-SCIENCE THE BATTALION

# c scene had was a radio as a said his favorite sings e Tom Waits, Jim Crock er and Elvis Costella H ts the most requests fr

#### appy [about being asket By NONI SRIDHARA Waits]," he said. "I'm The Battalion

Jacki Jaskula, quality assurance

nanager for Stratagene in Austin,

said a vast majority of life science

students think they have two choic-

s after they graduate. They are to ei-

"Almost all students think they

nursday, October 26, 2000

nool this town.' Biotechnology is the means or said his favorite part d vay of manipulating life forms to the Crooked Path is the provide desirable products for the tmosphere. enefit of humankind. The word one is there to drink, rebiotechnology" was first used in. ve a good time," he said 1919 by scientist Karl Ereky to refer atmosphere." the interaction of biology with hu-Bill Phillips, a senior nan technology.

cience major, enjoys the uch he tries to attendal s each week. country fanatic, but J's e of the best singers I'w Phillips said. ps said he thinks Good ther attend graduate school or med-

had was a radio as

e in Chains and Waits.

e said.

Thursday, October 26

cal school ald make more moneyin other town, but Goodin id he likes Bryan-Col will go to graduate school or medical school," she said. "The problem e Station.

but decided to take up

back himself up.

I like playing a town with this assumption is that 30 perays the rent," he said cent of those who apply do not get in, and of those 70 percent that do, ther LaMotte, a senior ng major, said she en not everyone stays in, whether it be show because of Good for university reasons or personal asons. g abilities

a great voice, and Hove Jaskula said the science world is itar," LaMotte said. "I moving away from the "easy sciit and listen to him and ences" and encompassing the fasteverything. aid he originally set out

paced world of biotechnology. Jaskula and Bill Lemons, Gulf

Coast district manager for Kelly Scientific Resources in Houston, were Wednesday at Texas A&M Wednesday to encourage life sciences students to enter the field of biotechnology.

Lemons said that as the baby boomer generation enters the retirement age, there will be a high demand for skilled workers in biotechnology to enter the pharmaceutical industry to develop prescription drugs at lower costs for senior citizens.

Jaskula said that the pharmaceutical industry, like almost all other areas of the biotechnology industry, is moving toward gene technologies.

"One of the main focuses of the biotechnology companies nowadays is gene therapy," she said. Jaskula added that gene therapy is a concern not only from a human

perspective, but also from an agricultural viewpoint.

grow drought-resistant and strain-re- analyzing data," she said.

sistant crops (crops that are resistant to harsh weather such as freezes and snow)," she said.

Jaskula said there are three main

"This is a very good opportunity for science majors who do not want to spend time in a lab all day."

#### - Nivin Aziz senior, biomedical science

buzzwords that have started exploding within the biotechnology industry. The first is bioinformatics.

'Bioinformatics opens up the field to people with expertise in computer applications who may or may not have background in "We also want to find ways to biotechnology for the purposes of

called DNA microarrays.

"This is where you take a glass slide which enables you to print 4,000 genes at one time," she said. "You can probe with two different color probes and then you end up with 8,000 data points with one experiment.

"This is where the bioinformatics people will come in and analyze all the datapoints.'

Jaskula said the third and final word was genomics, which is taking information from the genes of humans or other organisms and understanding how the genes function within the bodies of the organisms.

Jaskula said another key area of biotechnology is quality control.

"This is a very fast-paced industry, which takes a lot of technical skills," she said. "We sometimes call this the 'short-attention-span theatre' of biotechnology.

Tips Jaskula offered to students were taking as many life sciences lab courses as possible, do undergraduate research to help translate classroom applications, taking a statistics

Another topic is a technique class and learning how statistics applies to biological experimentation.

Nivin Aziz, a senior biomedical science major who is planning to go to medical school, said she would consider entering biotechnology as a backup plan.

"I feel this is a very good opportunity for science majors who do not want to spend time in a lab all day," Aziz said. "This will also be a good opportunity as a step toward owning my own lab or my own company.

Lemons said it is critical that students network and keep up with trends in the industry.

"I know a lot of professors want their students to go receive their Ph.D's, but even fields such as chemistry are becoming more and more biologically tuned," he said. "Everything is now moving toward genomics, so there are a lot of opportunities in biotechnology."

Lemons added that technical and bench experience will also be an added plus when companies are looking to hire.

airport installs devices to aid heart patients

(AP)—Putting defibrillators in airplanes, asinos and other crowded places — and teaching people like flight attendants and security guards how to use the devices — can save dramatic numbers of people in cardiac arrest, two studies show.

The new, automated heart-shocking devices saved nearly half of all victims in the two studies. That is 10 times the usual survival rate of 5 percent for people who suffer

cardiac arrest outside a hospital.

"These articles prove minimal training is enough to step in and save someone's life, said Dr. Michael A. Jaker, director of emergency medicine at the University of Medicine to guide users through the steps. and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark.

On Wednesday, 30 Automated External Defibrillators were installed in clearly marked cabinets at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Most of the defibrillators

are in baggage claim areas, where cardiac arrests occur most often.

The cabinets are equipped with an audible alarm, easy-to-read instructions and pictures

Each second counts in medical emergencies," said Jeffrey Fegan, the airport's chief executive officer. "The placement of AEDs throughout the airport will provide immediate care for airport passengers and employees as quickly as possible."

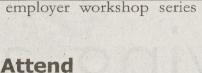
About 250,000 Americans die each year of cardiac arrest, which is usually caused by a heart rhythm disturbance called ventricular fibrillation. For each minute that passes without a defibrillator shocking the heart back into a normal rhythm, the chance of surviving drops 10 percent.

The two new studies appear in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Texas A&M's Distinguished John Fackler at the George Bush Presidential Conference center. Fackler's lecture is "Gold: An Extraordinary element with Amazing Properties. The lecture starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free and available at the MSC Box Office.

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