

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief
Campus

Aggie to become Bolivian president

Jorge F. Quiroga, a Class of '81 industrial engineering graduate, will be formally installed as president of Bolivia and the world's first Aggie chief of state.

After graduating from A&M, Quiroga returned to his native country and quickly rose through the political ranks. By 1992, he was named minister of finance, and five years later was elected as Bolivia's youngest vice president at the age of 37.

Quiroga was followed to A&M by two younger brothers.

State

Day-care worker pleads guilty to child molestation

DALLAS (AP) — A former Catholic church day-care worker charged with abusing 11 girls pleaded guilty Wednesday to 17 counts of sexual molestation, receiving a life sentence.

Julio A. Marcos was accused of molesting girls in his care from 1998 to late 2000 at the St. Pius X Catholic Church day-care program.

Some of the children were abused several times, which added to the charges against him.

His trial was scheduled to begin Monday, but new evidence prompted Marcos to accept a plea offer, said lead prosecutor Patricia Hogue.

Marcos pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child. He received a life term and a 60-year prison term.

He also pleaded guilty to seven counts of indecency with a child by contact, receiving six 19-year sentences and one 10-year term.

In addition, Marcos pleaded guilty to eight counts of indecency with a child by exposure, receiving eight five-year prison terms.

Death row inmate's attorney claims evidence tampering

LUBBOCK (AP) — An attorney for a Lubbock man on death row claims a former district attorney altered a recorded telephone conversation that was entered as evidence in the inmate's appeal.

Attorney Alex Calhoun of Austin, who represents Mack Oran Hill, said the altered evidence casts doubt on the credibility of former District Attorney Travis Ware.

Ware denied the allegations and said such claims are frivolous and commonplace in 11th-hour appeals.

Hill was set to die by lethal injection Aug. 8 for killing and robbing 43-year-old Donald F. Johnson of Lubbock in 1987. Hill shot Johnson, then cemented his body inside a barrel and dumped it in a lake.

Wright verbally commits to men's basketball team

Mark Passwaters
The Battalion

Head Coach Melvin Watkins and the Texas A&M basketball program netted a major coup on Wednesday, obtaining the verbal commitment of Antoine Wright of Lawrence Prep in Groton, Mass. Wright, a 6-foot 7-inch guard/forward, is currently ranked fifth on ESPN.com's Top-100 rising high school seniors.



WRIGHT

"I really like Coach Watkins, and I like the conference," Wright said. "They've got a really good point guard in Michael Gardner, and I think I can help them do a lot of things. I may be able to come in and start right away."

This summer, Wright has turned heads with his performance in the ABCD Tournament and last week's Big Time Tournament, held in Las Vegas.

"This summer I've been working hard, trying to improve my game and going to the ABCD and Big Time," he said. "I've been getting ready to be an Aggie."

Some recruiting Websites had sug-

"I just think that (A&M) is the best place for me this summer."

— Antoine Wright
basketball player

gested that the University of Arizona and the University of Virginia (UVA) were leading Wright's list, but he said that A&M had been the place he had wanted to go from the beginning.

"I've been down there on an unofficial

visit, and I really liked the college atmosphere," Wright said.

Wright said that UVA had made a strong recruiting push, saying he had "definitely" considered them. The other schools that had attempted to sign Wright included the University of Tennessee, the University of Connecticut and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Wright said the University of Texas was not among the list of finalists.

"I just think that (A&M) is the best place for me this summer," Wright said.

"They need one missing piece, and I think I can be it."

Double dare challenge



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Cody Wager, a 10-year-old from College Station, is hosed down by Kristin Leonard, a junior interdisciplinary studies major, after competing in the Double Dare Challenge, an activity in which participants

made their way through an obstacle course covered with shaving cream, chocolate pudding and green oatmeal. The event took place at Rock Prairie Elementary School in College Station Wednesday.

Outbreak of 'Code Red' not as severe as predicted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The virus-like "Code Red" worm infected computers around the world Wednesday, although the outbreak was not as severe as predicted.

"We're still watchful, but for the first time, we're hopeful as well," said Alan Paller, research director at the SANS Institute, a computer security think tank working with the government to monitor the Internet.

