

## Campus lighting crucial at A&M

By TAMRA RUSSELL

The Battalion

Junior nutrition major Katlin McCrady calls a Corps escort when out and about in the dark.

"I took the Corps escort if I had to walk a long way at night because it made me more comfortable," McCrady said.

Because outside lighting at night is a crucial crime deterrent, the task of making sure the campus is properly lit falls to the University Police Department (UPD) and the Security Awareness Committee.

"Lighting is an ongoing process that, from the police department standpoint, is addressed on a daily basis with our security and police personnel, who, while on duty, if they note areas that need lighting or lighting that is out due to a defective light bulb, then they

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report it on a daily basis," said Elmer Schneider, chair of the Security Awareness Committee and associate director of UPD.

Residence Hall Association President Josh Kaylor, a sophomore agricultural development major, said student concerns about lighting in particular areas are usually addressed. "There are definitely a few areas that need corrections, but Dr. Southerland, vice president for student affairs, and the people from operations take a lighting tour every semester, and they normally tend to correct those areas where they see deficiencies," Kaylor said.

Schneider said Southerland and several students accompany the committee on annual nighttime surveys to spot areas lacking lighting, and, if necessary, will ask University administration for additional lighting.

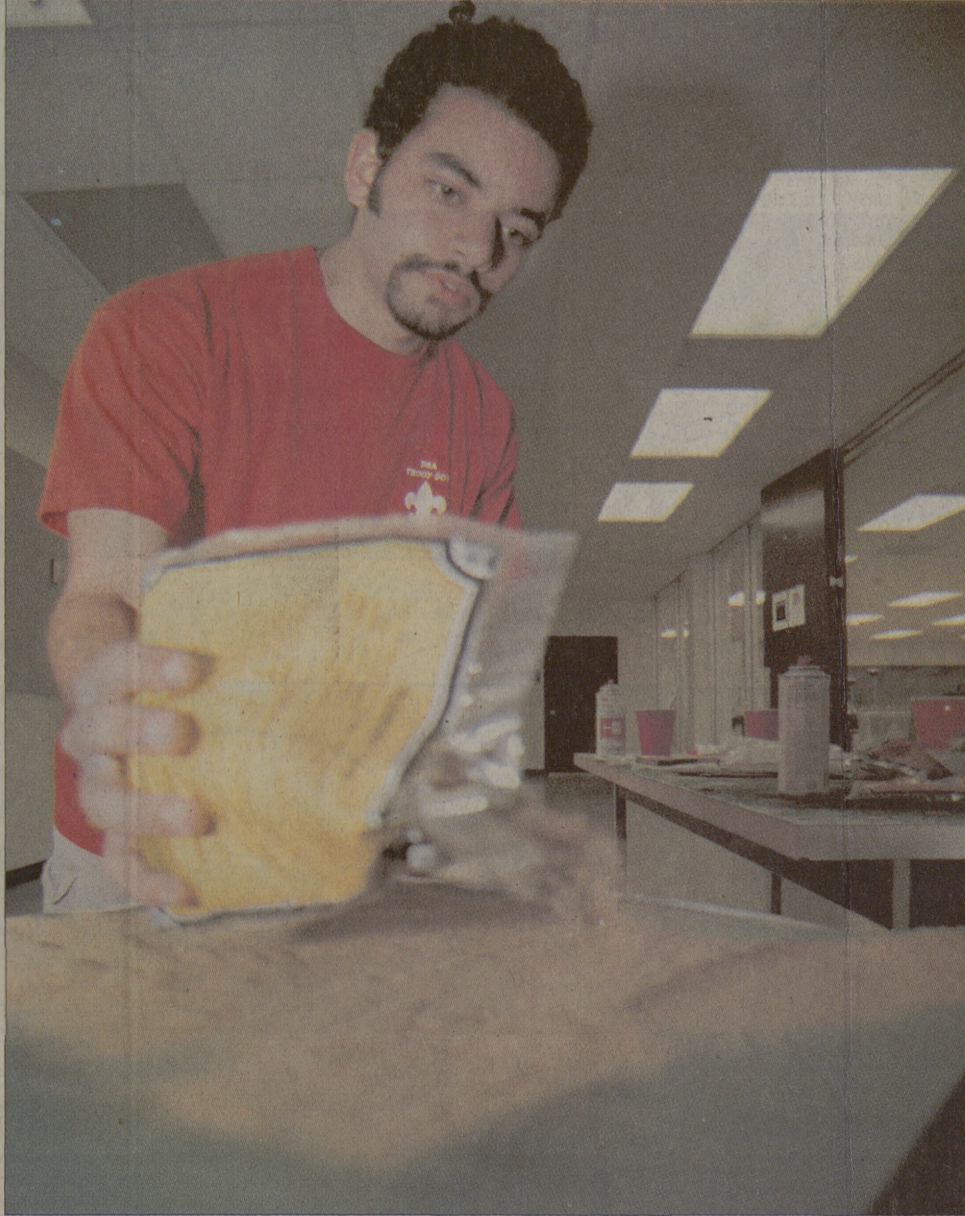
The campus must meet both University and national guidelines for lighting levels, Schneider said.

