

• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on the sentencing of a former Bryan pastor.

• Former student Kyle Kessel pitches for Express

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

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Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 97 and a low of 70.

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THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Cox, GTE defend business Area phone, cable services have other alternatives

MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

Some Texas A&M students who plan on moving into an apartment this fall may notice few local telephone and cable companies.

Cox Communications in the B-CS area is not fair to customers. "GTE is not going to tell you if the competition has something better to offer and this lack of competition can't be good for the consumer no matter how it is regulated," Trombetta said. "I think the same thing goes for Cox cable." Riley said GTE is the sole dial-tone provider for the B-CS area.

areas, GTE still has competition. "For GTE, now Verizon Communications, this dominant status is increasingly becoming [less applicable]," Thonis said. "There are dozens of small local competitors and several very large ones, such as AT&T, SBC and WorldCom, that are beginning to compete on a local, national and global basis. This competition will continue to increase. They will compete with us for all telephone customers, and we will compete with them."

"The consumer just doesn't know there are other businesses out there. The consumer has a multitude of choices. To me GTE is not a monopoly"

— Jeff Riley
operations manager
for Brazos Valley Telephone Systems

Junior elementary education major, Haley Stewart said the lack of familiar phone service providers in the area provides an unfair advantage for GTE.

"When I was about to move up here this summer, I looked in the Bryan-College Station (B-CS) telephone book for a phone company, and GTE was the only name I knew," Stewart said.

Area services like GTE and Cox Communications depend on the large student population in the community for their business, but some students feel the lack of well-known phone and cable providers in the area gives the idea that these companies have a monopoly in the B-CS area.

Jeff Riley, operations manager for Brazos Valley Telephone Systems, a GTE competitor, said the customers who think GTE is a monopoly are unaware they have options when choosing a phone company.

"The consumer just doesn't know there are other businesses out there," Riley said. "The customer has a multitude of choices. To me, GTE is not a monopoly."

Peter Thonis, a GTE service corporation representative, said some regions of the United States, like B-CS, have only one dial tone provider. That is the reason the government regulates them.

"Many incumbent telephone companies in the U.S. come from a heritage of being dominant players in their regions, which often means they were monopolies," Thonis said. "That's why these companies are regulated by the state and federal government in terms of price and service quality."

Junior architecture major Art Trombetta said the lack of competition for GTE and

Oops, she did it again



Britney Spears performs at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in Houston Saturday night. The Britney Spears summer North American tour is in support of her current album.

MyCampusTrade.com launches area-wide auction Website

ANNA BISHOP
The Battalion

Last year, Ronnie Kirschner, Class of '00, saw the need for A&M students to have an efficient way to obtain products, so he launched Aggietrade.com, an Aggie owned and operated Internet auction site similar to eBay.

Aggietrade focused on reaching residents of the Brazos County and was a success for A&M students who wanted to sell textbooks, bikes or cars, among other things.

Phase two of Kirschner's project began when he met Koby Brown, Class of '97 and president of Empire Creative, another Aggie owned and operated e-company. Kirschner

and Brown formed MyCampusTrade.com, scheduled to open in late August.

"What began as Aggietrade.com has now been completely redesigned and enhanced by a team of Internet-marketing specialists from Empire Creative," said project manager Shawn Trevilla.

Kirschner said MyCampusTrade.com is in the process of creating an auction Website that will serve Brazos County with all the features of other large auction houses without the fees and charges required to buy and sell items.

"The desire to support fellow Aggies and make it easier for students to find what they're

"What began as Aggietrade.com has now been completely redesigned and enhanced ..."

— Shawn Trevilla
project manager

looking for within their community is the driving force behind MyCampusTrade.com," Kirschner said.

Like Aggietrade.com, MyCampusTrade.com will be geared toward University students, aiding them in the search for housing, furniture, books and jobs.

Kirschner said Aggietrade.com users should be aware that the site will "phase out" over the next several months. Eventually, users will be linked automatically to MyCampusTrade.com.

Brown said the site will provide a way for students to make money by listing items to sell.

Kirschner said MyCampusTrade.com will be regulated like Aggietrade.com, with a user agreement and limit on what can and cannot be sold.

"Like eBay, no firearms or body parts can be posted as items to sell on MyCampusTrade.com," Kirschner said.

"The goal of MyCampusTrade.com is to make the buying and selling transactions as simple and rewarding as possible," said Brown, president of Empire Creative.

Kirschner said local auctions will also lower the final cost of purchase.

"Students and community members can avoid shipping charges by arranging a pick-up of the item or items bought within the local area," Kirschner said.

Kirschner said that although registered users

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Cheney leads as choice running mate for Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Sen. John Danforth resurfaced Saturday night as a Republican vice presidential candidate, joining former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on George W. Bush's short list. Cheney is the leading candidate, a highly placed Republican official said as the Texas governor neared his decision.



BUSH

Danforth, his wife Sally, and Cheney — who also heads Bush's search team —

met secretly with Bush for a get-to-know-you session in a Chicago hotel suite Tuesday, setting aside his off-stated opposition to serving as vice president. Republican officials had assumed Danforth's reluctance disqualified him from consideration.

Danforth's name surfaced as Arizona Sen. John McCain's chances appeared to fade. Two Republican sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the House Republicans who wrote the Bush campaign to urge McCain's nomination had been told in advance that it was too late for such an effort. The word was re-

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Fish Camp namesakes chosen, honored

CHRIS CUNICO
The Battalion

Each year 36 members the A&M community are chosen as Fish Camp namesakes in honor of their hard work and dedication.

Established in 1954, the Fish Camp tradition was founded to introduce incoming students to peers and counselors while helping students ease into the college environment.

In the late '70s, A&M began naming a Fish Camp after faculty, staff and others involved in the A&M community who have had a positive impact on the lives of the students.

"To be nominated for a namesake, the professor or faculty member has

demonstrated the ability to maintain excellent relations with the students," said Greg Stanley, a Fish Camp counselor and junior biomedical engineering major. "A nomination is a way of acknowledging and honoring these people for their efforts."

For those who attended A&M and dedicated time during their school years to being involved in the Fish Camp tradition, becoming a namesake carries sentimental value.

Angela Winkler, adviser for the Department of Student Activities and Class of '95, said discovering that she had been nominated and selected for such an honor was a feeling that she will never forget.

"I always thought the nominees were people who had done a lot more

for a much longer time, people that they named buildings after," Winkler said. "I was shocked and overjoyed to find I was nominated."

Winkler said Fish Camp is a multi-purpose event.

"I've always thought that Fish Camp was a fantastic way to honor faculty and staff for their efforts, while at the same time providing freshmen with the notion that there will always be at least one staff member there to help them and welcome them to campus," Winkler said.

Throughout his years of holding the positions of Fish Camp counselor and Fish Camp co-chair, Cliff Dugosh, assistant director for leadership training and career development and Class of '86, has been designated to speak at over 20 campfires, a time

when the incoming freshman have the opportunities to share in the experiences of the keynote speakers.

Like Winkler, Dugosh has also been honored as a namesake for the Class of '04 Fish Camp.

Dugosh has also chosen to be very active with his counselors, and he said dinners and weekend retreats promote teamwork among the namesakes, counselors and co-chairs.

"I will attend the last two days of the camp, not only to see it in action, but also to meet the freshmen and get acquainted with them," Dugosh said. "The camp provides excellent exposure for the students and an opportunity to interact with a faculty and staff member if they take advantage of it."