

Ags put an end to eight-game losing streak

BY REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

Two teams entered Reed Arena last night, each trying to bring an end to their losing streaks. But the Texas A&M women's basketball team was the one that left the arena with a smile on its face after defeating Baylor University 76-65.

The two teams met earlier in the season, a game in which A&M managed to squeak by with a 62-59 victory, giving them their first Big 12 Conference win of the season.

Both A&M and Baylor were unable to earn a victory since that meeting. Last night, the Aggies ended an eight-game losing streak and earned their second conference win of the season, improving their record to 10-10, 2-8 in the Big 12.

After losing its 10th game in a row, Baylor fell to 5-15, 0-10 in the Big 12.

The victory did not come easy for the Aggies. With 2:37 left in the game, A&M was clinging to a three-point lead.

Senior forward Prissy Sharpe found junior forward Jayetta Saunders under the basket for a quick layup, giving A&M some momentum.

Sharpe said the pass was exactly the way the two had been practicing it.

"It was just how it was supposed to be," Sharpe said. "We just ran it to perfection."

With 1:21 left on the clock, Baylor women's basketball coach Sonja Hogg received a technical foul, sending Sharpe to the line.

Hogg was not sure why she received the technical, but did not contest it.

"I probably should have gotten it earlier," Hogg said.

A&M made six of its last eight free throws and one more basket from the field to cap a 10-2 run to end the game.

Leading the way for the Aggies was Sharpe,

who scored more than 20 points for the 19th time in her career. She ended up with 24 points and nine rebounds on the night.

Saunders chipped in with 17 points of her own. Baylor's Danielle Crockrom was a major factor in the game, earning 25 points and seven rebounds for the Lady Bears.

The first half saw a hard fought battle between two impressive offenses. Both Baylor and A&M were on fire in the first half, shooting 53.1 percent and 56.3 percent, respectively.

"I felt like in the first half, we were shooting like blazes," Hogg said. "Of course, they were too."

The Aggies scored the opening basket and managed to hold on to the lead most of the game, never getting behind by more than three points.

But at halftime, A&M made adjustments and came out with a more intense defense.

"I just told them it's going to come down to defense," A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom said. "I thought it was going to come down to defense and who wanted it more."

A&M managed to hold Baylor to a 26.5 shooting percentage in the second half, helping give the Aggies the victory.

The win marks the first Big 12 victory for the Aggies in Reed Arena.

clockwise from top left:

A&M sophomore forward **Celeria Washington**, junior guard **Tina Jones** and freshman center **Lynn Classen** celebrate the win against Baylor.

A&M freshman forward **Meg Banahan** puts up a shot against the bears.

A&M junior guard **Brandy Jones** defends against Baylor guard Nicole Collins.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Hackers attack popular Websites

NEW YORK (AP) — Hackers stepped up a three-day electronic assault Wednesday against some of the most popular sites on the Web, inconveniencing millions of Internet users and unnerving Wall Street.

The apparently coordinated attacks spread to ETrade, ZDNet and other major sites Wednesday.

All of them were crippled by a barrage of messages generated by hackers.

The growing anxiety about the Internet's vulnerability contributed to a 258.44 point-slide in the Dow Jones average and halted three straight record-high closings for the Nasdaq Composite Index, which is heavy with high-tech stocks.

The attacks also prompted top federal officials to reassure Americans that authorities are doing everything they can to fight the online vandalism.

"We are committed to in every way possible to tracking those who are responsible," Attorney General Janet Reno said in Washington.

She said the motives of the vandals are not known, "but they appear to be intended to interfere with and disrupt legitimate electronic commerce."

The hacker technique, called a "denial of service attack," involves directing a flood of messages to computers that run Web sites.

The effect is comparable to erecting human barricades to block shoppers from entering a mall or unleashing a wave of calls to tie up a city's phone lines.

In the latest attacks, the ETrade online brokerage's Web site was hit, but "customer accounts were never compromised," spokesperson Patrick Di Chiro said.

Less than one-fifth of its customers were affected by the clogged traffic for about 90 minutes before the company blunted the attack, he said.

ZDNet.Com, a popular news site that covers technology, said its Web site was shut down for two hours and "appeared to have been the target of a

denial-of-service attack." Microsoft's MSN.com, another highly visited site, said it was indirectly affected because of disruptions to several Internet service providers carrying its traffic.

A small proportion of users were unable to reach Web pages and others may have been unable to log on, said Microsoft spokesperson Tom Pilla.

Major sites that came under attack Tuesday included eBay, Amazon, CNN and Buy.Com, all in unusually aggressive assaults similar to one that overwhelmed Yahoo! a day earlier.

Some security experts noted that the attacks occurred around a three-day meeting of Internet service providers in San Jose, Calif., that ended Tuesday.

The keynote speech at the meeting focused on denial of service attacks and was given Monday.

Hackers sometimes try to get publicity by timing attacks around certain events.

Federal officials urged businesses to install protective software and take other security precautions.

Sensitive government systems were being secured against attacks.

"Right now there is no surefire defense, but we are trying to take some steps," Commerce Secretary William Daley said.

"First we are taking special action to ensure that all federal systems, including civilian agency systems, and those of the Defense Department, are clean of these infections, which make some systems an unwitting partner in these attacks."

Some security experts said the publicity could merely encourage pranksters.

"It's what these guys go after — to be known as the person or group of people who've pulled these attacks off," said Simon Perry, security business manager at Computer Associates International, a maker of business software.