"Those lighting standards are taken into effect on everything we do on campus, whether it's a parking lot or a street or lighting in and around sidewalks and buildings," he said.

Increased lighting around sidewalks and buildings is one way to reduce the opportunity for crime on campus, but it does not always stop crime, Schneider said.

"A lot of times when we go out and talk about lighting, people want to ask me, 'Where are the areas that we should avoid?' and I refuse to answer that, not because there aren't places like that on campus, but because of the attitude it builds that if they're in an area that is well-lit, then they don't have to worry about crime," Schneider said. "Lighting is one of the tools used to prevent crime, but it all has to depend on us to be aware of our surroundings."

### Artificial turf



Ramy Hanna, a junior environmental design major, puts model grass on a scale topographical profile of a proposed project for Life Lines Foundation.

CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

## Former Cadets may stand trial

*Court rules 2 should be charged with failing to report '97 hazing*

STAFF & WIRE

AUSTIN — Two former Texas A&M students could stand trial on charges of failing to report a hazing incident involving the Corps of Cadets, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Former Cadets Dustin Hugh Boyd and Javier Chapa were indicted in a March 1997 hazing incident that resulted in A&M's Corps of Cadets Fish Drill Team being disbanded.

Two lower courts had previously decided that requiring a student to report hazing in which he may have participated would violate the constitutional right against self-incrimination.

The court of criminal appeals, however, said state law provides for civil and criminal immunity from charges that might result from reporting or testifying about the incident.

The all-freshman drill team was disbanded after a member complained that upperclassmen beat him and forced him to cut himself with a knife. Nine students, including Boyd and Chapa, were charged with misdemeanors and suspended from A&M after three more freshman made similar allegations.

A 1986 law designed to stop hazing made it illegal for anyone with firsthand knowledge of a hazing incident at an educational institution not to report it to authorities.

The decision to discontinue the Fish Drill Team came as a three-part agreement reached by Commandant Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hopgood, A&M Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Mal-

on Southerland and 1997-98 Corps Commander Danny Feathers.

Both the trial court and the 14th District Court of Appeals in Houston said the law violated the defendants' constitutional rights against self-incrimination.

The court of criminal appeals ruled unanimously that both defendants would have been entitled to immunity had they reported the charges. The court then reinstated the charges against Boyd and Chapa.

University administrators worried that the rulings would strip them of a valuable tool when investigating hazing incidents.

Southerland; A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen; Lane Stephenson, deputy director of University Relations; and Maj. Doc Mills, public relations spokesman for the Office of the Commandant, all declined to comment on the recent developments, citing the University's policy prohibiting comments about ongoing legal proceedings.

As a senior cadet in 1965, Southerland served as president of the Association of Former Fish Drill Team Members.

Mark Welsh, 2000-2001 Corps commander and a senior finance major, also declined to comment about details of the decision, but said a feasibility study is being conducted to determine the possibility of reviving some form of a freshman drill team.

The Corps of Cadets Fish Drill Team was introduced to A&M in the late 1940s. At the time, the Fish Drill Team

See DECISION on Page 2A.

## Man shot by Secret Service

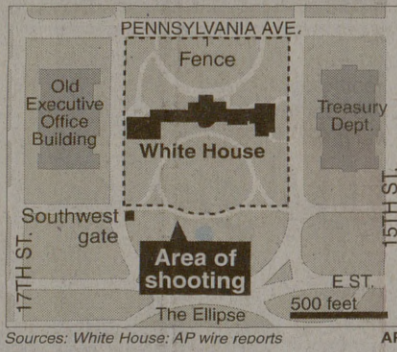
*White House officials: President Bush was never in danger*

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man brandishing a gun outside the White House fence was shot by a Secret Service officer Wednesday after a 10-minute standoff, officials said. The episode triggered a tight midday security clampdown.

President Bush was safe in his residence, exercising, at the time. Vice President Dick Cheney was working in his office. Laura Bush was at the family ranch in Crawford, Texas.

### White House Shooting

An Indiana man waving a gun outside the White House fence was shot in the knee by a Secret Service officer Wednesday. No shots were fired by the man during his encounter with law enforcement.



Sources: White House; AP wire reports

"The president understood that he was not in any danger," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

The wounded man was Robert W. Pickett, a 47-year-old accountant who lived by himself in Evansville, Ind., according to law enforcement officials. He was taken to nearby George Washington University Hospital where he was to undergo knee surgery and psychological evaluation. He was in stable condition.

Officials said the episode began when police heard shots and approached a man with a handgun on the sidewalk outside the fence on the south side of the White House.

