

# THE BATTALION

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107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Bat bites girl in Evans Library

By BRADY CREEL

The Battalion

A Texas A&M student was bitten on the toe of her left foot Tuesday by a bat that is part of a colony of several hundred bats residing in the sixth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

According to a report issued by Lane Stephenson, deputy director of University Relations, the student was bitten by a Mexican freetail bat

about 1:45 p.m. while studying on the fourth floor of the library.

The student was taken by library staff members for treatment at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, and subsequently to St. Joseph's Regional Health Center in Bryan. The name of the student has not been released.

Stephenson said the bat involved in the biting was captured and taken to the Small Animal Clinic of the College of Veterinary Medicine for

rabies testing. It has not been determined whether the bat is infected with rabies.

The report stated that the first report of bats came Monday, and that 200 to 400 bats were spotted. By Monday evening, Physical Plant Pest Control had removed between 300 and 350 bats.

Charles Gilreath, associate university librarian for advanced students, said in a press release that the problem has been reported to the of-

fice of Vice President for Administration Charles Sippal.

Gilreath said that the library's first goal is to seal the avenues into the building to stop the bats from entering, and then do an environmental clean up to remove smell from the sixth floor.

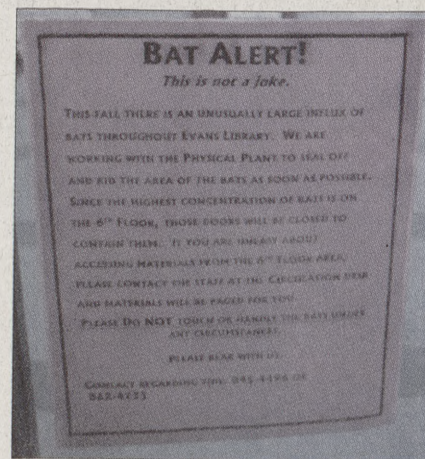
The University Relations press release said Brent Maddox, manager of the environment health and safety department reported that no public health hazard existed.

Removal of the bats resumed Tuesday morning and about 50 were caught before the student was bitten.

Stephenson said he did not believe the arrival of bats was associated with the recent completion of renovations to the library.

"The renovation is completed, but I don't think there is any relationship, but I am not an authority on that," Stephenson said.

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Signs warn library patrons of bat danger.

## Student recycle effort lacking

By COURTNEY STELZEL

The Battalion

Collecting recyclable material from more than 130 buildings, and spending \$65 to \$70 a ton to have it hauled out to a land fill site, is not enough to get Texas A&M students motivated about recycling.

Initiated in 1990, the Recycling Office became a permanent fixture in 1991 and is currently under the management of the Physical Plant Utilities Division, solid waste program and the wastewater treatment program.

Though the Recycling Center is not an awareness or educational organization, organizations such as the Student Government Association's Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) and the Residence Hall Association (RHA) work with the Recycling Office. The groups collect aluminum cans, white paper, cardboard, newspapers, excess yearbooks, old media guides and colored paper. A routine pickup schedule takes one week to complete with no stops at residence halls. They also are working together to design and implement a program to inform students about recycling.

Daniella Hiche, EIC chairwoman, an intern at the Recycling center and a junior renewable natural science resources major, said she is trying to establish a link between the Recycling Office and the student body.

**"The issue is that the University authorities do not consider recycling a major issue, and that attitude is passed on to the students."**

— Daniella Hiche  
Environmental Issues Committee chairwoman

"The main reason why the recycling program has not been more successful on campus in the past is due to the lack of student awareness," she said.

Various organizations and committees have previously tried to work with the Recycling Office to publicize recycling among the student body, but they failed because of a lack of support, Hiche said.

"The issue is that the University authorities do not consider recycling a major issue, and that attitude is passed on to the students," she said.

She added that the recycling Dumpsters are usually behind the buildings at the service exits. This location allows for quick and easy removal of the recyclable materials.

However, she said that it keeps faculty and students from realizing how much waste is picked up by the Recycling Office; and that they just see the trash disappearing and do not seem to wonder where it goes.

The EIC hopes to establish a program, with the help of the RHA and

See RECYCLING on Page 6.

### Night light



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

A storm system rolled into College Station Monday creating a large electrical disturbance with lightning across the skies.

## Campus participates in breast cancer awareness

By COURTNEY STELZEL

The Battalion

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that 182,800 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and that more than 40,500 will die this year.

In response to these startling numbers, October has been designated by the ACS as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM), a time for both men and women to be conscious of the risk of breast cancer.

The NBCAM began 15 years ago as a week-long program and has become a national month-long event that draws support from politicians, celebrities and women's groups from around the country. The

NBCAM encourages women and men to actively participate in breast cancer prevention by performing self-examinations.

Breast cancer is a tumor that develops from cells in the breast and is most often found in women, but effects men in some instances. The ACS reports there are 12 types of breast cancer, with infiltrating ductal carcinoma (IDC) accounting for about 80 percent of invasive breast cancers.

