

# THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Wednesday • October 20, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 38 • 12 Pages

## Groups aim to decrease drowsy driving

Aggie organization hosts awareness-day events

Universities, legislature to discuss resolution

BY CHRIS CARTER  
The Battalion

Texas Aggies Making Changes (TAMC) is promoting awareness of the dangers of driving while fatigued today with Drowsy Driving Awareness Day. The event is a part of a larger program to curb drowsy driving called the Lupe Medina Hotel Program.

To inform students about the dangers of fatigued driving and the program, TAMC will staff tables at the Wehner Business Administration Building and Blocker Building and at Rudder Fountain. They will also distribute red, white and blue ribbons symbolizing the issue's national importance.

The Lupe Medina Hotel Program allows fatigued students to rent hotel rooms at discounted rates.

Ben Rodgers, TAMC chair and a junior business administration major, said the program is a worthwhile effort to combat a serious college issue.

"We want students to be aware of the dangers of drowsy driving and let them know this program was created specifically for them," he said. "Even if the student cannot stay the entire night, two or three hours of sleep are better than risking others' lives and their own."

Jeffery Dunn, a junior finance major, said the dangers of driving while fatigued are all too real. He said he found himself falling asleep while driving home the weekend during his freshman year.

### Drowsy Driving Awareness Day

Show that you are aware:

- get a ribbon @ Wehner Business Administration Building, Blocker Building, and Rudder Fountain
- attend the Student Senate meeting tonight 7:30 p.m. in Governance Room, Koldus Building
- meet representatives from Sen. Steve Ogden and Rep. Fred Brown's offices

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

"I didn't realize my eyes had shut and I was drifting off the road," he said. "I just remember the sound of the [rumble strips on the road's] shoulder startled me, and I woke up just in time to avoid hitting a large road sign."

"I was very lucky the road had those strips, or I could have been seriously hurt."

Dunn said he is optimistic the Drowsy Driving Awareness Day will succeed.

"If everyone is aware that this is a very dangerous issue, the steps can be better taken to combat this problem," he said. "I hope others can learn the importance of being alert while driving from a program such as this instead of having to find out through experience."

BY ERIKA DOERR  
The Battalion

Representatives from the State Legislatures' offices and the student body president of Baylor University will attend the Texas A&M Student Senate meeting to discuss the Commitment to Drowsy Driving Awareness Resolution tonight at 7:30 in the Governance Room of the Koldus Building.

Rob Ferguson, an off-campus senator and a junior political science major, said he expects the Student Senate meeting to be a night for everyone in attendance to learn about the facts of fatigued driving.

In Sept. 1998 the Student Senate passed the Lupe Medina Bill for Driving Safety, stressing the dangers associated with drowsy driving.

Ferguson said the Lupe Medina bill is the foundation for the Commitment to Drowsy Driving Awareness Resolution.

"Through the Lupe Medina Bill for Driving Safety, various motels have been providing discounted rooms to college students driving 55 miles or more from their home campus," he said.

Jenn Holmes, public relations director of the Student Government Association and a sophomore management information systems major, said the meeting will provide a means for those who wish to help save lives by helping this resolution get approved.

"This will be a pro-active meeting where we will vote on an important resolution," she said. "The resolution and the Student Government Association will help make Aggies aware of the dangers of drowsy driving, in order to save their own lives and aid in saving the lives of future Aggies."

Ferguson said the resolution will be presented to Baylor Student Body President John Rolph, who will accept the resolution on behalf of Baylor. He is attending

because four Baylor students were among the six students killed Oct. 10 in a pedestrian-automobile collision attributed to drowsy driving.

Ted W. Bruton, a 21-year-old agriculture and life sciences major at A&M, was also killed in the collision.

Ferguson said representatives from the offices of Sen. Steve Ogden and State Rep. Fred Brown also will attend the meeting to deliver statements concerning the issues of drowsy driving. Bruton's family also has been invited to express their concerns at the meeting.

Other points of discussion at the Student Senate meeting will include voting on the second reading of Proposition 13, which would authorize the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to issue \$400 million for student loans, and adding a voting site at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

## Programs partner up for homeless survey

BY DIANE XAVIER  
The Battalion

The Brazos Valley Homeless Coalition, in conjunction with Twin City Mission, will conduct the first-ever seven-county homeless survey and count tonight.