About 135,000 Internet-connected computers running Microsoft's NT or Windows 2000 operating system, were infected by Code Red late Wednesday afternoon, according to SANS data. Although the rate of infection doubled each hour early on, the rate of increase gradually abated.

The Pentagon had to shut down public access to many Defense Department Websites again, a week after it shut down most military sites to protect against Code Red.

"These prudent measures are being taken to ensure DOD networks remain protected and available for use," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Unlike a computer virus, which needs a person to help it spread, a worm infects other computers on its own. It does not affect most home computers.

Officials worried that the outbreak would be as crippling as Code Red's first appearance on July 19, in which

over 250,000 systems were infected in its first nine hours. As a result, there were widespread slowdowns and outages across the Internet.

This time, after Code Red launched at 7 p.m. EDT, the worm has had a much lower infection rate. German, French and British officials reported that Code Red's impact was minimal.

"Fears that the worm would have a potentially devastating effect on the Internet seem to have been unfounded," said a statement from Britain's Home Office, the country's top law enforcement institution.

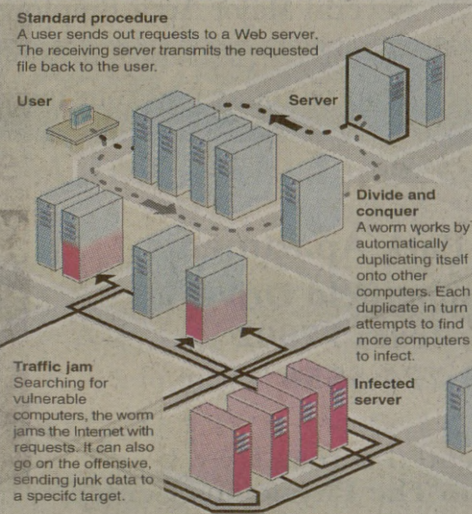
But foreign and American computer experts continued to warn that computer users should download a software patch from Microsoft to inoculate their systems from the worm.

Web site administrators running Microsoft Windows NT and 2000 operating systems, along with the Internet Information Services software, are vulnerable unless the patch is installed. Users running Windows 95, 98 or Me

See OUTBREAK on Page 2.

Worming through the Web

The "Code Red" worm — an infecting agent that, unlike a virus, does not need a person to spread — slowed Internet traffic Wednesday, but the feared catastrophic overload did not materialize.



SOURCES: National Infrastructure Protection Center; AP wire reports; Hassan Hodges/AP

Conseco denies charges

Jason Bennyhoff
The Battalion

In response to a lawsuit filed by the Texas attorney general's office Tuesday, Conseco Executive Vice President Mark Lubbers said that any violations took place before Conseco acquired the offending company.

The attorney general's lawsuit alleges that a company Conseco acquired, ATL Life Insurance Co., engaged in deceptive rate practices.

Lubbers said ATL's rate practices were not economical, so rate changes had to be made.

"Companies have to have premiums that will cover the long run," Lubbers said. "Premium prices have to cover claims. If they are not priced correctly, you risk insolvency of the company."

Lubbers said Conseco sympathizes with the affected policyholders and wants to bring an end to the litigation in a way that will positively affect them.

He says Conseco is one of the leading insurance providers in the country, and it intends to live up to the responsibilities that entails.

"Many of these customers who were policyholders in this

See CONSECO on Page 2.

Graduation speakers announced

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Texas Sen. Todd Staples will be the featured speaker at the Texas A&M commencement ceremonies on Friday, Aug. 10.

Staples represents 17 East Texas Counties in the Third Senatorial District.

He will address graduates in agriculture and life sciences, architecture, business and graduate school of business, veterinary medicine and the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Dr. Thomas R. Saving, professor of Economics at Texas A&M, will be the featured speaker at the Texas A&M commencement ceremonies on Saturday, Aug. 11.

Saving serves as director of the Private Enterprise Research Center at Texas A&M and is a member of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security.

He will address graduates in education, engineering, geosciences, liberal arts, medicine, and science.



STAPLES



SAVING

INSIDE

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Local DJs entertain the masses

Opinion
U.S. not only faces in the world but shows inability to compromise in toxic weapons discussion

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