

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief Campus

Internet connection down after flooding

Flooding in Houston caused A&M campus computers to lose their primary link to the Internet this past Saturday (June 9) at about 9:30 a.m.

Although A&M's primary link to the Internet has not been restored, students are able to access the internet on campus computers through an alternate link provided by the University of Texas since Sunday. The service has been and will continue to be slow because the alternate link provides only an amount of about one-sixth the bandwidth of the normal primary link.

There is no estimated time as to when the primary link will be available.

Stawser accepts a position as dean

Jerry R. Strawser has accepted the position of dean of the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business at Texas A&M. Strawser, who has been the interim dean of University of Houston's C.T. Bauer College of Business since 1999, will begin his new appointment as dean of A&M's business school July 1.

Strawser told Texas A&M University Relations that the Lowry Mays College opportunity is one of the few he would consider leaving the University of Houston to pursue.

While at Houston, Strawser received numerous awards and honors. He was named the Arthur Anderson and Co. Alumni Professor of Accountancy and Taxation, received the Executive MBA Alumni Association distinguished Faculty Award, the NationsBank Master Teacher Award, the Melcher Award for Excellence in Research and co-authored several books on accounting.

Before going to the University of Houston, Strawser spent five years teaching at Louisiana State University.

State

Officer charged with helping an inmate escape from prison

AUSTIN (AP) — A Travis County corrections officer was charged Tuesday with helping an inmate escape from the county jail.

Christopher Troutman, 32, who had worked at the jail for eight months, was charged with permitting or facilitating the June 1 escape of Brian Moore. Troutman faces up to 10 years in prison, if convicted.

Moore is still at large. Troutman was booked on \$100,000 bond.

University fights copyright infringement of 12th Man

Mark Passwaters
The Battalion

All Texas A&M students and many people around the nation have heard of the "Twelfth Man" tradition in which students stand throughout football games just in case they are needed on the field.

What many may not know is that the phrase "Twelfth Man" is a licensed trademark of Texas A&M University. The University's collegiate licensing department, in association with the Licensing Resource Group, is in charge of finding those who violate this license.

In the past, infringers on the trademark have included not only small or-

ganizations but large ones such as ESPN. One of the more recent violators of the trademark was the group Cockfans, a group of University of South Carolina fans based in Moncks Corner, S.C. On their Website, Cockfancentral.com, the group dedicated a page to "The 12th Man Club," an unofficial fan club for Gamecock athletics. The site gives fans a chance to "join over 800 other diehard Gamecock fans by registering for the 12th Man Club."

"The 12th Man Club is a new and unique way to unite behind the Gamecocks ... The idea of the '12th Man' is just that — to be the equivalent of the

12th Man for the Gamecocks ... the 12th Man Club is for Gamecocks who believe in this team" the site continues.

When asked about the club and the possibility of an infringement on Texas A&M's trademark, University of South Carolina Athletic Director Dr. Mike McGee said the school had no knowledge of or involvement with the club. "We'd just assume they (the 12th Man Club and other unofficial clubs) would go away," McGee said.

The 12th Man Club did come to the attention of A&M's Collegiate Licensing Office and the Licensing Resource Group, who sent Cockfans a cease and

desist letter on June 4.

"We are requesting your cooperation in immediately discontinuing the use of marks owned by Texas A&M University by removing all "12th Man" references from your Website," the letter said, adding that legal action may be taken if changes are not made within 30 days. As of June 11, no changes to the site had been made.

"Most of the time, [the infringers] are cooperative," said Rosa Rodriguez, licensing assistant in the Office of Collegiate Licensing. "They didn't know

See COPYRIGHT on Page 2.

Six Aggies caught in flood, one drowns awaiting help

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Last Friday, six Aggies began on their way to a Bob Snider concert at the Satellite Lounge in Houston. The journey left one dead and the rest thankful for their lives.

Senior information and operations management major Chad Garren was killed in the massive flooding in Houston last weekend. Garren and two friends, Mark McDavid and Jeremy Hammond, pulled out of Garren's driveway only to have Garren's vehicle hit with a sudden rush of water. Neighbors claim the street was practically dry only minutes earlier, said Travis Garren, Chad's brother and a junior industrial distribution major at Texas A&M.

The water carried the vehicle down the street and slowly began to fill its interior. The three men climbed out of the windows in an attempt to swim to safety, but only managed to reach a nearby tree.

A neighbor who witnessed the incident called 911, and a rescue team arrived almost an hour later. During the next few hours, the team pulled two of them to safety, but when they retrieved Chad it was too late — he had already drowned in the steadily rising water.