"Although breast cancer is the most common cancer in women, there is a very high cure rate if detected in the early stages," said Jennifer Peacock, senior field representative for the College Station branch of the ACS. The ACS reports there

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BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Ducktexas.com put up anti-tobacco billboards in B-CS.

## Presidential race enters final stretch

### Debate last encounter before election

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Vice President Al Gore attacked George W. Bush as an ally of the rich and powerful Tuesday night, but the Texas governor rebutted in climactic campaign debate that his rival was a "big spender" in the mold of Democratic liberals who once sought the White House and lost.

"He proposed more than Walter Mondale and Michael Dukakis combined," Bush said of two Democratic presidential candidates rejected by the voters in 1984 and 1988.

The Texas governor and the vice president, locked in a close race for the White House, argued domestic and foreign policy issues for 90 minutes in a town hall-style format. It was their third en-

counter in two weeks, and their last before they face judgment at the polls on Nov. 7.

In their final summations, the two men stripped their appeals to their essentials.

"I have kept my word," said Gore, who has served as Bill Clinton's vice president for two terms. He mentioned his service in Vietnam, a strong marriage of 30 years. He said the nation has experienced record prosperity and reduced crime in recent years, and pledged to build on it.

"I'll make you one promise here. You ain't seen nothing yet and I will keep that promise."

Under the rules, Republican Bush got the last word. "I think after three debates the good

people of this country understand there is a difference," he said. "The difference between a big federal government and someone who is coming from outside Washington who will trust individuals."

Gore has slipped slightly in the polls since the first campaign debate Oct. 3 in Boston, and from the opening moments, the vice president bore in on Bush as a defender of the privileged. He said the Texas governor was allied with insurance companies rather than patients, for example, and that his tax cut was tilted heavily toward the wealthy.

"If you want someone who will support ... the big drug companies, this is your man," the vice president said of Bush, standing a few feet away from his campaign rival on a red-carpeted debate stage.

"If you want someone who will fight for you ... then I want to fight for you," Gore added.



BUSH



GORE

## Students, faculty participate in Debate Watch

By RICHARD BRAY

The Battalion

Vice President Al Gore called college-age voters "idealistic." Gov. George Bush said their perceptions of the candidates' honesty would decide whether they choose to vote.

During Tuesday's presidential debate, while the candidates discussed, among other things, college-age voters, several interested students gathered in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Flagroom to watch the debate and better understand the candidates and their positions on national issues.

The MSC Current Issues Awareness (CIA) committee presented the program Debate Watch, in which faculty and students watched the final scheduled presidential debate and discussed the candidates' performances.

Adrian Whitley, a freshman English major who attended Debate Watch and had already decided she was going to vote for Bush, said she thought Bush had won the debate. "I think Bush did a very good job," she said. "He didn't address as many particulars as Gore did. I think he had a better persona of leadership; personally, I thought Gore was talking to us as if we were kindergartners."

However, within the predominately Republican campus, a few students took a step forward to announce a preference for another

See WATCH on Page 2.

## Debate ends in tie, viewers say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore and George W. Bush were rated about even in their third and final debate, according to two network snap polls.

Debate watchers leaned toward Bush by about 10 points before the debate and did

ABC News Poll	
Bush	41%
Gore	41%
Percentage of viewers who thought which candidate won the third debate	

not change their support, according to polls by ABC News and CNN-USA Today-Gallup. But when asked who won, 41 percent said Democrat Gore and 41 percent said Republican Bush in the ABC News poll. In the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, 46 percent said Gore did a better job, while 44 percent said Bush.

The Bush-leaning debate watchers would suggest more Republicans watched the debate. The error margin for the polls was 4 percentage points. Snap polls on debates offer a quick picture of emotional reaction to the debates, but that reaction can be short-lived.

## Tobacco use may go up in smoke

### TAMU, TDH unite in effort to diminish tobacco use in Brazos County

By SOMMER BUNCE

The Battalion

The Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control at the Texas Department of Health (TDH), in conjunction with Texas A&M, will be in Brazos County conducting pilot study aimed at fighting the influence of big tobacco companies for the next six weeks.

Of the \$17.3 billion obtained in a 1998 state lawsuit against the tobacco industry, the state legislature apportioned \$10 million from the first paid endowment to fund TDH research. The industry's total payments will be paid during the next 25 years.

TDH's test area encompasses regions of South Texas, including suburban

Houston, Longview/Tyler, Beaumont/Port Arthur and Brazos County. The programs began Sept. 25 and will continue through November.

The study has four branches: media, law enforcement, cessation, and schools and communities.

In January 2001, the legislature will analyze the results of the study to deter-

mine whether more funding should be granted to programs in the prevention of tobacco use among youth and adult populations.

"This is really, truly a great experiment," said Marcus Cooper III, TDH information specialist. "The state of Texas has never earmarked any

See TOBACCO on Page 6.