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Census goes door to door to record all U.S. citizens

CHANTILLY, Va. (AP) — Phil Vargas is ready for the icy glares and the slammed doors. He is one of 440,000 census-takers who on Thursday will fan out from Maine to California to track down approximately 42 million households that did not return a census form. Vargas, who attended a three-day training session at a library in suburban Virginia, pored over training manuals and heard pep talks from his superiors. He knows some people think the Census Bureau asks too many questions, and that he might not be welcomed with a smile and a handshake when he comes knocking on doors. "I'm not intimidated by that but you have to respect that because it's their home," Vargas said. If someone feels the ques-

tions he asks "borders on intruding someone's privacy, it should be respected." Exactly how many people feel that way remains to be seen as the census moves into its next phase. In light of recent criticism from citizens and congressional Republicans that some questions on the 53-question census long form were too intrusive, Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt is uncertain about what type of response enumerators will get. But he says he is optimistic. "The enumerators are what this whole enterprise rests upon now — the quality of work they do," Prewitt said. "But it's hard to tell right now just how many households will not cooperate." The job may be more difficult in rural areas, where more people got a long form. The gap in the response rate between the long and short form is 12 percent, twice as much as in 1990. About 78 million of the 120 million forms mailed were returned to the Census Bureau. Now, it's up to people like Vargas to get information on the missing 42 million households. Most census-takers will be sent out alone, assigned to locate people in a specific area. In places where safety may be an issue, they will be sent out in teams. The Census Bureau made a big advertising push earlier this year to recruit workers for the part-time jobs, which pay from \$8.25 to \$18.50 per hour. Prewitt said they wanted to ensure there were enough census-takers who were familiar with spe-

ACCESS
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haven't specified an amount, but we're looking at [the fee], Parking Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) is looking at it and students are looking at it. If we do such a thing, it won't be done until September." Miller said the Task Force is considering a \$30 to \$50 fee per semester, but also said it is premature to say that there will definitely be a mandatory fee implemented. There is no set date to vote on the transportation fee yet. "We're in the preliminary stages. You might say we're in the concept stage right now," Miller said. The Campus Access Task Force has

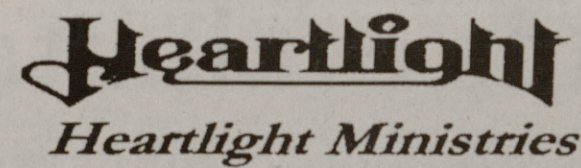
"If the transportation fee is improving our campus, and people getting around ... I'd pay it."

— Theresa Farrington
senior marketing major

discussed including options to the transportation fee, such as availability of daily bus passes or blue commuter parking passes to students for an addi-

tional charge when they pay the transportation fee. "We need to fund the system better, we need to provide better service and we need a sound funding base," Miller said. "We also want to discourage people from bringing cars to campus. Traffic gets worse every year, and if you are paying a fee already, it might encourage people to ride the bus rather than bring your own personal vehicle every day," Miller said. The idea of a transportation fee has been discussed for the past 13 years, according to Miller. She thinks that if students are shown what the fee could do for them, they would support it. Theresa Farrington, a senior marketing major, is one of the students who would support a transportation fee. "If the transportation fee is improving our campus, and people getting around ... I'd pay it. I think it's important to improve the campus," Farrington said. However, Farrington said that students who do not ride the bus have a problem with the transportation fee. "The results of the fee would be hard to see if you don't use it. If you hit over \$30, you're annoyed, especially people who use it. But if it's a little bit, people aren't as inclined to use it," Farrington said. Schulte added that if students have any questions about the transportation fee, they should contact PTTS or Miller.