"The two that were with him said that Chad made everyone feel that everything was going to be OK by talking and making jokes," Travis said. "He took charge of the situation. He was so brave and so courageous — those were the qualities that made him special."

The three were suppose to



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

meet with senior industrial distribution major Hunter Jones, senior psychology major Brooke Mays and senior journalism major Shane Allison at Chad's house before leaving for the concert. Because of the bad weather, Allison, Mays and Hunter decided to go directly to the concert in Mays' SUV.

"To know that we might have been there, and what might have happened — I just can't imagine," Allison said.

The three made it to the concert which ended shortly after 1 a.m. because of a foot-high flood of water in the building. Leaving the lounge at 3 a.m., the three quickly encountered floodwaters rising above the hood of Mays' SUV. In a desperate attempt to find safety, they parked in a strip mall's parking lot which rose above the flood level.

"It was like an island, but it was shrinking as the water kept coming up," Allison said. "But we decided that it was the safest place to be. Everything that could go wrong was going wrong. All the cell phones were out because of the flood and there wasn't a sign of police around if someone decided to panic and do something crazy."

Allison said he then waded through hip-high water to a local convenience store for supplies to get them through the night.

"There was so much looting," he said. "People were just walking out

See FLOOD on Page 2.

Above: Interstate 10 was under water Saturday. Below: Shane Allison (left) and Hunter Jones (right) overlook a bridge along a Memorial Park jogging trail in Houston.



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Student killed in accident Man charged for the hit-and-run

Elizabeth Raines
& Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Shortly before 10 p.m. on Monday, Heidi Heather Hopps, a Texas A&M senior veterinary student, was killed in a hit-and-run accident in Bryan while jogging with her husband James Matthew Hopps, a Houston law student, who is currently in critical condition.

Bryan Police Department (BPD) Sergeant Ernie Montoya said the couple were headed northbound in the 4100 block of College Main near Country Place Apartments and West Brookside Drive when a pickup truck driving on the wrong side of the road struck the two.

Montoya said the BPD received a call on Monday night from a witness stating that two people had been hit by a pickup truck that fled the scene. The BPD arrived on the scene within minutes only to find that Heidi had died and James was in critical condition.

James was taken immediately to St. Joseph Regional Health Center. Later, he was flown by Lifeflight to Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, where he remains in critical condition.

BPD found the driver of the truck, 25-year-old Chad Shead of Bryan, approximately one hour later, when he was involved in another accident at Old College Road near Wellborn Road.

Shead's truck matched the description given earlier by a witness of a 1995-1998 dark pickup with front damage and the passenger-side mirror missing.

The BPD immediately took Shead into custody and charged him with three felony counts: two counts of failure to stop and render aid, a third-degree felony, and one count of intoxicated manslaughter, a second-degree felony.

Heidi's body was identified by police Tuesday when her internship supervisor at Booneville Animal Hospital, Dr. Laurie Lipsey, reported her as missing and as resembling the description of the female hit-and-run victim.

"I thought she might have been tired and overslept since she helped me with emergencies Sunday night straight into a long day Monday," she said. "I was very worried that something was wrong when she was one hour late because she was always early and she wasn't answering her phone."

"One of our technicians put

See ACCIDENT on Page 2.

A&M senior dies in Colorado

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Senior recreation, park and tourism sciences major Kevin Piskura died Friday near Rifle, Colo., when his vehicle flipped while he was traveling from an Astro's game in Denver.

Piskura, who was doing an internship with the Colorado Bureau of Land Management, may be gone, but his friends and family plan to ensure that he and his unique view of life is not forgotten.

"He was the type of guy who could walk into a room of strangers and, ten minutes later, be everyone's friend," said Todd Upchurch, Piskura's longtime friend and roommate and a senior speech communications major. "He lived life in the moment and with such a sense of fun that everyone couldn't help but find life a little better when he was around."

Upchurch said he and other members of the improvisational comedy team Freudian Slip and Piskura's parents plan to remember Piskura's spirit by forming a schol-

Senior killed when his vehicle flipped

arship to fund one student's participation in Outward Bound, a semester-long class that places individuals in a wilderness environment to teach survival and sporting skills.

"He was the type of guy who could walk into a room of strangers and, ten minutes later, be everyone's friend."

— Todd Upchurch
Piskura's roommate and friend

"There was talk of putting the money toward a scholarship that pays for books, but we figured that that just wouldn't be Kevin's speed," Upchurch said.

He said Piskura's participation in the

See STUDENT on Page 2.

INSIDE

Sports
Philadelphia might not be a pretty team, but they are a match for overrated Los Angeles

Opinion
Parents' lack of proper care during birth is equal to child neglect

Battalion News Radio:
1:57 p.m. KAMU 90.9

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