"Instead of graffiti on the subway wall, they've climbed up to the 40th floor of the Empire State Building and put their messages there."

Lil' Sis program violates federal law

BY MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Being a "Lil' Sis" — a college woman who can participate in a fraternity's activities — may be one way to get involved in Greek Life at Texas A&M.

However, that does not mean it is a legal way to get involved.

An exemption in federal legislation allows fraternities and sororities to remain single sex organizations without being subject to anti-discrimination laws.

However, "Lil' Sis" programs were abolished in 1990 by the national Interfraternity Council (IFC) because the

program violates the exemption by allowing women to participate in Rush activities for pledges.

Rush is an event held by IFC fraternities every semester to recruit new members; helping with Rush and recruiting men for fraternities is part of the job for a "Lil' Sis."

According to an anonymous source, a "Lil' Sis" applicant cannot currently be dating a fraternity member, because they are expected to date multiple members of the fraternity they are associated with.

The source also said "Lil' Sis's" are essentially "PR for frat guys" and "groupies."

After the applications are reviewed, the source said,

the active members (actives) of the fraternity and the "Lil' Sis's" vote on the applicant.

The source said it is fun to be a "Lil' Sis" because it provides a "family environment where we grow close, guys talk to us about [their] girlfriends and get girls' perspectives and opinions. My real brother is part of the organization and I get to spend time with him and his friends in a social scene."

Besides the social aspect, the program also serves as a test of how rushees act around women.

"The actives want to set standards to respect women

See Lil' sis on Page 2.

Replant registration open until Feb. 18

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Each year, hundreds of Texas A&M students, parents, and youth in the Bryan-College Station community unite to plant hundreds of trees at Replant.

"Thousands of students have the opportunity to help the environment. They can get out there and make a difference," said Dana Arriens, Replant Committee publicity chair and a senior civil engineering major. "Our goal was to increase participation and give back more to the Bryan-College Station community."

Replant participants will plant 214

trees at the Bryan Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC) and pot 500 seedlings at Lake Somerville at the ninth annual Replant March 4.

The Replant Committee plants seedlings in pots so they can grow in a protected nursery for five years before being planted permanently.

The Replant Committee planted 300 five-year-old trees in 1999, all of which were grown

by the Replant Committee, with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers in Somerville. The survival rate of those trees is 95 percent.

In the past, the Replant Committee used 15-gallon trees that were only two years old. However, Replant Committee began potting seedlings in 1993 because of a better survival rate for planting older trees. They now plant 25-

gallon five-year-old trees — all of which have been grown from seedlings in Replant's nursery.

If the trees planted this year get off to a good start and are properly cared for, their lifespan could range between 300 and 500 years, said Lanny Driesen, an associate head of the Forestry Science Department and a forestry science specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Arriens said the committee wanted to bring the trees to Bryan-College Station so the community could see their efforts. They planted the trees in various public

See REPLANT on Page 2.

REPLANT 2000

MARCH 4 - 214 LIVE OAKS WILL BE PLANTED
500 SEEDLINGS WILL BE POTTED

FEB. 18 - REGISTRATION FORMS DUE
FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN MSG, BLOCHER, AND WEHNER AND CAN BE AGGRESSED ONLINE AT WWW.REPLANT.TAMU.EDU

FEB. 23, 24 - INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS IN RUBBER 501

JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

News in Brief

Student Research Week deadline approaches

The third annual Student Research Week is scheduled for March 20-24 at the Rudder Tower exhibit hall.

Students will present their research to judges and compete for scholarship money.

Criteria for judgement includes: the ability to communicate ideas in verbal and/or graphic form through lay language, clear, concise, well-written summaries and presentation, the ability to field questions from within the discipline and the general public and demonstration of the research's contribution to the body of knowledge in that field.

First, second and third place winners will be chosen by Tuesday, March 2.

The amount awarded to winners this year has not been decided, but more than \$11,000 was awarded last year.

Roughly 200 students participated in Research Week in 1999.

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in registering can fill out a form and submit an abstract of the research at www.tamu.edu/researchandgradstudies/GraduateStudies/RESWEEK/resweek.

The deadline is Monday, Feb. 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Silent auction to raise money for Film Festival

Film Society will sponsor a silent auction today from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the MSC Flag Room to

benefit the 7th Annual Texas Film Festival.

Items being auctioned include the "Ally McBeal" pilot script (with original signatures from the cast) and autographed pictures and memorabilia from celebrities like Troy Aikman, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Bill Cosby.

Gift certificates to local stores and restaurants will also be auctioned.

Cash and checks will be accepted at the auction. The film festival will run Feb. 15-19 and will feature workshops, screenings and guest speaker Robert Rodriguez, director of *From Dusk till Dawn*.

The film festival is the largest-run student film festival in the world.

Sandra Bullock will not be in attendance, as previously reported in *The Bryan-College Station Eagle*.

Nubian Awards honor local African-Americans

The achievements of local African-American students and businessmen will be recognized by Texas A&M's Black Awareness Committee (BAC) today.

The "Nubian Awards" will be held from 3-5 p.m. at the J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries.

The African-American businesspeople to be honored are chosen for their dedication to the Bryan-College Station community.

African-American student recipients of the award are selected on the basis of leadership, community service academic and/or athletic achievements.

The BAC's mission is "Uplift the lives of African-Americans, enrich the minds of all."

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Batt Radio

•Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about a San Francisco artist.

Batt Online

•Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu