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# Wellborn Road may widen

## Construction to connect road with Highway 40

By ARATI BHATTACHARYA  
The Battalion

Wellborn Road, south of College Station which intersects with Highway 6 may soon get a facelift because of heavy traffic heading toward Houston.

The expected construction plan will connect Wellborn Road with State Highway 40, which is also in initial planning stages.

Chad Bohne, a Bryan District advanced planning engineer, said a definite need was seen for this project because Wellborn Road has had more traffic than its capacity.

"Wellborn [Road] is one of the fastest growing areas in the community," Bohne said. "There is a significant amount of traffic in the area — more lanes are definitely needed."

Bohne said research suggests it is necessary to add two lanes in each direction, as well as a need for a more urban roadway, instead of the open rural ditches in the area.

"We plan to also calculate in curbs and gutters on the sidewalks, along with medians," Bohne said.

Meetings for the expansion of Wellborn Road were first held a year ago, and follow up meetings were held in October. Bohne said the development of the project is being studied.

"We're figuring out the basics now," Bohne said. "We have to come up with the initial designs and utility adjustments, etc."

No approvals have been passed yet

by the College Station city council, but Bohne said he is hoping for consent within the next 12 to 18 months. Bohne said monetary construction estimates are rough right now, and construction will hopefully start in 2005.

Highway 40, another construction task being planned, will connect Highway 6 to Wellborn Road. These development plans have been talked about since the early 1990s and construction is expected to begin soon — Bohne said he hopes by 2003.

Nicole Castro, a frequent West Campus commuter and a sophomore business major, said she thinks Wellborn Road is one of the main roads of travel for students.

"I always travel on Wellborn," Castro said. "It's very convenient, definitely a better route than Texas Avenue. Construction can definitely be frustrating, but the end result would be well worth it."



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION  
Chad Bohne, a Bryan District advanced planning engineer, hopes the College Station city council will approve plans to widen Wellborn Road.

# Puerto Rican Student Association sponsors week of cultural events

By COURTNEY STELZEL  
The Battalion

Country and Western dancing is not the only option in College Station — The Puerto Rican Student Association (PRSA) will host its 21st annual Culture Week from Nov. 14-18, and salsa lessons are on the agenda.

An array of events are lined up for the celebration and will lead up to Nov. 19, the day Puerto Rico was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493. Leslie Quiros, president of the PRSA and a sophomore business major, said, "We hope to teach everyone about our culture and heritage and answer any questions students might have."

Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States by Spain in 1898 following the Spanish-American War. In 1917, inhabitants of the island were given U.S. Citizenship, and it was renamed the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in 1952.

"Puerto Rico is not just an island to throw parties at or a vacation spot; it's a lot more, and we want to show that," Quiros said.

The week will begin with two days of cultural displays in the Flagroom of the Memorial Student Center (MSC) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. PRSA will host a guest speaker on Wednesday night in MSC 201 from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Thursday night a Salsa workshop will be held from 8 to 11 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Student Recreation Center to teach students how to properly dance the Salsa. To close the week, the association will play host to Folklorico, a cultural dance group from Houston, which will be performing Friday in Koldus 110 and 111.

Alexandra Velaquez, vice president of PRSA and a chemistry graduate student, said, "Our final party will be held Nov. 30. It was pushed back in respect to the Bonfire Memorial and Thanksgiving."

The event will be held at Brazos Hall at 9 p.m.

# MSC, ALO sponsor women's safety week

This week women on the A&M's campus will have an opportunity to learn skills that could save their lives.

Memorial Student Center (MSC) Aggie Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT) will sponsor Women's Safety Awareness Week Nov. 13-17, which will include guest speakers from the Gender Issues Committee and University Police Department (UPD) on Tuesday. Tables will be set up in the hallway of the MSC throughout the week to provide women with information regarding campus safety, said Taylor Venhaus, a group leader in ALOT and a sophomore computer engineering major.

"The outreach committee thought there was a need to bring together organizations on campus to speak up to increase women's awareness of safety on campus," Venhaus said. "This is the first time that ALOT organized something like this."

