

• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the Grimes County Justice of the Peace stepping down three months early.

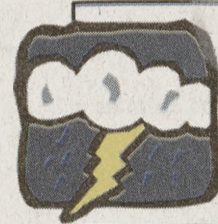
• Check out *The Battalion* online at [battalion.tamu.edu](http://battalion.tamu.edu).



• Lost Alamos

Incompetence risks nuclear secrets

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Weather: Isolated thunderstorms with a high of 92 and a low of 73.

# THE BATTALION

THURSDAY

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106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Student leaders receive alcohol awareness training

JEANETTE SIMPSON

*The Battalion*

As student leaders return to campus for the new academic year, they may find alcohol awareness training has been added to their regular training to help them facilitate responsible decisions concerning alcohol use among students.

Recently, Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, endorsed a request made by the Alcohol Abuse Task Force that asks the directors of various student programs to include alcohol-abuse awareness training when training student leaders.

"Southerland requested the directors of most student leaders on campus to include alcohol

awareness training in the usual training student leaders go through each year," said Patty Collins, coordinator of Campus Wide Alcohol Education.

Requesting student leaders participate in alcohol awareness training resulted from the action plan developed by the Alcohol Abuse Task Force. The task force was created in 1998 to develop a plan to decrease alcohol abuse among students at Texas A&M and to help students think more responsibly when making decisions where alcohol is concerned, said Dr. Dennis Reardon, senior coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Education Program.

The training is being conducted through the Department of Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Program and includes information

about the dangers of alcohol abuse and the detrimental effects it can have on students legally, academically and in relationships. Student leaders will also learn ways to be positive role models and to help members of their organization find alternatives to drinking, Collins said.

"Student leaders represent what it means to be an Aggie," Collins said. "Leaders need to stay out of the business of letting incoming freshmen, and other members of their groups, believe that the only way to have fun in college is to abuse alcohol."

Part of this training focuses on making the leaders aware that, although college is often portrayed by Hollywood and rumors as being a time to abuse alcohol, alcohol abuse is not the norm.

"We want to educate the leaders about student norms, especially on our campus," Collins said.

**"[The training] made me more aware of how what we, as leaders, say about alcohol affects the freshmen."**

— Rasheda James  
director of finance for ExCEL

In 1998, the Department of Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Program surveyed 1,000 students and found 64 percent of Aggies have zero to three drinks a week, Reardon said.

Student leaders in Fish Camp, Aggie Orientation and ExCEL are among the leaders who have already participated or are scheduled to participate in the program.

Rasheda James, director of finance for ExCEL and a senior finance majors, aid the training was helpful to her leadership position.

"[The training] made me more aware of how what we, as leaders, say about alcohol affects the freshmen," James said. "It made me realize that the way we portray alcohol use is what the freshmen consider the truth."

### Catch a wave



Travis Thompson, of Houston, cuts a wake at lake Somerville on Sunday. Thompson was preparing his watercraft for a race in Alexandria, La. next weekend on the semi-pro racing circuit.

ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

## Local communities prepare for Fourth

KIM TRIFILIO

*The Battalion*

Bryan-College Station residents will not be able to shoot their own fireworks within the city limits on the Fourth of July, but they will have the opportunity to participate in Independence Day celebrations.

James Jones, Bryan Fire Department inspector, said all fireworks are illegal in Bryan-College Station.

"Inside the city of Bryan or College Station fireworks are illegal to possess or use," Jones said. "There is no ban because we have had some rain, but in the country is the only place where they are legal. In the city, fines can be up to \$1,000."

Despite Bryan-College Station residents being unable to have their own fireworks show, there are many activities for residents to attend.

The George Bush Library and Museum will host the College Station Lions Club's 40th annual Fourth of July celebration Tuesday from 6-11 p.m. The fireworks show will begin at dark and is free to the public.

Residents can also celebrate Independence Day in Navosota at the Washington-on-the-Brazos celebration. Festivities will

begin at 6:30 p.m. The Houston Symphonic Band will perform from 8 to 9 p.m., and a fireworks show will follow. The museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cathy Gibbons, park manager at Fannthropinn State Historic Park, said the Washington-on-the-Brazos celebration is successful because it is the birthplace of Texas independence.

"So many people come to the event because this is the site where Texas claimed its independence on March 2, 1836," Gibbons said. "This is the second year this has gone on, and it is a huge community effort to have this."

Bryan-College Station residents who will be in Houston for the Fourth of July can go downtown to see a fireworks show at the Power of Freedom 2000 hosted by Houston Reliant Energy.

