

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief
Nation

Father stabs 3 sons before he is shot by police in New York

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — A father stabbed his three young boys, killing two, before he was shot and killed by police as the distraught mother looked on outside a locked window.

Police said Cuong Tran, 33, lunged at them with a knife when they found him Saturday night in a bedroom of the family's home, standing over one of the children.

Sons Randy, 5, and Danny, 6, died in the attack. Seven-year-old Andy was in serious but stable condition Sunday. The mother, whose identity was not released, was unhurt.

Sgt. David Sackett said the mother arrived home late Saturday. Her screams prompted a neighbor to call 911. Police forced their way into the locked home, where an officer fired a single shot that killed Tran.

The officer will not be identified until a grand jury considers whether the shooting was justified, which is common practice after a police shooting, Sackett said.

Bus driver facing 46 charges in accident

FAIRPLAY, Colo. (AP) — The driver of a chartered bus that overturned near the summit of a mountain pass while carrying high school students from Minnesota was arrested Sunday on 46 charges of careless driving.

A 17-year-old boy remained in critical condition Sunday and three others were listed in serious condition. Most of the passengers were treated for minor injuries and released Saturday night.

The bus passengers — 45 teen-agers and adults from Burnsville, Minn. — were headed to Frontier Ranch near Buena Vista when the bus went off the road and rolled Saturday near the 10,000-foot summit of Kenosha Pass. The bus went off the road and rolled, state police said.

Quakes hit Spokane

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — No damage or injuries were reported from two mild earthquakes that rippled through Spokane, authorities said.

The quakes were felt at 10:45 p.m. and 10:50 p.m. Saturday, said Bob Stose, dispatcher for the Spokane County Fire Department.

The series of mild earthquakes struck Spokane on June 25, none with a magnitude above 3.4. Damage was limited to bricks falling from a few chimneys, cracked plaster and broken dishes.

A 6.8-magnitude quake struck Washington on Feb. 28, causing more than \$2 billion damage in the greater Seattle area but claiming no lives.

Preparation begins for A&M's 125th anniversary celebration

Robin Lewis
The Battalion

The celebration of the 125th birthday of Texas A&M, scheduled to begin Oct. 4, will give Aggies time to reflect on the history and traditions of one of Texas' first public institutions of higher learning.

What began in 1876 as the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College has now grown into a university that not only includes a college for those interested in agriculture and engineering — but of architecture, business, education, medicine and more.

"A lot has happened in 125 years," said Cindy Lawson, coordinator of the 125th celebration and executive director

of University Relations.

"Corporations, institutions of higher education, agencies and non-profits all over the world seem to have mile-

"I hope that everyone will look at this as a really fun and exciting time to celebrate what we are, what we've become and what we will become."

— Cindy Lawson
coordinator of 125th celebration

stone marks in their history," Lawson said. "This is one of Texas A&M's milestones."

The year-long celebration will begin with a campus-wide coffee social to kick off the events that will last through Oct. 3, 2002.

Lawson said she hopes students will participate in as many of the activities as possible. There will be University-wide activities and activities specifically for the students.

One of these activities may include creating a time capsule. The time capsule would be buried sometime during 2002.

"We've been told that there are time capsules all over this campus that have been buried in the past," Lawson said.

"We're trying to do an inventory of that now because I think it would be neat to open one up from way back when."

Lawson said students will have yet another reason to celebrate the University's birthday — they will receive a day off from classes.

"I would hope that all students would take some of that time to reflect back and learn a little bit more about the history of Texas A&M," Lawson said.

Since the celebration project is still in the planning stage, she said the schedule of events is still to be announced.

"I hope that everyone will look at this as a really fun and exciting time to celebrate what we are, what we've become and what we will become," Lawson said.

Fun raising



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Eleven-year-olds (left to right) Geronimo Longoria, Brandon Groff and Zach Othold scrub down the window of a pickup Saturday. The boys are members

of the Brazos Valley Stealth Little League team and have qualified to play in the National Little League Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa, this summer.

