

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man sentenced for sexual assault, to pay \$150 million

BRYAN (AP) — Behrooz "Bruce" Daftarian, a recruiter for Doug Hunter Enterprises, was sentenced to life in prison for sexually assaulting children who were clients at his modeling studio. He has been ordered to pay five of them about \$150 million. On Monday, District Judge Rick Davis ordered Daftarian, who was convicted of aggravated sexual assault in March, to pay one victim \$29.7 million. He ordered Daftarian to pay the other four victims \$30.2 million each.

Houston law library to get flood funding to replace lost books

HOUSTON (AP) — The University of Houston's O'Quinn Law Library will receive \$21.4 million in federal funding to replace 174,000 law books and a microfiche storage collection lost in June during flooding from Tropical Storm Allison. The funding, announced Monday by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will replace materials damaged when eight feet of water flooded the library's lower level.

The federal funding is providing 75 percent of the \$28.5 million price tag to buy the new books and microfiche collection. The rest of the money will come from local sources.

PUBLIC EYE

Number of international students at A&M in Fall 2000

3,479

TODAY
AGGIELIFE
Page 3
To the slopes

• Students remember fun, scary experiences on the slopes

SPORTS
Page 7
Aggies up and rolling

• 3-0 team signs another prep star for 2002-2003

OPINION
Page 11
Brazos Valley on ice

• Ice at exposition center would benefit community

WEATHER

TODAY
100% HIGH 42° F
LOW 34° F
TOMORROW
30% HIGH 47° F
LOW 30° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

A&M considers forgoing Easterwood

By AMANDA SMITH
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M officials have indicated an interest in relinquishing ownership of Easterwood Airport in the near future, along with a possible relocation.

Charles Sippial, vice president for administration, said the growing University campus must continue to reassess its goals in relation to the airport. "Owning and operating an airport is not a University function. It is our desire

Sippial: University needs out of airport business

that a public entity operate the airport," Sippial said.

Sippial said state projections indicate the number of Texans needing a degree will exceed the state capability by 2015 and that A&M may need to expand current facilities.

"There is increasing pressure to admit more undergraduate students," Sippial said. "We must be in a position to assist our state to meet this demand. Our research

needs are also expanding and they will require additional land and facilities."

John Happ, director of aviation of Easterwood Airport, said discussions have indicated that ownership of the airport located on Raymond Stotzer Parkway could change in the next five years, although relocation is not likely to occur for another 20 to 25 years.

"There are a lot of questions that have not been answered," Happ said. "There

still has to be lots of research done, as with anytime you move a large transportation facility."

Sippial said the airport has continued to extend its service beyond the immediate A&M community, reaching into greater Bryan-College Station.

"We built our airport because there was not one that met our need at the time, nor was there a public entity that could have done so," Sippial said. "Over the years, the airport has grown to serve the

See EASTERWOOD on page 2.

TKE decides against appeal

By BRANDIE LIFFICK
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity was given a deferred suspension until June 1, 2002, for violating University student organization rules concerning alcohol and pledging.

TKE had until 5 p.m. Monday to file an appeal against the punishment.

"We did work with Thomas Danner (president of the A&M chapter of TKE) and it was decided not to file an appeal," said Kevin M. Mayeux, chief executive of TKE national headquarters. "A deferred suspension is a common punishment given to national organizations by institutions for various offenses. This is not an uncommon punishment."

Dean of Student Life Dr. David Parrott said that until June, TKE is not in good standing with the University.

"That basically means that they will not have a vote in the Interfraternity Council," Parrott said. "The allegations, investigation and hearing created an opportunity for learning and growth for all involved. The true measure of the impact of this series of events will be the resulting changes in this group."

University rules stipulate that fraternity rush events are to be alcohol-free.

In early Sept., junior political science major Clay Cunningham said the TKE organization provided alcohol for minors, hazed pledges and was discriminatory against him because of his sexual orientation.

Cunningham said in an interview in Oct. that the organization asked him to turn

See TKE on page 2.

Flying saucer



Jeff Hughes and Tim Thornton, freshman engineering majors, launch a frisbee from a device they constructed for ENGR 111. The launcher was required to propel a frisbee through a target up to 30 feet away.

B-CS unemployment rate remains low

By MELISSA SULLIVAN
THE BATTALION

As the nation faces mounting unemployment rates of 5.4 percent and Texas faces similar increases in the number of workers seeking employment, the Bryan-College Station area continues to weather the storm of layoffs and job cuts with unemployment rates of 1.7 and 1.5 percent.

Bryan-College Station officials say the area's saving grace is Texas A&M, which employs a large sector of the local population and is immune to fluctuations in the economy.

In a recent report released by the Texas Workforce Commission, Bryan-College Station has the lowest unemployment rate among the Metropolitan Statistical Areas at 1.5 percent for the month of October.

This figure is down from the month of September, in which College Station showed a rate of 1.8 percent and Bryan at 1.7 percent.

"In general, if you look at university communities throughout the Midwest who lack high technology-like jobs, they continue to have a low rate of unemployment," said Roland Mower, president and CEO of the Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation.

According to the report, cities such as Lubbock and Waco have unemployment rates considerably lower than the state figure, which stands at 5.2 percent for the month of October and is up from the September figure of 5.0 percent.

"Cities like that are not finely developed," Mower said.

Cities like Austin that offer a higher number of technology-based jobs suffer more, Mower said.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

	OCT 2001	SEPT 2001
Houston	4.3%	5.6%
Austin	4.5%	5.2%
Waco	3.7%	4.9%
Lubbock	2.2%	2.4%
B-CS	1.5%	1.75%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission
CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Areas like Bryan-College Station are better suited to survive economic recessions, Mower said.

"We have a strong foundation for further diversification and being in the same town as Texas A&M University is just icing on the cake," Mower said.

Being in a small town also can have an effect on the way companies recruit new employees.

"The low rate of unemployment can make it easier for a company to recruit and give special circumstances, but that just

See RATE on page 9.

Castillo appointed as Spring 2002 editor

By SOMMER BUNCE
THE BATTALION

Mariano Castillo's first experience with *The Battalion* was carrying stacks of the newspaper to his upperclassmen's rooms on the Quadrangle, shouting, "Dahn-nah-nah, Batt Fish!"

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets tradition of using freshmen to collect the student newspaper from Corps Headquarters sent Castillo and classmates in Fall 1998 running through the Corps

living area with towels around their necks and belts around their heads.

When Castillo, an international studies and journalism major, took a job writing for *The Battalion's* Aggiefife section the spring of his freshman year, he did not know where it could take him. A Muster feature Castillo wrote for the newspaper that April earned him and his Corps buddies junior privileges for the day, which, in the Corps allows a fresh-



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION
Mariano Castillo will head *The Battalion* for Spring 2002 as editor in chief.

See CASTILLO on page 12.

Robinson to head petro department

By TANYA NADING
THE BATTALION

Ranked the No. 1 undergraduate engineering department with Ph.D. programs and the best graduate program in 2002 by U.S. News and World Report, the petroleum engineering department is under the direction of a new department head, Dr. Ronald James Robinson.

Robinson was appointed department chair on Nov. 12. As the new department head, Robinson said he wants to do many things to ensure that the department remains among the best in the nation.

"As a department, we will continue to produce the best students and recruit on a global basis, since petroleum engineering is a global field, and we will build up the graduate programs and research program substitution," Robinson said.

Robinson has a bachelor of science in math and physics from

See PETROLEUM on page 9.