Marcus Loeve, survey coordinator and a case manager for Twin City Mission's Homeless Program, said the survey is intended to get an accurate count of the Brazos Valley's homeless population and to study the social-demographic traits of the homeless.

Loeve said Twin City Mission is looking for individuals who lack shelter and need help.

"The 1990 census stated there were no unsheltered homeless people in the Brazos Valley, and that's just not true," he said. "By doing this survey, we hope to provide better community awareness and get a better idea of what the needs are of this community."

Volunteers from all seven counties will team with students from the Texas A&M Department of Sociology in an attempt to locate and survey as many homeless people as possible.

Dr. Carol Albrecht, the event's intern coordinator of the event and a sociology professor, said more than 40 students from Sociology 205, an introductory sociology course, and Sociology 220, a research-methods course, will conduct the survey.

Students will be put in groups of four. Each group will include a Spanish-speaking student and a law-enforcement escort.

"We want to teach our students how to administer a survey, show them what poverty

is like and let them explore the causes and consequences of poverty," Albrecht said. "This is a great opportunity for them to get an up-close and personal view on what it is like to be homeless."

Students and volunteers will meet at the homeless shelter to interview the residents first. Then police officers will escort the groups around the community to help identify the homeless and to ensure students' safety. Surveyors will interview the homeless to get a profile of them.

"There are a lot of stereotypes about the homeless which are not true," Albrecht said. "I want our students to know that they are human beings who just have different challenges and stresses."

Albrecht said the survey gives students an opportunity to obtain experience.

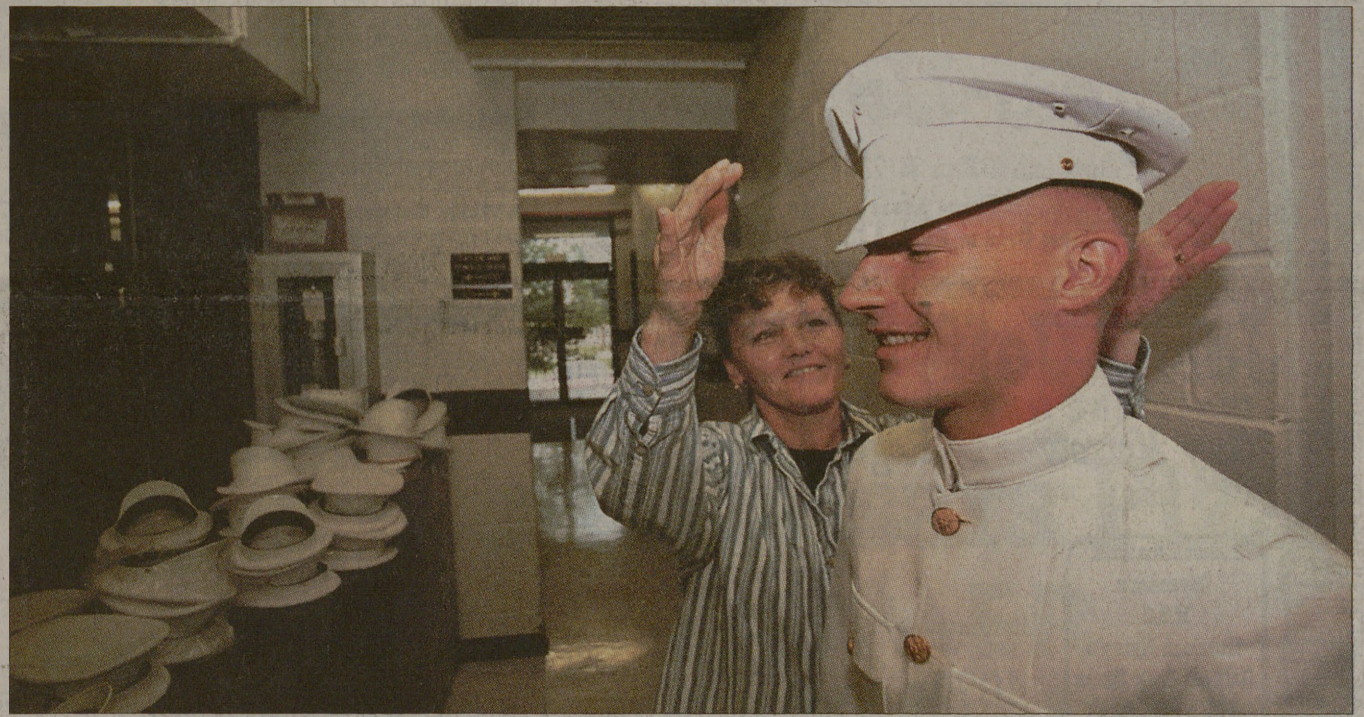
"This is a great time for students to apply what they learn and give back to the community," she said. "We also get to use this data and give analysis."

