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Tossing aside Census 2000 harms future

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

As students, faculty and staff come back to campus after a week of fun and relaxation, they are going to find their mail boxes full of bills, advertisements and the usual mail that accumulates.

However, also in those boxes are the Census 2000 forms that were mailed out to every address in the Bryan-College Station area during the past week. The temptation may be to toss those Census forms aside, but doing so could cause the B-CS community to lose important government funding.

Every 10 years, the Census Bureau takes a complete count of every person residing in the United States. Everyone living in the U.S. on April 1, 2000, must be counted for the census to be completely accurate and effective. Funding for federal student loans and grants are distributed for states and communities each year based on Census information.

"Everyone needs to be included in the census, people of all ages. Even people who are not residents or citizens of the U.S. need to be counted," said Kelly Chapman, public communications and marketing director for the city of College Station.

"For every Aggie not counted the community loses \$2000 ... This is a chance for current Aggies to help future Aggies."

— Kelly Chapman
public communications and marketing director for College Station

College students who live away from home should fill out their own forms, and be counted in their university community, not their hometowns, said Margaret Sutton, partnership specialist for the United States Census Bureau.

When students fill out the forms, it helps to increase the funds given to the University community for roads, parks, hospitals, schools and other federal and state assistance programs for the area.

"For every Aggie not counted, the community loses \$2,000, which means that not only will current Aggies be affected by the number of people who respond, but people for the next 10 years will be affected," Chapman said. "This is a chance for current Aggies to help future Aggies."

The Census 2000 questionnaire consists of only a few questions, and takes only a few minutes to fill out. The postage-paid form should be mailed back to the Census Bureau by April 1, 2000. For those households which do not fill out and send in their form, the Census Bureau will send out census takers from late April until July to go door-to-door to find and interview all members of the households that did not mail back their Census questionnaires, Chapman said.

"Students, and other people in the Brazos Valley area not taking the importance of the Census seriously in the past couple of decades, have caused the percentages to fall alarmingly," Chapman said.

Businesses use the numbers to decide if and where to locate restaurants, banks, theaters and shopping centers.

News in Brief

Women's Week 2000 begins Monday, while Women's History Month has already been honored in March with a variety of events on campus. This week includes a series of events highlighting women at A&M.

Monday's events include a Women's Business Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center flagroom. Women-owned businesses, franchises and distributorships, as well as non-profit agencies of the Bryan-College Station area are participating in the fair, hosted by the Women's Week 2000 committee.

The Women's Studies department will present the "History of Women at Texas A&M University" from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in 206 MSC.

The presentation will include a slide show and a panel discussion of women at A&M.

LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 1

lawsuit. He said the Prewitts had not previously complained of the incident.

The Prewitts said they were denied bail and forced to stay overnight. Their parents and a lawyer were denied access to the youths prior to their entering pleas, according to the lawsuit. The pair was released the next day and a disorderly conduct charge was dismissed.

Attorney David Carter said the Prewitts did not make it back to Texas A&M in time and Amanda Pre-

witt failed at least one class because she did not take her final exams. Carter said the Prewitts were not informed of their rights or told why they were held, other than for making an obscene gesture. He said making an obscene gesture is not against the law and is constitutionally protected speech.

"It was a natural reaction for a young person being cut off in traffic and does not in any way mean being cuffed, taken into custody, strip searched and being held overnight," he told the *Texarkana Gazette*.

Carter said the family is seeking in excess of half-million dollars in damages.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1

stand up in class and say, 'I'm your senator, here's my phone number, here's my e-mail address, tell me what you think,'" Scheifelbein said.

Schiefelbein also wants to establish an on-campus television station run by broadcast journalism students to make students more aware of campus issues so they can register their opinions before the issues are resolved. The channel's line-up might include a short news program, meeting information for campus organizations, and programs dealing with issues such as multiculturalism.

Near the top of junior agricultural development major Corey Rosenbusch's priority list is keeping the on-

coming hikes in student fees in check.

Rosenbusch said he intends to work closely with nine students who sit on the student service fee advisory board, which makes recommendations on how the student service fee money should be spent.

Rosenbusch also said he wants to improve the quality of academic advising at A&M.

"I think we all realize that it's important to us, when we graduate, that we took the right curriculum, we got in the right classes and we have the appropriate advising to be successful," Rosenbusch said.

Specifically, Rosenbusch added he wanted accountability for advising through evaluations and to reverse the trend of staff, rather than faculty, advising students

WACO

Continued from Page 1

agents emerged from armored vehicles to search for survivors.

While the government suggests there can be no shots without shooters, the plaintiffs argue that gunmen were not detected because the temperature of their fire-retardant clothing and body armor was similar to that of the soil.

