

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief State

Funeral escort shot
DALLAS (AP) — A security officer on a motorcycle was shot and killed Wednesday after he attempted to stop a robbery in progress.

The two suspects were being sought by Dallas police. Authorities said the security officer was off-duty. After he had escorted a funeral procession, he came upon the apparent robbery of a store.

Police believe the man was trying to follow the suspects when he was shot several times. The security officer was found dead at the scene, with his cycle on the ground nearby.

Miss DFW replaces Aggie as Miss Texas

LUBBOCK (AP) — Kasi Kelly, Miss DFW USA, was crowned Monday night as Miss Texas USA 2001.

Kelly, a 19-year-old sophomore at Weatherford College, the voting ends from Bridgeport.

First runner-up was Stephanie Guerrero, Miss Bay Area. Second runner-up was Andria Mullins, Miss San Marcos. Third runner-up was Christie Woods, Miss Central Texas. Fourth runner-up was Candace Campfield, Miss Dallas.

Last year's winner and the reigning Miss USA, Kandace Krueger, was introduced to the audience as the Texas A&M Singing Cadets sang "Everything You Are."

Krueger became the eighth Texan to win the national title, making the Lone Star State the winningest in the competition. She represented the United States in the Miss Universe pageant earlier this year, where she was second runner-up.

Harris County K-9 policy changed

HOUSTON (AP) — The Harris County sheriff's department has changed its K-9 units policy as a result of the death two weeks ago of a drug-sniffing dog who was left in an air-conditioned vehicle.

Lt. Ricky Williams of the Harris County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force said Monday dogs can no longer be left alone in a vehicle for more than 10 minutes.

A black Labrador retriever named Drake died on July 16 while deputy John Palermo attended a required street-survival training session at a church near Katy.

The day was hot and humid, and Palermo did not want to leave Drake in a kennel all day at his home, Williams said. Instead, he brought the dog, which the county paid \$5,000 for, to the session and left him in an air-conditioned Chevrolet Tahoe.

At the time of Drake's death, department policy allowed deputies to keep their dogs in air-conditioned vehicles while they attended court and other functions where the dog was not needed.

Professor solves mystery

Engineer's analytical model, ultrasound may allow doctors to detect cancer early

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

To some, Lihong Wang's analytical model that solves a long-standing mystery in the field of acousto-optics can be seen as just another accomplishment for the Texas A&M College of Engineering.

When the results of this model hold the potential for earlier cancer detection, however, one should consider it more than just an accomplishment.

Wang, director of the Optical Imaging Laboratory at A&M and an associate professor for the A&M biomedical engineering department, spent several years working on the an-

alytical model before solving the problem.

"We've known for over half a century about the mechanism of acousto-optics in clear media," Wang said. "Its counterpart in scattering media, however, was a mystery."

Wang said an example of clear media is water and an example of scattered media is biological tissue.

"Thinking about the solution kept me up many nights as I struggled to understand how ul-

trasound altered scattered laser light," Wang said. "Before now, it [has not been] understood."

Wang's solution was to allow the light to go through a scattered media, such as biological tissue and use ultrasound tagging to follow the light.

"Ultrasound is unaffected by scattering media," Wang said. "In our technique, we add focused ultrasound at right angles to a low-power laser beam where it hits the medium. The ultrasound tags the light, so we

can pinpoint where the photons have traversed by decoding the light coming out."

