

# THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**WEDNESDAY**  
May 30, 2001  
Volume 107 - Issue 146  
6 pages

## News in Brief

### State

#### Man found shot in head in Dumpster

MIDLAND (AP) — A 48-year-old Midland man was shot to death and his body dumped from a car near a trash bin on the city's north side Monday afternoon.

Police searched Monday night for clues in the death of Arthur B. Guess, who was shot in the back of the neck or head before his body was dumped. His death is the second homicide this year in Midland.

The car from which witnesses said Guess' body was dumped belonged to Guess and was found later in an apartment complex parking lot, *The Midland Reporter-Telegram* reported.

#### Students injured in morning bus wreck

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some students were slightly injured Tuesday morning when two trucks collided and one smashed into a stopped school bus, authorities said.

Eight students were transported to hospitals, but only six of those appeared to be injured, according to the Bexar County Sheriff's Office.

One trucker was also treated for minor injuries.

The Southside Independent School District school bus had stopped — with its red lights flashing — to load some students.

School district spokeswoman Nancy Thompson says a truck behind the school bus had stopped, but another truck did not. That vehicle hit the first truck — which struck the bus.

This is the last week of school for San Antonio area students.

#### 5-year-old drowns in apartment pool

MIDLAND (AP) — A 5-year-old boy drowned Monday in an apartment complex swimming pool.

Rescuers who pulled Rudy Ramirez from the bottom of the pool were not able to revive him.

Witnesses told *The Midland Reporter-Telegram* Tuesday that Rudy's parents searched for him for 30 minutes. He had been playing and swimming in the pool.

Authorities were not certain how long the boy was under water.

Nine-year-old Alyssa Robles said she was not strong enough to pick him up when she went down to the bottom of the pool for him. Sherri Gonzalez, 28, pulled the boy from the water and tried to resuscitate him.

## Need for speed



Scott Mazoch, a senior international studies major, bolts a racing exhaust system to a Camaro as Tony Shepherd, a senior industrial distribution major, holds it in place. They are modifying the car for street and strip racing. The new system will provide better sound and increase the horsepower and torque of the engine.

ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

## Senior's death under review

By Stuart Hutson  
*The Battalion*

A 22-year-old senior industrial distribution major and member of Corps of Cadets outfit A2, Samuel Hernandez, died May 18. A source within the McAllen Police Department said Hernandez's death resulted from a drug overdose.



HERNANDEZ

Police refused to comment further, citing that Hernandez's death is still under investigation. His family could not be reached for comment.

Funeral services were held May 21, and Hernandez will be honored at the Sept. 4 Silver Taps.

## One man's trash ...

### As students leave town, scavengers sort through increased refuse

By Stuart Hutson  
*The Battalion*

Summer sessions have begun, and the small size of the student population has left fewer cars on the roads, fewer patrons filling bars and a campus that may seem virtually empty when compared with the crowds of the spring and fall semesters.

But as the college men and women filter out of town, they leave behind what may be the most significant reminder of a student's presence — trash.

College Station Sanitation Superintendent Pete Kaler said that last year's 813-ton increase in the amount of trash for the month of May most likely will be repeated again this year.

"This is a historic trend that follows at least all the way back to 1990," he said. "This is something that we prepare for ahead of time because we know that May will always see a lot more trash as the students pack up and head out of town."

Preparations include ensuring that the 22 drivers who are responsible for collecting College Station's trash on a daily basis are not on vacations or undergoing training and that they are ready to work overtime.

The on-campus trash tells a similar tale. Supervisor for A&M's refuse and recycling program Ronnie Fontenot said that he expects the final tally for May's on-campus trash increase will be as much as 150 extra tons.

"We put out 20 extra trash containers which are emptied 28 times throughout May," he said. "We contract with Texas Commercial Waste to help us haul the extra trash away."

But as the saying goes, what is one man's trash is another man's treasure. Kaler said the biggest problem College Station collectors encounter is scavengers sorting through the trash for valuable items.