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Retardation and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs are funding the survey. Data from the survey will be calculated by the Texas Homeless Network.

Loeve said anyone who knows of homeless individuals living in their community should contact him.

"We don't have access to all the people out there who lack shelter," Loeve said. "This is why we are here. If anybody knows anyone who needs help, then it's important for us to know so we can help them."

### A perfect fit



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Kyle Frazier, a junior mechanical engineering major and member of the Ross Volunteers, gets fitted for his uniform by To'ta Muller, an employee of the military warehouse.

## Historian discusses U.S. choice to use atomic bombs on Japan

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
AND BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

Many controversies still surround the United States' decision to use atomic bombs on Japan to force an end to World War II. Dr. Edward Drea, a United States Defense Department historian, said Texas A&M students and faculty should consider the decision after analyzing the details of the war during a lecture yesterday.

"What would you have

done if you had to make the decision of whether or not to drop the atomic bomb on Japan?" Drea asked.

Drea's lecture, "The Atomic Bomb and Japan's Response: the Controversy," examined and explained the three methods of interpretation considered in reviewing the decision to use the atomic bombs.

"The first, being from the post-war era, was that the use of the atomic bomb prevented an invasion that would have

taken an enormous toll on American lives," Drea said.

He said a second interpretation, developed in the '60s, claimed the use of the bomb was unnecessary because American leaders knew Japanese leaders were near defeat. The '90s post-revisionist interpretation of the bombs' use is a synthesis of the former two, he said.

"This interpretation says we had the bomb; it was going to avoid losing many lives," he said. "It would punish the Japanese for the surprise at-



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION

Dr. Edward Drea spoke yesterday about World War II.

tack on Pearl Harbor and for their inhumane treatment of prisoners of war, and finally, it

SEE HISTORIAN ON PAGE 2.

## Teaching history of religion difficult, prof says

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON  
The Battalion

Considering the many problems professors face when teaching a class on the history of Christianity, many may wonder why Dr. Daniel Bornstein, director of Texas A&M's religious program and a history professor, bothers to teach classes on such a controversial subject at all.

"I feel it is my civic duty to the University and to the larger community to address such issues," Bornstein said. "If we do not, we are likely to see more incidents such as the one that occurred 90 miles up the road [in Waco],"



BORNSTEIN

Bornstein, 1999 Fallon-Marshall lecturer, discussed teaching the history of Christianity to more than 120 students, faculty and staff last night. He addressed the issues and problems that arise in teaching the history of Christianity to a group of predominately self-proclaimed Christian students and how one should handle these problems.

"Good research is supposed to be controversial and open-ended," Bornstein said. "Teaching theories and the history of Christianity must be the same way."

Bornstein said two methods must be adhered to when teaching sensitive issues such as the history of Christianity.

"When presenting the material, it must be well-grounded in evidence," Bornstein said. "Secondly the material must be presented in a way that is fair to everyone."

Bornstein said to present material that is well-grounded, assignments should be drawn from a specific source, not some modern-day interpretation of ancient beliefs.

He said questions presented to students must create responses that will draw from the source as well so that professions of faith are minimized.

He said fairness also is crucial in handling such topics.

"When you lecture on this material, you must be open to discussion and be prepared to be constantly interrupted," he said. "[Students] must feel that their concerns are being met. I also find it gratifying when students tell me, that this is the class they will remember 10 years down the road. I want my class to make them think, even if it creates a controversy."

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