

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### aliban releases ight aid workers

SLAMABAD, Pakistan - Eight foreign aid rkers, including two ericans, were airlifted by military helicopters to in Pakistan dom rsday after three months Taliban captivity for aching Christianity.

The two Americans, two stralians and four Germans ded at Chaklali air base on outskirts of the Pakistani pital of Islamabad, said ark Wentworth, a U.S. bassy spokesman.

The Taliban militia had reed to release the aid orkers but instead left m behind in the flight m advancing northern iance rebels, a senior U.S. ficials said.

The aid workers were flown Pakistan and some were lickly reunited with waiting members. All opeared to be in good

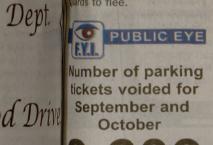
U.S. military. ealth, officials said. ailors and airme The Taliban had agreed to m over the aid workers ne American rough the International percent," Perry s mmittee of the Red Cross, Rock sat in senior administration icials said. The Red Cross as going to get them into support our co he hands of U.S. troops. But

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ore the exchange could be omplished, the antiiban northern alliance overra Ghazni, prompting he Taliban and the workers' wards to flee.



Squad will not cheer for Ags

#### By MELISSA SULLIVAN THE BATTALION

Only weeks after its creation, The Fightin' Texas Aggie Competition Cheer Squad was asked by Texas A&M's Department of Student Activities to exclude the word "Aggie" from its name

The name change was requested after several alumni complained to University officials, saying other schools would confuse the squad with the Aggie yell leaders. Some alumni told the Houston Chronicle this weekend that as long as A&M has a cheer squad, they would intentionally withhold money from the University.

A&M officials decided the squad cannot use the Aggie name or logo in their organization name, competition uniforms or equipment.

The group's organizers say its new name — Texas Ag Elite – will represent students at A&M and Blinn College, but not A&M as an institution.

"I'm upset about the name change, but we want to cheer, so we are trying to meet [Student said halfway," Activities] Shannan Johnson, the squad's founder and a sophomore journalism major.

The competition squad's uniforms will be maroon, white and gray and will display the Texas Ag Elite name.

"It is totally unfair, but A&M

## **Benefiting hunger**



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Dawn Putnam, a senior mechanical engineering major, and Gared Chastain, a junior computer engineering major, get a taste of hunger during a hunger banquet at the Koldus Building Wednesday. Banquet participants were divided randomly into upper, middle and lower classes to simulate the real world. Upper class members were served a four-course meal while members of the lower class were required to eat rice with their hands.

# **Bonfire 2002 resolution** voided, approved again

By ELIZABETH RAINES

resolution was, a majority of senate officers

# Drill advisers chosen Corps pledges

no more hazing

#### By LATEASHIA JACKSON THE BATTALION

The student and staff advisers of the reinstated Corps of Cadets Fish Drill Team say new rules are in place to prevent hazing. "This drill team is going to be

a good representation of Texas A&M University," said Michelle Peters, a senior adviser for the group and a junior interdisciplinary studies major.

Peters, along with Jerry Aymond, a junior history major, were named senior advisers earlier this month.

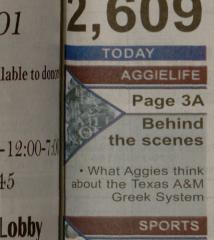
The drill team was disbanded in 1997 after a complaint from a freshman who said upperclassman advisers were physically assaulting him. Further complaints resulted in the suspension of nine upperclassmen from the Corps.

New procedures designed to prevent hazing will be enforced when the drill team regroups next semester.

The drill team activities will be limited to two-hour practice sessions and public performanc-es," said Major Doc Mills, es," spokesman for the Office of the Commandant.

Also, at least one University staff adviser is required to attend all team activities. Mills said.

Team activities will take place in the immediate area of the Corps residence halls and team members will not have off-campus or after-hours team activities. "The Corps of Cadets and the organization associated with the Corps do not believe in, nor do they tolerate, acts of hazing," said Trevor Voelkel, Corps public relations officer and a senior finance major.



