

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Blank envelopes cause scare in University mail

Hundreds of Texas A&M employees received in the mail this week a plain, white envelope with no return address and many, afraid to open the envelope, immediately called University Police.

It turned out to be a harmless mailing from University Relations, but in the light of suspected anthrax attacks in other parts of the country, Cynthia Lawson, director of University Relations, issued a statement Wednesday apologizing for the error.

Number of surveys filled out by students on Student Senate constituency day

862

TODAY

AGGIELIFE
Page 3
Woven Harmony

• The Bluestones bring intimacy to art, will perform tonight as part of OPAS intimate gatherings

SPORTS

Page 5
A&M aims for struggling KSU

• Aggies, Wildcats in need of rebound to stay alive

OPINION

Page 7
Terrorism did happen

• Reuters denies Sept. 11 attacks were acts of terrorism

WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 80° F
LOW 54° F
TOMORROW
HIGH 81° F
LOW 53° F

B-CS able to handle anthrax

By NONI SRIDHARA
THE BATTALION

Brazos County is prepared to handle any outbreak of anthrax infections, public health officials said.

Tim Ottinger, a spokesperson for St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan, said although the hospital is not equipped to conduct any anthrax testing, it is prepared to treat anthrax cases with antibiotics.

"We have a significant supply of CIPRO on hand, but even if we should run out, we can have it at our facility within hours," Ottinger said. "Any kind of testing or vaccinations would have to come down through the state or county health departments."

DeMerle Giordano, the Brazos County emergency coordinator, advised residents to be wary of suspicious looking mail and packages.

"We also have the Center for Disease Control as a backup since it is a national pharmaceutical stockpile," she said. "In the meantime, everyone needs to view anything even slightly suspicious with an air of caution."

Giordano said her office has responded to several calls about suspicious mail following a spate of anthrax infections and exposure in Washington, D.C., New York and Florida.

"We would have generally taken many pieces of junk mail for granted, but now if a customer calls to report something suspicious, then we will go out and respond," Giordano said.

According to the Texas Department of Health, anthrax is an infectious disease caused by a bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*. It occurs naturally in certain species of animals in the southwestern part of Texas, and many different types of animals, as well as people, can get the disease.

Symptoms of anthrax in humans vary, depending on how the disease was contracted but usually occur within seven days after exposure. The three forms of human anthrax are inhalation anthrax (caused when the spores are inhaled into the lungs), cutaneous anthrax (caused when broken skin comes into contact with infected animals or hides) and intestinal anthrax (caused when undercooked meat from an infected animal is eaten).

Each of the different forms of

See ANTHRAX on page 2.

'Mine to blow'



Pushmonkey's lead singer Tony Park rocks to Blow." Pushmonkey and opening band Slim drew more than 500 people to their concert Wednesday.

JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Bin Laden followers sentenced

4 men get life for role in bombings

NEW YORK (AP) — In a courthouse ringed by shotgun-toting marshals a few blocks from the smoking ruins of the World Trade Center, four disciples of Osama bin Laden were sentenced to life without parole Thursday for the deadly 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

The men were the first to be convicted by a U.S. jury of carrying out bin Laden's 1998 religious edict to kill Americans wherever they are found.

They got the maximum sentence as expected after U.S. District Judge Leonard B. Sand called terrorism "one of the most serious threats to our society ... to the society of any civilized nation."

He also ordered each of the defendants to pay \$33 million in restitution, perhaps out of terrorist assets frozen by the U.S. government in recent weeks.

The near-simultaneous Aug. 7, 1998, bombings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, killed 231 people, including 12 Americans. Nearly two dozen people have been indicted in the case, including bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding out in Afghanistan and is also wanted for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Prosecutors during the six-month trial accused bin Laden and his organization of directing the bombings, using a satellite telephone from Afghanistan and messengers to communicate the orders.

"Al-Qaida stands charged, tried, convicted and sentenced for terrorism," Attorney General John Ashcroft said in Washington. "Today's sentence sends a message: The United States will hunt terrorists down and make them pay a price for their evil acts of terrorism."