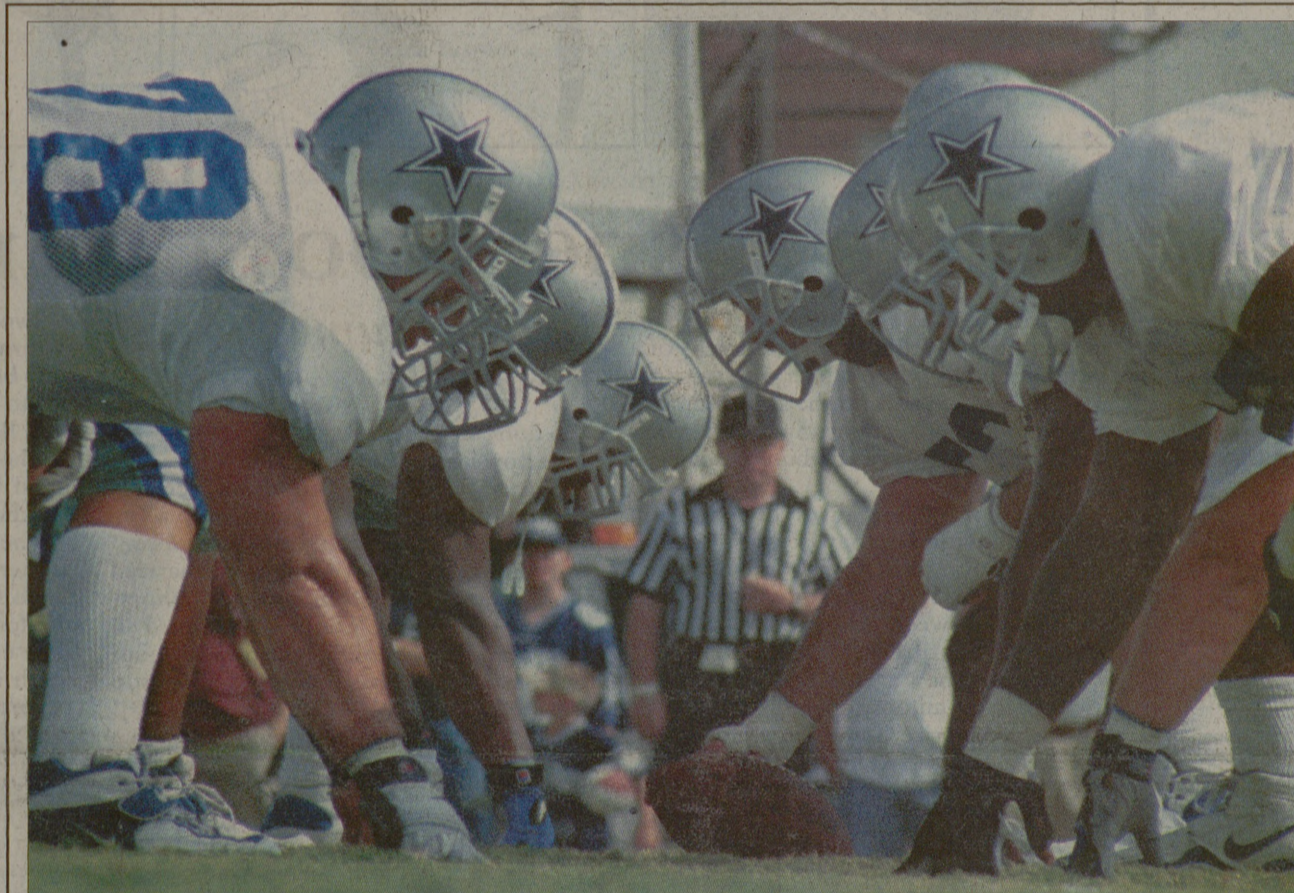
Wang said cancerous tissue deflects and absorbs light differently from normal tissue and that with the use of ultrasound tagging, it will be possible to detect cancer earlier.

Wang's explanation of the age-old acousto-optics question recently was published in the 42,000-member American Physical Society publication, Physical Review Letters.

He said he also has been invited to give seminars in more than 50 countries around the world, and that he will be giving seminars in both England and Australia this fall.

Since at Texas A&M, Wang's research focus has been on optical spectroscopy and imaging for biomedical diagnostics. He and his research group are using optics and ultrasound to create a non-invasive, early-detection procedure for cancerous tissue.

One experimental technique they developed, ultrasound-modulated laser tomography, was issued a patent in March 2000.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

The Dallas Cowboys face off against each other at a practice in Wichita Falls. Center Mark Stepnoski waits for quarterback Tony Banks' signal to hike the ball.

Cowboys begin training

Matthew Thigpen
The Battalion

As the Dallas Cowboys begin training camp in Wichita Falls, only one thing is certain: Troy Aikman will not be running the offense during the 2001 season.

Stars such as Jay Novacek, Michael Irvin and Darryl Johnston are also gone, leaving Emmitt Smith as the lone holdover from one of the most dominant offenses of the '90s.

The Cowboys have given the quarterback reigns to none other than Baltimore castoff Tony Banks, hoping that he can bring an offense that has struggled for the last two years back to life. The past few years have not been kind to Banks, who lost his starting job in St. Louis to Trent Green — who in turn was replaced by Kurt Warner.

