

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Taliban releases eight aid workers

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Eight foreign aid workers, including two Americans, were airlifted by U.S. military helicopters to freedom in Pakistan Thursday after three months in Taliban captivity for preaching Christianity. The two Americans, two Australians and four Germans landed at Chaklali air base on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, said Mark Wentworth, a U.S. Embassy spokesman.

The Taliban militia had agreed to release the aid workers but instead left them behind in the flight from advancing northern alliance rebels, a senior U.S. official said.

The aid workers were flown to Pakistan and some were quickly reunited with waiting family members. All appeared to be in good health, officials said.

The Taliban had agreed to turn over the aid workers through the International Committee of the Red Cross, two senior administration officials said. The Red Cross was going to get them into the hands of U.S. troops. But before the exchange could be accomplished, the anti-Taliban northern alliance overran Ghazni, prompting the Taliban and the workers' guards to flee.

PUBLIC EYE

Number of parking tickets voided for September and October

2,609

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 3A

Behind the scenes

• What Aggies think about the Texas A&M Greek System

SPORTS

Page 1B

Ags roll over Kansas

• A&M volleyball claims third consecutive win

OPINION

Page 7B

T-sippers or tortilla-throwers

• Aggies should consider Tech another school rival

WEATHER

TODAY
40% HIGH 78° F
LOW 60° F

TOMORROW
30% HIGH 78° F
LOW 61° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

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 Activities] halfway," said 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 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 than 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.

Benefiting hunger



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Dawn Putnam, a senior mechanical engineering major, and Jared 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
THE BATTALION

Student senators approved again 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

resolution was, a majority of senate officers 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.

A&M enrollment ranks fifth in nation

By NONI SRIDHARA
THE BATTALION

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.

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 performances," said Major Doc Mills, 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.

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.

RANK BY ENROLLMENT

1. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS (50,616)
2. OHIO STATE (48,477)
3. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA (46,515)
4. ARIZONA STATE (45,693)
5. TEXAS A&M (44,618)
6. MICHIGAN STATE (44,227)
7. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES (45,721)
8. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON (41,511)
9. PENN STATE (40,828)
10. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-ANN ARBOR (38,248)

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 market," Lightfoot said. "Try to

See CARS on page 7A.

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