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does not want people to think we are the major spirit group at A&M," Johnson said. "I feel the alumni's threat to not support their alma mater just because of a cheer squad, rather then their love for Texas A&M, is only skin deep. They [the alumni] do not really bleed maroon.

"I feel that they need to realize that things do change and this is

See CHEER on page 5B.

#### THE BATTALION

senators approved again Student Wednesday a resolution supporting Bonfire 2002 after the Student Government Association Judicial Court rescinded the original resolution passed at the senate's Oct. 31 meeting.

The court ruled that senate rules were violated in bringing the resolution to the floor. Senate bylaws require that when a resolution is submitted less than four class days prior to the senate meeting, as the Bonfire

must approve its placement on the agenda. However, the Bonfire resolution was approved by only three of the six officers on the internal affairs committee

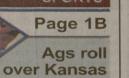
Daniel Pearson, a senate officer and senior political science major, said the speaker pro-tempore of the senate has traditionally presided over meetings of the committee but could not vote, and so it was widely understood that three constituted a majority.

Paul Jackman, a senator and senior aerospace engineering major, filed the complaint

See SENATE on page 3B.

The regulations that are to govern the drill team are still being developed and will be complete by the end of the semester. "These rules, with regard to

See DRILL on page 5B.



·A&M volleyball claims third consecutive win

OPINION

Page 7B **T-sippers** or tortillathrowers Aggies should consider Tech another school rival



Texas A&M ranks fifth in the nation in enrollment figures, with a record 44,618 students attending classes for Fall 2001.

The data, compiled by A&M's Office of Institutional Studies and Planning, reflects the total number of undergraduate, graduate and professional students in the nation's schools and has increased by approximately 600 students since Fall 2000.

The University of Texas-Austin holds the No. 1 spot with 50,616 students enrolled.

The number of A&M masters students has grown by 6 percent over last year, said

Frank Ashley, director of admissions.

"A lot of colleges are really emphasizing their graduate programs," he said.

The 1-percent increase in undergraduate enrollment is mostly because of the TEAM Blinn program that allows students who were on A&M's waiting lists to be admitted to Blinn College and eventually transfer fulltime to A&M, Ashley said.

Ashley said the University is working on a state plan called "Closing the Gap" with which A&M will cap enrollment at 45,000 by the year 2015. He said any enrollment much above 45,000 would strain the University's resources.

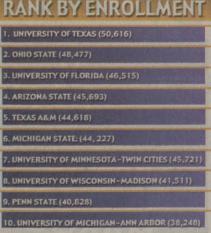
Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen

said that, as a result, there are no plans to increase the undergraduate enrollment.

'Bigger is not always better," Bowen said. "What is important is to be able to provide a high-quality academic and student experience. Too many students can mean large classes and a deterioration of services."

Bowen said that, if possible, he would like to increase certain graduate programs for which the University has sufficient resources.

Other schools ranking above A&M in enrollment include Ohio State with 48,477 students, the University of Florida with 46,515 students and Arizona State with 45,693 students



SOURCE: OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL STUDIES AND PLANNING ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION



# Low interest makes new cars attractive

### By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN THE BATTALION

With car dealerships offering zero-percent financing and commercials urging Americans to spend money, students may be looking to make some big purchases, including buying a new car.

Manufacturers, economists and President George W. Bush agree: now is the time to buy.

## Students should shop cautiously

But during a time when dealers are eager to sell more cars, students should beware of mediocre offers and negotiations, said officials from the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

For many college students, buying a car is a first-time experience. Car dealerships

can persuade students into a purchase that may not be good for them, said Larry Lightfoot, president of the Bryan BBB. Students need to know how to play the game of car buying and learn the art of negotiation, he said.

'We don't think car dealerships are being deceptive it's just a competitive mar-ket," Lightfoot said. "Try to ket."

See CARS on page 7A.