"People will go through and throw stuff out of the containers and rip open garbage bags while they are looking," he said. "It makes a mess, but it is also against city ordinance. If the collectors see a scavenger, they call the police."

Kale said that it is little wonder that the refuse of college students is scavenged. He said the "trash" may include anything from electrical equipment to new clothing to usable furniture that is just unwanted by the owners.

"A lot of it is brand new stuff," he said. "Organizations like Twin City Mission are always willing to accept the items, but I guess it is just easier for the students to throw it away."

Fontenot said he has seen many valuable items simply discarded by students during move out, but he has also seen a few items unintentionally trashed.

"One guy got some money from his parents and decided that the safest place to put it was in a textbook," he said. "Well, at some point, I guess he forgot or something since the book got thrown away. I ended up having to send him to the dump to look for it."

Fontenot said another unfortunate circumstance occurred when a senior corps member placed his senior boots and uniforms in a garbage bag for moving but ended up mistaking the bag for

just another trash bag. Fontenot said he does not know if either student found their missing items.



ROBIN GRAHAM/THE BATTALION

Students leave town and leave a large amount of trash behind.

## First woman earns highest alum award

By Shauna Lewis  
*The Battalion*

Josie Ruth Williams joined the U.S. Airforce in the 1950s to take advantage of the G.I. Bill which would help her pay her way through college. It was during her work at a military hospital that she cared for the wife of a Texas A&M professor.

It was this professor who encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor by going to A&M.

Decades later, after receiving tremendous medical honors, Dr. Williams still bleeds maroon. It was for the combination of these accomplishments that Williams became the first woman in A&M history to receive the University Distinguished Alumna Award during the May 2001 graduation ceremonies.

Laura Thompson, a Texas A&M administrative assistant for programs, said the award is

the highest honor bestowed upon former students.

The Association of Former Students and A&M established the award program to recognize and honor former students who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought credit to A&M, Thompson said.

Today, Williams, class of '71, serves as medical director of the Texas Health Quality Alliance in Austin and specializes in gastroenterology and the evaluation of quality of care and medical outcomes. She is certified by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Williams is on the American Medical Accreditation Program (AMAP) Governing Board and the Texas Medical Association Speakers Bureau.

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## Former Viz Lab Ags use skills on screen

By Justin Smith  
*The Battalion*

As movie going Aggies giggle at the gruesome ghoulies of the full-length computer-generated movie *Monsters, Inc.*, this November, they will be seeing some of the monstrous work provided by former students of Texas A&M's Visualization Laboratory — better known as Viz Lab.

Pat James is one of the former students who have made their way to Pixar to aid in producing animated feature films. James joined the Pixar team in 1998 and started work on *Toy Story 2*. As a technical director, James soon began working on special effects like snow, dust and explosions for *Monsters, Inc.*

James received much of his training while working with the A&M Viz Lab. This division of the College of Architecture has a reputation for quality in the realms of art and technology.

The Viz Lab has about 50 students who are trained with the skills necessary to produce art with the aid of computers. Training ranges from computer animation to cinematogra-

### Upcoming movie showcases talents of A&M alumni

phy to videography. Former students of the lab have worked on feature films such as *Pearl Harbor*, the *Toy Story* movies, and the current hit rerelease, *Sbrenk*.

James said the Viz Lab not only teaches the basic skills, but also "gives a good idea of what will happen once you enter the industry."

One of James' most influential teachers was the Viz Lab's director Bill Jenks, who was instrumental in the development of the Viz Lab when it started in 1988.

"[The Viz Lab] is a great way for students to enter the film and video game industries," Jenks said. "The Viz Lab does not

just accept computer science majors though."

James, for example, was an environmental design major and was planning on becoming an architect. He said he hardly even knew how to use a computer when the Viz Lab drew him in and taught him everything he needed.

"Who knew I would end up making movies?" James said.

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## INSIDE

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• Tennis advances to NCAA Elite Eight

### Opinion

• Judge was wrong to require signs in yards, and on cars of sex offenders

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