"He was waving it in the air — it was pointed at the White House at one point — and pointing it in all directions," said Park Police spokesman Rob MacLean. At one point, the suspect placed the gun in his mouth, MacLean added.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said officers on regular patrol "heard shots fired and proceeded to surround the subject."

"A 10-minute standoff ensued upon which time the Secret Service fired a shot into the suspect's leg," Fleischer said. Asked why officers fired on the suspect, Fleischer said they "felt it was necessary. ... He was armed with a weapon that he had discharged."

The confrontation occurred on a street frequented by tourists, within sight

of the fountain on the South Lawn of the White House.

Secret Service spokesman Marc Connolly said an officer fired one shot, which struck the gunman in the right knee, and no shots were fired by the man during his encounter with police. However, law enforcement officers were investigating whether the man fired shots before police approached him.

Pickett was not listed in Secret Service files as a known threat to the president, law enforcement officials said. Evansville police said he did not have a criminal record. Secret Service agents were seeking a warrant to search his home.

Neighbors back home described Pickett as a friendly man, an accountant who had lived in a modest home in Evansville and kept a neat lawn. He frequently jogged.

"I was really surprised. As far as I knew, he was an outstanding neighbor," said Lewis Gates.

At the hospital, Dr. Yolanda Haywood, associate professor of emergency medicine, said the man was conscious and calm but had not said anything.

Secret Service agents were using metal detectors in an effort to find shell casings to determine how many shots were fired in the incident.

See GUNMAN on Page 7A.

## Aggies tutor local elementary kids

By ELIZABETH RAINES  
The Battalion

Thousands of local elementary school children are progressing by leaps and bounds with the help of Texas A&M student volunteers, school district officials say.

"Each year we document the progress of a child working with an Aggie buddy with a pretest at the beginning of the year and a post-test at the end of the year," said Dr. Katy Pruitt, the Bryan Independent School District director of compensatory education. "On average, every year the students working with a volunteer have an increase in their reading level of two years."

Wanda Williams, a parent of a Bryan student, said that one-on-one tutoring has helped her son tremendously in his classes.

"With all the students in the classes at different levels, it can be very frustrating for both the teachers and the students," Williams said. "Luckily for us, my hus-

band and I are able to be flexible with our time and get our son to after-school tutoring with his teacher."

For Bryan ISD and College Station ISD students who cannot attend after-school tutoring, more than 2,500 A&M students donate time once a week to give them the attention they need.

Christine McFarland, coordinator of the Celebration of Learning program at College Hills Elementary School, said they have identified students who do not receive enough one-on-one attention or love at home or school.

"The volunteers are both role models and mentors to the children they work with," McFarland said.

College Hills is one of the five elementary schools in College Station that participates in a school volunteer program.

"Not only do we use the program as a way to help students who are behind, but we also utilize it as an accelerated program for

See TUTORS on Page 2A.

## Data on courses available

By ROB MUNSON

The Battalion

Whether looking for an easy A or a class that fits their learning needs, students can now go online to find the right professor.

The Student Government Association's (SGA) online course guide and Pickaprof.com both allow students to browse for free a searchable database that contains teacher evaluations and course grade distributions.

When it is fully operational, the SGA course guide Website (http://sga.tamu.edu/guide) will allow students to review state-

**Websites offer a comprehensive look at professors**

ments, awards, syllabuses, course evaluations and grade distributions of individual professors.

SGA Executive Vice President Rob Ferguson, a senior political science major, said it is important to make course information available to the student body on the Internet.

Professors can submit a gen-

eral overview of their courses. This can be useful for students who wish to find a teaching style that will help them learn the most, Ferguson said. Teaching awards also provide a useful way to determine how a professor has performed in the past.

"If information is accessible on the Internet, it can help make the faculty become better teachers," Ferguson said.

The SGA Website features grade distributions, Q-drops, withdrawals and the number of

See GRADES on Page 2A.

- \$130,044** Electrical changes
- \$263,083** Install new sewer line with three manholes at Hogg Street
- \$457,095** Revise basement air-conditioning system
- \$95,558** Remove asbestos from building
- \$12.5 million** Total renovation expenses

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

## Sbisa costed \$2 million more than anticipated

By ROB PHILLIPS  
The Battalion

Due to unanticipated setbacks, the year-long renovation project of Sbisa Dining Center exceeded its budget by more than \$2 million.

An original budget of \$6.6 million was decided by the Board of Regents in December 1997, but it was increased to \$10 million the following July due to new ideas for the project. Once the remodeling got underway, many complications arose, boosting the final cost to \$12.5 million.

"There were a few extra things we needed in the landscaping and so on, and these things we just put in our budget," said Cindy Zawieja, associate director for Food Services.

Much of the additional cost went to upgrading the air-conditioning, electrical and plumbing systems in the basement, said Guy Cook, assistant director of the facilities construction division and Sbisa project manager.

"There were probably 15 items that

See SBISA on Page 7A.