The test site was overflown by an

FBI plane equipped with the since-upgraded FLIR used at Waco and a Lynx helicopter on loan from the British Royal Navy outfitted with an infrared camera of the same generation as the one used in 1993.

The infrared cameras captured images of shooters and tank drivers carrying out the intricately choreographed demonstration. The field was strategically peppered with debris to simulate the scene at the compound on April 19, 1993, as tanks

rammed into the sect's rickety wooden structure.

The field test was attended by special counsel re-investigating the government's conduct during the siege's final day, former Sen. Danforth. Also among the 50+ people in attendance were U.S. District Judge Walter Smith, congressional investigators and the Texas Rangers.

Smith rejected news organization request for the event to be public

BEATO

Continued from Page 1

picture has since dominated the pages of newspapers such as *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Washington Post*, *The San Antonio Express News* and *The Chicago Tribune*, and has been featured in magazines such as *Newsweek*.

The picture has since become the image of the collapse visualized by much of the nation, but the graphic nature with which it depicts the tragedy has exposed it and Beato to criticism from within the Aggie community.

"I've received a lot of derogatory, negative comments and emails about the harshness shown by the picture," Beato said. "But at the same time, I have been congratulated by members of the professional media for really showing the world what was going on out there."

Included in the negative emails were comments referring to Beato as "callous" and lacking "good taste," along with allegations that Beato was using the misery of others to his own personal advantage.

But he also received positive emails, such as one from Kerlee's sister who thanked Beato for showing that "Tim had been watched over by God in his darkest and most

painful hours of his life," and requested that Beato send her three reproductions of the picture.

"I just took the photo — that was it — that was my job," Beato said. "I am thrilled to see my name in publications across the nation, but it was just one of dozens excellent pictures taken by many excellent photographers."

Although the photograph originally came from Beato's duty to report the news, it soon took on a human face for the photographer.

"I went to the hospital the next day to see how he was doing. I showed up right after they had taken him off support I stayed in the back of the room while Tim's parents and friends told stories about how funny and great he was, and, suddenly, the picture wasn't just some object it was of a person. That's when the enormous sense of tragedy that I had been capturing all that time sunk in, and I finally felt what I had been taking pictures of," Beato said.

Beato has since been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for photojournalism and offered a new career choice.

"Before this, I just wanted to go into advertising," he said. "Now I am being offered internships and possibilities for a career in photojournalism."

Campus Calendar

Monday

Women's Week 2000 Committee: Women's Business Fair at 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom.

Women's Week 2000 Committee: History of Women at Texas A&M University — slide show and panel discussion at 4 - 5:30 p.m. in MSC 206.

Tuesday

Prepharmacy Society: There will be a general meeting with a guest speaker from a surrounding Texas city pharmacy in Rudder 407 at 7 p.m.

Aggies Up All Night: There will be a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder 402. Contact Chelette Austin at 695-0820 for more information.

Aggie Toastmasters: Learn public speaking and resume building. Will be in Rudder at 8:30 p.m. check blue screen for location. For more information contact Chelette Austin at 695-0820.

mation please contact Laura at 695-2833.

Aggie Lutherans Treehouse: Join us for a bible study, fun, and fellowship at 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located near Northgate.

Women's Week 2000 Committee: Women's Week Awards Luncheon - Jennifer Harris - Keynote Speaker at 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. in Presidential Conference Center.

MSC Cepheid Variable: We will be holding an Aggie Con 31, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Convention from March 23 - 26 in the Memorial Student Center. For more information, call 845-1515.

Wednesday

Aggies Up All Night: There will be a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in Rudder 402. Contact Chelette Austin at 695-0820 for more information.

MSC Cepheid Variable: We will be holding an Aggie Con 31, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Convention

from March 23-26 in the Memorial Student Center. For more information, call 845-1515.

Thursday

Graduate Christian Fellowship Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship (Grad IVCF): Grad students meet at 7:30 for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and snacks. Please see our Website at <http://stat.tamu.edu/~inlow/f.html> for locations and more information, or call Jen or Mark at 764-1552.

MSC Cepheid Variable: We will be holding an Aggie Con 31, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror Convention from March 23-26 in the Memorial Student Center. For more information call 845-1515.

Friday

Aggies Up All Night: There will be a 24 hour philanthropy benefit for the Children's Miracle Network at the Archery Room of the Recreation Center. Contact Chelette Austin at 695-0820 for details.

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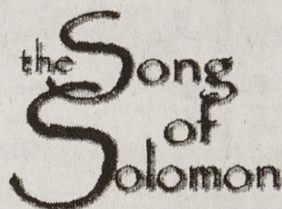
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