Melanie Vinson, a group leader in ALOT and a sophomore business major, said the information available throughout the week will be provided by the Brazos County Crisis Center, UPD and Student Counseling Services (SCS). She said this information will make people aware of safety issues on campus.

"ALOT wanted to do this type of external programming to benefit students on campus," Vinson said. Bob Wiatt, director of UPD, said students need to be informed about safety issues.

"We emphasize the need to be aware that this campus is nothing more than a microcosm of society," Wiatt said.

He also said UPD often sends department's crime prevention officers to talk to women about safety issues on campus. One of the things they stress to women is to not make themselves available to opportunists.

Sergeant Allan Baron is one of the UPD officers in crime prevention who speaks to students about the principles of safety awareness.

"College campuses are not immune to crime," Baron said. "Crimes occur every day, anytime, any place. Just because you're on a college campus, don't let your guard down. All of students develop the Supermen complex — 'I'm on campus, nothing is going to happen to me.'"

Baron said students can attend lectures on safety, but all situations are different and people will respond differently to them.

"Personal-safety training gives them options, but we encourage them to have many instead of just one plan to help themselves in certain situations," Baron said.

During the 1999 academic year there were no sexual offenses reported, a decrease from the five reported sexual assaults in 1998, Baron said.

Baron said the decrease in sexual assaults could be partly due to safety awareness education.

An important part of avoiding sexual assault is to trust your instincts and be assertive, Baron said.

"A lot of times when confronted we tend to be soft-spoken," Baron said. "We encourage people to be assertive when confronted with a situation that jeopardizes their personal safety."

Another part of being safe on campus is knowing there is no set description of a criminal, Baron said.

"There are common misconceptions of what a criminal looks like — hair and skin color, the way they dress, Baron said. "We stress the point that an attacker could be just as easily wearing a suit and tie as well as blue jeans."

The focus of crime prevention is to eliminate an attacker's opportunity to violate a victim.

"There are crimes of opportunity on all college campuses," Baron said. "If you take away the opportunity, the chances of being a victim are decreased."

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Geddy Lee <i>My Favorite Headache</i>	Sade <i>Lovers Rock</i>
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Master P <i>Ghetto Postage</i>	Keith Sweat <i>Didn't See Me Coming</i>
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\*All release dates subject to change.

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HOW ARE WE SURVIVING IN THE DOWN TIME BETWEEN GRAMMY AWARDS SHOWS?  
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Driving cross country - sneezing twice - driving back 11%  
Repeatedly watching last year's show with subtitles to memorize eloquent, witty banter from presenters 24%  
Building commemorative ice sculptures of last year's winners 20%  
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**PJ HARVEY**  
*Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea*  
Island Records, by Steve Lichtenstein  
It's not like anyone wrote PJ Harvey off, but after 1998's semi-kilnaster endeavor, *Is This Desire*, things weren't looking great. She returns then, with *Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea*, a brilliant record that boils over with intensity and importance. "A Place Called Home" and "You Said Something" might be as radio-friendly as she'll get, while "Big Exit" exudes all the fury and hellfire you've come to expect. Add in the mesmerizing duet with Thom Yorke, "This Mess We're In," and *Stories* might be one of the best albums of the year, and possibly the best of Harvey's already solid career. GPA: 3.6  
Rock out to: "Big Exit," "This is Love," "This Mess We're In"

**COLDPLAY**  
*Parachutes*  
Parachutes  
Network, by Steve Lichtenstein  
If you listen to "Shiver," listen real close with an attentive ear, you might notice that Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin strains his looping free-range falsetto just a little bit like the late Jeff Buckley. OK, you really don't have to listen that close. *Parachutes* is ripe with the kind of earnest guitar-induced pop that made Radiohead, The Verve, and Travis the toast of the UK, but on superb tracks like "Sparks," "Yellow," and "High Speed," it doesn't matter who they sound like: a gut-wrenching album this impressive speaks for itself. GPA: 3.4  
Warm-up to: "Sparks," "Yellow," the epic "Everything's Not Lost"

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