Professor receives a Royal Medal

Justin Smith
The Battalion

Texas A&M professor Dr. A. Ian Scott has been named as one of three recipients of the Royal Medal, which is awarded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He is being honored for "outstanding distinction in the physical sciences."

Scott is a distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry and holds the C. J. Davidson Chair in science at A&M. He is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

"It came out of the blue," said Scott about when he heard the news of the award. "I was pleased that they still remembered me even though I had been gone for so long."

Scott was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and received his Ph.D. in 1952 from Glasgow University. He went on to teach at the University of British Columbia, Sussex and Yale before coming to A&M in 1977.

At A&M, Scott has made advances in the study of vitamin B12, which is essential to human life. Typically found in red meat, a lack of B12 is strongly associated with the development of anemia.

Scott also has done extensive research in nuclear magnetic resonance on a biological level. This research has helped form ways to synthetically create molecular structures like that of vitamin B12.

The Royal Medals were instituted by Queen Elizabeth in 2000 and will be awarded annually. To receive a Royal Medal, one must excel in one of many categories, such as life sciences or business, and have a

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JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Dr. A. Ian Scott received a Royal Medal from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

ELI needs English speakers

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

The English Language Institute (ELI) at Texas A&M is looking for American students to donate one hour per week for the next five weeks to participate in the Conversation Partner Program.

The ELI is in need of English-speaking students this summer because they are hosting 40 Japanese high school students who are scheduled to arrive this week.

Rita Marsh, coordinator for the program, said the ELI estimates it is still in need of 100 Americans to talk to the students for one hour per week about the American culture and

attending Texas A&M.

Students are allowed to meet with their partners on or off campus. Marsh said usually the students will meet at one of A&M's libraries or the Pavilion,

"This is a real eye-opening experience for both students."

— Rita Marsh
program coordinator

but sometimes, the partners become close enough that they will meet off campus and do something together.

"This is a real eye-opening

experience for both students," Marsh said. "The students are always surprised to see how similar they are to their partners."

Marsh said that, in addition to having the Japanese students meet with conversation partners, they will be staying one night with an American family.

"We want these students to see how Americans live," Marsh said. "We are having families [throughout the B-CS area] host a student for one night to see how Americans live."

Approximately 1,300 international and American students participate each year in the program — 1000 students during the fall and spring semesters and 300 students during the

summer. During the fall and spring semesters, students from specific anthropology and speech communications classes are required to participate in the program; however, this summer with the additional Japanese visitors, there will be more international students than the University can accommodate with classes.

"We have been doing this program for several years," Marsh said. "There are requirements for both partners but there are also benefits."

Marsh said that students interested in participating can contact her by email, rmarsh@tamu.edu or by phone at 845-7936.

Background checks block sales

Analysts say because crime rate decline people feel safer, less inclined to buy guns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Background checks blocked 153,000 of the nearly 7.7 million prospective sales of guns last year, and fewer people tried to buy firearms in 2000 than in 1999, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

Analysts attributed the decline to a drop in crime, which they said has led Americans to feel safer and less inclined to purchase guns.

"These are the long-term positive repercussions of a lower crime rate," said James Alan Fox, criminal justice professor at Northeastern University in Boston. "People see that streets are safer and they are not as compelled to go out and purchase a gun."

Researchers, however, said the decline in applications does not necessarily mean that

"People see that streets are safer and they are not as compelled to go out and purchase a gun."

— James Alan Fox
criminal justice professor at
Northeastern University

fewer guns were sold. In some states, people can purchase more than one gun from

a single application.

"It's not a measure of whether gun sales are up or down," said Lawrence Greenfeld, acting director at the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Between 1999 and 2000, there was an 11 percent drop in the number of Americans who tried to purchase guns from federally licensed firearm dealers — from 8.6 million to 7.7 million.

Almost all of the 19 states listed in the report as providing complete statewide data for applications and rejections in 2000 had declines last year; the largest were in Indiana

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What did they do wrong? Consider legal rights when firing officers

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