Also in Houston, the Beach Boys (without Brian Wilson) will headline the event at Eleanor Tinsley Park at Buffalo Bayou with a performance at 8:15 p.m. followed by the Sky Freedom fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. Other activities include the E-Team Elvies of the Sky Parachutists, F4-Phantom jet maneuvers and a

See CELEBRATIONS on Page 4.

## Elian cleared for return to home in Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elian Gonzalez, the little Cuban castaway who won America's heart, was cleared to return home Wednesday when the Supreme Court decisively ended a seven-month custody battle between his father and fervently anti-communist U.S. relatives.

Accompanied by his family and schoolmates who had been brought to the United States to keep him company, Cuba's "boy hero," as he is known in his homeland, was expected in Havana as early as Wednesday night.

The Supreme Court rejected a formal appeal filed by the boy's Miami relatives and a separate emergency request, filed with Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, aimed at postponing his departure.

"The legal battle is over," said Gregory Craig, attorney for Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez. "The family will now make immediate arrangements to return to their home."

In the end, after the months of heated words, high emotions, legal wrangling and his seizure by federal agents in the home of his Cuban-American relatives, Elian's course was set by a brief order from the high court.

"The application for stay presented to Justice Kennedy and by him referred to the court is denied. The petition for a writ of certiorari (the appeal) is denied."

Sally Grooms Cowal, president of the group that hosted Elian during his final days in the United States, described the Gonzalez family as "very restrained ... They are obviously very happy."

The group, Youth for Understanding International Exchange, presented Elian and his Cuban playmates with pillow globes and gave Juan Miguel Gonzalez a book to give Cuban President Fidel Castro on its behalf. An inscription read, "We hope that someday soon, we will be able to establish cultural relations and cultural normalization between Cuban and the U.S. and would be willing to play a role in that."

Their passions stoked for months over the custody dispute, Cubans were urged by their communist government to remain calm.

## Large enrollment strains resources

CHRIS CUNICO

*The Battalion*

For the past several years a new trend has become apparent to students attempting to register for classes. Different departments throughout Texas A&M have recently shared a common foe — shortages of seats and faculty in core curriculum classes.

Because of larger enrollment, many departments have found that they lack the necessary resources and faculty members to accommodate the growing student population's needs. Dr. Ed Walraven, senior lecturer and coordinator of undergraduate advisory for the journalism department, predicts enrollment for the department will be between 850 and

900 students for Fall 2000. This is an increase from the enrollment of 800 in Fall 1999, and since Fall 1998, the

department has witnessed a 200-student increase while only hiring one additional faculty member.



Students listen during lecture in associate professors Joseph Dawson's History 106. There are 115 students enrolled in section 100.

PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

"We're bursting at the seams and will continue to burst at the seams until we're given the amount of faculty members to efficiently meet the needs of the growing enrollment," Walraven said.

With their backs against the wall, advisers are given no alternative but to force students into currently full classes. The augmented class counts resulting from the forced enrollment put a strain on the faculty members, especially those teaching skills classes, like graphic design, or those requiring extensive written work.

Walraven said students are deprived of essential student-professor

See CLASSES on Page 4.

## Archbishop taken hostage

### Man releases clergyman after nine hours

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man angry with the federal government over his possible deportation held the state's top-ranking Catholic clergyman hostage for nine hours Wednesday before releasing him unharmed.

Archbishop Patrick Flores was said to be exhausted and relieved the ordeal was over after 40-year-old Nelson Antonio Escolero allowed him to walk out of the chancery.

Escolero had threatened to detonate

what he said was a grenade, although police said they could not confirm the nature of the device.

Escolero was questioned at police headquarters and was expected to appear before a magistrate late Wednesday or early Thursday. He faced possible charges of aggravated assault, unlawful restraint, terroristic threat and possession of a prohibited weapon.

See FLORES on Page 4.

**FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS**

Place	Festivities	Fireworks	Admission
• George Bush Library Lawn	6-11 p.m.	Dark	Free
• Washington-on-the-Brazos Museum Navosota	6:30 p.m.	9 p.m.	Free
• Buffalo Bayou Houston	4-10 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	\$5 - Adults \$2 - 4 to 12 yrs. Free - 0 to 3 yrs.
• Cynthia Mitchell Pavilion Woodlands	6:30 p.m.	None	Free
• Kate Barr Ross Park Huntsville	9 a.m.	8 p.m.	Free
• Southpark Meadows Austin	10 a.m.	None	\$27.50

**TUESDAY JULY 4, 2000**

RUBEN DELUNO/THE BATTALION