Sand handed down identical sentences for Wadih El-Hage, 41, Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 28, Mohamed Al-Owhali, 24, and Mohamed Sadeek Odeh, 36.

The jury had considered and rejected the death penalty for Mohamed and Al-Owhali, in part to keep them from being viewed as martyrs.

During the sentencing, El-Hage rose to condemn last month's attacks in New York and Washington.

"The killing of innocent people is radical, extreme and cannot be tolerated by any religion, principles or values," said El-Hage, a Lebanese-born naturalized American. He maintained

See SENTENCING on page 2.

Chilcoat marks 100 days as dean of Bush School

By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN
THE BATTALION

Yesterday marked Richard A. "Dick" Chilcoat's 100th day as dean of the Texas A&M George Bush School of Government and Public Service. Chilcoat's position as permanent dean began on July 1, 2001 after the intense search for a permanent dean began in January. Chilcoat succeeded the interim dean, Robert Gates.

Chilcoat moved from the east coast and retired from the military, after 42 years of service, to become an integral part of A&M.

"When my wife and I moved here, it was a big decision to move from the east coast to a southern town. But we love the community and A&M and have not regretted a second of it," Chilcoat said.

Chilcoat received his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy and went on to earn

his master of business degree from Harvard University. He then served as an assistant to the dean of the United States Military Academy and as assistant professor of Social Sciences at West Point.

During his extensive military career he earned the title of Lieutenant General of the U.S. Army, now retired (LTG, U.S. Army (Ret.)). He fought in the Vietnam War and served in several infantry units, holding various positions including a helicopter pilot, a planner and a strategist. He also served as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"One of the greatest experiences I had was serving as executive assistant to Colin Powell when I was chairman," Chilcoat said.

In 1994, Chilcoat became resident of the U.S. Army War College, and in 1997, he was appointed to president of the National Defense University.

See CHILCOAT on page 2.

First fall Replant Saturday

By TANYA NADING
THE BATTALION

In its 11 years of existence, Replant will take place for the first time in the fall semester Saturday, as opposed to its typical spring date.

"It's a better time for the trees," Allison Rosen, director of Replant and a senior biomedical science major, said. "There is more rain right now, and there will be students available to check on their [the tree's] progress."

Last year, students and members of the community planted 1,110 seedlings and 300 trees all donated by the National Tree Trust. This year, volunteers will be repotting seedlings and plant-

ing 270 to 300 trees, Rosen said. Planting sites this semester include Travis Field and Winchester Park. Both are located in Bryan.

Replant is known as one of the largest, student-run environmental service projects in the nation, Rosen said.

"Because it rained last year, we only had around 1,000 participants. I'm excited because this year we should have around 2,200."

Replant will begin with the first kick-off starting at 8 a.m. at the Polo Fields.

"We will be having two kickoffs, one at eight and one at 11," Rosen said. "There, volunteers will meet and listen to guest speakers. Afterward, they

(participants) will receive their assignments and head out."

Many students associate Replant with Bonfire, but there is no connection, Rosen said.

"We want to be known as an environmental outreach program. We want to better the environment and the community through this service project," Rosen said.

Though Bonfire and Replant are not officially connected, Sarah Biggerstaff, the Replant organizer for Davis-Gary, said Replant is a way to give back to the Bryan-College Station community.

"We took so much from the community with Bonfire, it's

See REPLANT on page 2.

A&M student senate looks at parking issue

By ELIZABETH RAINES
THE BATTALION

Many of the 24-hour reserved parking spaces on campus are empty in the evenings, and student senators say students should be allowed to park in those spots in the evening.

At the Student Senate meeting Wednesday, Student Services Chair Daniel Pearson, a senior political science major, said that senators will gather data to see how many 24-hour reserve spots are being used in the evenings by the reserve-spot holder, how many are being used by students and how many are not being used at all. Pearson said the data will be presented to the Faculty Senate and Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) in November in hopes that the 24-hour reserve spots that are being underutilized will be turned into 12-hour reserve spots.

Pearson said that although data was collected last year for this

See SENATE on page 2.