He became the starting quarterback of the Baltimore Ravens late in the 1999 season but watched from the bench last year as Trent Dilfer replaced him midseason and took the Ravens to the Super Bowl.

If Banks is injured or plays poorly, the Cowboys' options at quarterback are limited. Anthony Wright — a castoff from Pittsburgh's practice

squad with two career starts on his resume — and second-round draft pick Quincy Carter, the University of Georgia's career passing leader.

Carter has had some good moments in camp but has had his share of struggles as well. His largest problems have been his tendency to have balls flutter, or not fly in a tight spi-

ral, and an inability to read the defensive scheme, which causes him to run instead of throw.

One bright spot for Dallas is the return of wide receivers Raghil "Rocket" Ismail and Joey Galloway, both of whom were lost last season

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ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Dallas Cowboys running back Michael Wiley attempts to run past linebacker Dat Nguyen during a training-camp scrimmage.

Conseco deceives customers

Jason Bennyhoff
The Battalion

The Texas attorney general's office filed suit Tuesday against Conseco Senior Health Insurance Co. for allegedly deceiving its customers about their premium rates.

The lawsuit alleges that the company misled its policyholders about the stability of their premium rates, telling them their premiums would remain constant and then increasing them after the victims bought policies.

The premium increases, which the attorney general's office described as "substantial," ranged from 14 to 16 percent increases in 1997 to as high as 25 percent in 1999.

Tom Kelley, spokesperson for the attorney general's office, said Conseco's rate increases became so steep that many policyholders were forced to

"The company tricked its customers into believing these rates would remain stable throughout their lives."

— John Cornyn
Texas attorney general

let the policy lapse, thereby leaving the company to keep the paid-in premiums because the policyholder would no longer be able to make a claim.

He said the attorney general's office is outraged and will work for as long as it has to to find a positive resolution to the case.

"The company tricked its customers into believing these rates would remain stable throughout their lives, regardless of their physical condition or age," Kelley said. "[This] lawsuit is the result of an extensive investigation by the attorney general's office, and we expect to be litigating it for some time."

The attorney general's office said from 1992 to 1999, Conseco collected nearly \$60 million in premiums from Texas consumers.

Attorney General John Cornyn said these unethical rate practices victimized more than 10,000 Texas policyholders.

"Thousands of Texans spent their hard-earned money with Conseco and its predecessor, ATL Life Insurance Co.," Cornyn said. "They paid their premiums in good faith, hoping to establish improved security for themselves in anticipation of a serious need later on in life. We contend these companies betrayed their trust and put them in financial jeopardy."

The attorney general says these practices were already imbedded in the policies of ATL Life Insurance Co., which Conseco acquired and through which it sold many of these policies.

Neither Conseco officials nor their legal representatives could be reached for comment.

Study: One in five teens victimized by date

CHICAGO (AP) — One in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused by a dating partner, significantly increasing their risk of drug abuse, suicide and other harmful behavior, a study suggests.

The research published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association stems from surveys of 4,163 public school students in Massachusetts, but the authors say the results likely apply to teens nationwide.

According to recent estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, 22 percent of high school students are victims of nonsexual dating violence, with girls slightly more likely to be victims.

The results also mirror domestic violence rates among adult women, although some statistics indicate young women and teens are especially prone, perhaps in part because they generally have more dating partners.

The study also suggests that a disturbing number of adolescent boys "have adopted attitudes that men are entitled to control their girlfriends through vio-

lence," said lead author Jay G. Silverman of Harvard University's School of Public Health.

The study was based on results of statewide surveys given to students in grades nine through 12 in 1997 and 1999. More than 70 percent of the girls who participated were white, about 10 percent were Hispanic and about 6 percent each were black or Asian.

Participants were asked if they would ever be shoved, slapped, hit or forced into any sexual activity, including rape, by a date. They also were asked about re-

cent risky behavior. Victimized girls were:

- About eight to nine times more likely to have attempted suicide in the previous year.
- Four to six times more likely to have ever been pregnant.
- Three to five times more likely to have ever used cocaine.
- Three to four times more likely to have used unhealthy dieting methods such as laxatives or vomiting.

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Sports
• Glenn begins NFL career

Opinion
• Open market needed
Globalization, trade helps poorer countries

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