

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinian group claims killing of Israeli minister

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's tourism minister, a retired general who advocated the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza, was assassinated Wednesday in a hotel hallway — a killing claimed by a radical Palestinian group.

Rehavam Zeevi, 75, was the first Cabinet minister to be slain by Palestinians. His killing provoked outrage in Israel and raised the specter of a new outburst of violence at a time when Israel and the Palestinians are trying to patch up a shaky U.S.-supported truce deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged "a war to the finish against the terrorists, their helpers and those who sent them."

Israel swiftly reimposed travel restrictions in the West Bank that had been eased this week as part of the Sept. 26 cease-fire deal.

The Israeli security Cabinet demanded that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority arrest those responsible for the assassination and hand them over to Israel.

Otherwise, according to the statement read by Cabinet secretary Gideon Saar, Israel will consider the Palestinian Authority a terror entity and act "as it is accepted in the international community to act against terror entities."

PUBLIC EYE

Since the start of Fall 2001, 29,836 students have used the computer labs, and there have been 418,235 logins

TODAY
AGGIELIFE
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Take a ride with me ...
• CARPOOL drivers share stories of driving Aggies home safely

SPORTS
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Shadow chasing

• Reed looks to repeat father's role in PGAs

OPINION
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Mission impossible or heroic?
• Pro-Con: Baylor students in Afghanistan

WEATHER
TODAY

HIGH 77° F
LOW 46° F

TOMORROW
HIGH 80° F
LOW 54° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com



ANDY HANCOCK • THE BATTALION

No security measures restrict entrance into the general aviation side of Easterwood or its airport hangars.

Easterwood areas have little security

By NONI SRIDHARA
THE BATTALION

While armed National Guardsmen patrol the Texas A&M-owned-and-operated Easterwood Airport terminals, construction crews on the general aviation side of the airport just across the runway are left to watch the planes and hangars.

Easterwood Airport's director of aviation, John Happ, said the airport has increased security at both the terminals and within the general aviation area. When visiting dignitaries fly in, Happ said, security is "very tight" on the airport's main operational side.

Easterwood Airport is located about a mile from the George Bush Presidential Library and Conference Center, that was promptly evacuated and closed after the Sept. 11 attacks.

But in general, Happ said, construction crews on the general aviation side, informed of security guidelines,

work under the rules imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

"We are well secured for the majority of the time," Happ said. "I'm not going to say we're totally protected because we do not have a national guardsman with a rifle walking up and down the [general aviation] area, but I don't think we're at that stage yet."

Last week, a door, locked from the inside, swung open in the breeze off the side of A&M's hangar on the general aviation side of Easterwood. Two Beechcraft aircraft sat inside the hangar. The door was open to a parking lot just behind Easterwood's fire station. No measures were present to prevent a person from entering the hangar or reaching the aircraft inside.

A 4-foot fence with two unlocked pedestrian gates and one vehicular gate allowed access to the front of the A&M and United Airway Systems hangars and the planes inside them. Runways stood just beyond the hangars. Signs on

See EASTERWOOD on page 2.

Bowen: more money needed

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M is facing a bleak financial future of growing deficits and deteriorating academic programs unless a proposed "excellence" fee is implemented, A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said Wednesday.

At a sparsely attended open forum to discuss the issue, Bowen made the case for charging students a \$30-per-credit-hour tuition fee that would only apply to new students, which, for a student taking 15 hours a semester, would mean an average of \$400 more per semester.

The fee must be approved by the A&M System Board of Regents. Bowen informed the regents Aug. 29 that A&M is facing a \$6.2 million budget shortfall this year and will be forced to hike student fees or cut spending.

"We could cut spending and hold off on the Vision 2020 initiatives, but I really don't want to do

See FORUM on page 2.

PROPOSED EXCELLENCE FEE

- \$30 PER CREDIT HOUR
- AVERAGE OF \$400 PER STUDENT PER SEMESTER
- WOULD BE CHARGED TO ALL INCOMING STUDENTS: FRESHMEN AND TRANSFERS

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

Texas collision



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Bryan police officer George Aguilar speaks with Daniel Altamirano, owner of a overturned Mazda Protege on Texas Avenue Wednesday. Bryan police and fire departments reported to the scene of the two-car collision at 4:42 p.m. Altamirano was treated at the scene, and Frederick Larson, the other driver, was taken to a hospital.

Special Olympics training, games rewarding for athletes, coaches

By ERIC AMBROSIO
THE BATTALION

The Special Olympics Fall Classic will be held in Bryan-College Station Thursday through Saturday. More than 1,200 athletes will come from around the state to compete in aquatics, bocce, golf, softball, and triathlon events.

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition to persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, said Special Olympics spokesman Scott Patterson.

Athletes train intensively for eight weeks before each sports competition, but the benefits of Special Olympics last much longer, Patterson said. The games give the athletes an opportunity to develop social skills, improve self-esteem, and acquire physical fitness.

"In order to compete in Special Olympics, a person must

See OLYMPICS on page 12.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

OPENING CEREMONIES
FRIDAY, OCT. 19 7-9 P.M.
A&M CONSOLIDATED H.S. STADIUM

Aquatics	Texas A&M Natatorium	Oct. 19-21
Bocce	College Station Southwood	Oct. 19-21
Golf	Texas A&M Golf Course	Oct. 19 & 20
Softball	Bryan Regional Athletic Complex	Oct. 18-21
Triathlon	Bryan Aquatics Center, Bryan High School surroundings	Oct. 20

VICTORY DANCE/CLOSING
SATURDAY, OCT. 20 7-9:30 P.M.
REED ARENA TEXAS A&M CAMPUS

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

A&M hosts academic integrity conference

By ROB PHILLIPS
THE BATTALION

Research shows that Texas A&M, like other large public universities, experiences high levels of academic dishonesty, and more than 200 representatives from schools across the country will gather at A&M Thursday to address the dishonesty problems plaguing higher education.

The Center for Academic Integrity, an association composed of administrators, faculty and students from colleges and universities, is holding its annual conference at A&M and Bill Kibler, president of the center and associate vice president for student affairs at A&M, said the University will benefit from the ideas discussed at the conference to help curb cheating.

Although A&M is known

See ACADEMICS on page 2.

Professors debate missile defense

By JONATHAN KOLMETZ
THE BATTALION

At a time when the United States is seeking to create a multinational coalition against terrorism, President George W. Bush's efforts to build a ballistic missile shield threaten to alienate America's potential allies, said Chester Dunning, an A&M histo-

Some European leaders resistant to Bush's ideas

ry professor who participated in a panel discussion on missile defense Wednesday.

"This rush from the U.S. to do away with the ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty has caused fear in Russia and China [such that]

Russia and China have signed a friendship treaty in opposition to the U.S.'s ballistic missile defense," Dunning said. "The speed that the U.S. has used to rid themselves of the ABM Treaty has caused some worries in Europe. Italy now opposes the U.S. stance on BMD, and only Poland outright supports it."

See WILEY on page 12.