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Math grad student dies from food poisoning

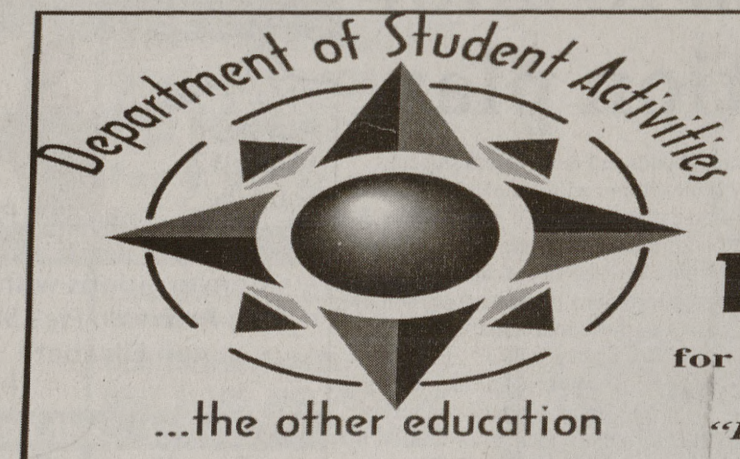
Math graduate student Marcel Kelly Sucheston died Monday night at St. Joseph Regional Health Care Center. Dr. Jay Walton, graduate adviser for the mathematics department, said that Sucheston "appears to have died from an allergic reaction to some type of food he ate." According to Walton, Sucheston would have received his doctorate in less than one year. "He was a warm-hearted person who cared a lot about what he was doing here," said Walton. "He wanted to go on to teach at the university level." According to a family friend, Sucheston attended Upper Arlington High School and was very involved in activities there.

News in Brief

"This is a tragic loss for the department as well as the University, and for all the students here," Walton said. Sucheston's mother was en route to Texas to make memorial service arrangements and was unavailable for comment. Sucheston will be honored at the Sept. 5 Silver Taps. **Forrest Lane appoints new executive council** Student Body President Forrest Lane presented his appointees for his executive council to the 53rd session of the Student Senate Wednesday. Lane appointed Rob Ferguson to the position of executive vice president, Jessica Williams to executive vice president of Pro-

Campus Calendar

- Thursday** low/ivcf.html for locations and more information, or call Jen or Mark at 764-1552.
- Graduate Christian Fellowship of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (Grad IVCF):** Grad students meet at 7:30p.m. for Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and snacks. Please see our web site at <http://stat.tamu.edu/~ivcf>
- University Undergraduate Fellows Symposium:** There will be presentations of the fellows' completed research on Rudder 5th floor at 7 p.m.
- Sigma Chi Fraternity:** Derby Days - Queen's Entrance for sororities parade/pep-rally type event. Community and university representatives will be judging, families invited at 500 Fraternity Row, at 4 p.m.
- Texas A&M University Women's**



New Officer Workshops

for recognized student organizations
"Passing the Baton of Leadership"

Thursday, April 27

- General Session** 7 - 8:15 p.m. Rudder 601
Introduction to Officer Success: "Passing the Baton of Leadership" featuring Dr. Kevin Jackson
- Interest Sessions** 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Fundraising and Advertising
Fiscal Workshop(fulfills requirement)
Risk Management Issues
Media Training

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Schlumberger

Mechanical Engineer Position Schlumberger in Sugar Land, TX is looking for a Mechanical Engineer to join our team. The Engineer will be involved in the complete "cradle to grave" product development cycle of oilfield equipment geared towards the completion of new wells. Requirements: • A Master's or Ph. D in Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, or Aerospace Engineering • Summer or Coop experience in Mechanical Engineering tasks is a strong plus. Prior full time employment is not required. • Eagerness to take on very aggressive objectives. Willingness to tackle widely varying technical and managerial challenges, very often outside one's immediate academic training and background. Openness to significant travel within the United States and abroad in the execution of one's responsibilities. Strong team spirit. • Solid mechanical engineering background — strength of materials, design methodology, fluid mechanics, etc. • Numerical methods — Finite element methods, finite differences, etc. • "Hands on" experience in fabrication, assembly of school projects and in other activities is a plus • Strong teamwork and communication skills.

THE BATTALION

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