was, has only 2,000 feet to work with, it leaves him almost no time to correct the problem." Another theory for the cause of the crash that Lessard offered is called somatogravic illusion. This illusion also happens when a pilot does not check the navigation instruments and allows the plane to gradually turn itself into a turning descent. Lessard said when experiencing somatogravic illusion, the pilot will get an unusual sensation caused by the inner ear.

**"When a new pilot, as JFK Jr. was, has only 2,000 feet to work with, it leaves him almost no time to correct the problem."**

— Dr. Charles Lessard  
Professor of biomedical engineering

a horizon for a point of reference, he instinctively pushes the nose down to compensate for what he thinks is happening. "He does not know the plane was, in fact, traveling in a straight line."

SEE FLIGHT ON PAGE 2.

# Carroll honored for public-relations work

## Austinites celebrate Tour win

BY SUZANNE BRABECK  
The Battalion

Sherylon Carroll, the associate director for Public Relations at Texas A&M University, was honored by PR Week magazine as one of the "top-40 rising stars" in public relations. Carroll, Class of '82, has been around Aggies her whole life. She grew up in Bryan and decided to attend Texas A&M to stay close to home, following her mother's guidance. She returned to A&M in 1990 and has since won several awards in her field. "I am very lucky that I work in a place that energizes me," she said. "Outside, when I see all of the young people walking around, it makes me feel good about what I am doing." As a part of A&M's Office of University Relations, Carroll said her success comes from a group effort. She said she and her co-workers draw from each other's strengths by teaching one another and by celebrating



CARROLL

their successes together and evaluating difficulties. Carroll, a mother and a wife, said public relations is not as easy as one would think. She said she likes it because it is different every day. Her department is in charge of the Aggie Hotline, an internal e-mail distribution list that is distributed to faculty and staff. In addition, Carroll has responsibilities including media relations and radio, television and video programming. She also supervises special events, the office's electronic communication services, graphic design and multimedia presentations. Carroll received important radio experience from WTAW-KTSR radio stations in Bryan-College Station. There she was responsible for 12 daily newscasts. "We have student workers that we learn from," she said. "They help us to keep focused on their needs and desires — this helps us from getting stuck in our own mind-set." Carroll said one has to have a high-energy level and enjoy working with people to succeed in relations.

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AUSTIN (AP) — Karl Haussmann watched on the Internet as Lance Armstrong won the Tour de France and was astounded.

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"God this is cool," said Haussmann, director of Armstrong's cancer research foundation. "This is amazing. It's Lance; it's the comeback; it's history." Haussmann was in his office by 8 a.m. yesterday. The European broadcast of a series of still photos from the race was sometimes fuzzy and digitally mangled. But it would take more than that to spoil Haussmann's day. When the race started July 3, few thought Armstrong could win cycling's most prestigious and rugged race. After all, the 27-year-old rider from Austin was recovering from testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain.

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