

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**No Battalion on dead days**

The Battalion will not publish Wednesday or Thursday. The final publication of the semester will be Friday. Stories and archives are available on the Internet at www.thebatt.com.

**Teenager pleads guilty in murder of two professors**

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — One of two teenagers charged with murdering two Dartmouth College professors agreed Monday to plead guilty in one of the slayings. James Parker, 17, will plead guilty to an adult charge of accomplice to second-degree murder in the stabbing of Susanne Zantop. Prosecutors and defense attorneys did not say what would happen to the murder charge involving the victim's husband. "Jimmy has made the decision to accept responsibility for his actions, and is hopeful that his plea will enable his family and that of the Zantops to begin the healing process," defense attorney Cathy Green said. "He is now 17, and will pay a very heavy price for his role in this tragedy."

## A&M safest campus in nation

By AMANDA SMITH  
THE BATTALION

The words of the Aggie Code of Honor tell students that "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal," and according to a report released by the FBI, Aggieland has fewer crimes than any other college in the United States.

Texas A&M had fewer violent crimes than any other major higher education institution in the nation in 2000, according to the FBI's 2000 Uniform Crime Report, released last month.

Annually, colleges and universities are required to report all violent crimes, including

murder, manslaughter, robbery, rape and aggravated assault. A&M reported only two violent crimes in 2000. Purdue was recorded as having the second-best record with six violent crimes, followed by the University of Texas, with 13 violent crimes.

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said the department works toward improving campus safety.

"In the year 2000, we had only two violent crimes," Wiatt said. "One was a sexual assault and the other a robbery. We feel we are very fortunate. A lot of that goes to the students themselves. The

CAMPUSES With LOWEST CRIME LEVELS		
RANK	UNIVERSITY	# OF VIOLENT CRIMES
1.	TEXAS A&M	2
2.	PURDUE	6
3.	U.T. - AUSTIN	13
4.	U. OF FLORIDA	23
5.	U. OF MINNESOTA	24

SOURCE: FBI'S 2000 UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

See CRIME on page 2A.

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

## Holiday donations may drop

By ERIC AMBROSO  
THE BATTALION

As the holiday season approaches, Americans typically reach into their wallet to help the less fortunate.

Angela Bies, a lecturer at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, said the six weeks from mid-November through the start of the New Year always are the best time for charity fund raising. However, many charitable organizations are unsure what effect the Sept. 11 tragedy will have on this year's donations. The declining economy and the amount of money raised for the disaster relief efforts in New York and Washington, D.C. have created an unclear future for traditional and local charities.

"First, people should be proactive and take control of their giving," Bies said. "Families should sit down together in order to determine how much to donate and which cause they want to support. In making decisions, remember that non-profit, traditional organizations are active in providing services everyday and that these needs will not decrease."

Cathy Quintana, executive director of the Brazos Valley chapter of the American Red Cross, said the Red Cross is not actively soliciting relief funds to specifically benefit victims of the terrorist attacks.

"We will always be seeking donations to respond to other accidents," Quintana said. "Thousands of people have donated to the disaster relief funds, but other traditional charities need donations too. If all donations are funneled towards the relief efforts, then traditional charities will not be able to respond to disasters in their local community."

Bies said there is concern that illegitimate agencies will take advantage of the situation by soliciting funds that will not be used for charity. Bies said to determine if an organization is legitimate is to request a copy of its International Revenue Service (IRS) tax-exemption certificate or look up the organization on the IRS Website. She added that no more than 30 to 40 percent of a charity's income should go toward administrative costs, and warns against agencies that claim 100 percent

See DONATIONS on page 6B.

## Easy rider



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A member of the A&M cycling team goes for an afternoon ride. Cyclists started their ride near the Academic Plaza and headed around Albritton Bell Tower onto Wellborn Road and George Bush Drive.

## Graduation speakers chosen

By MELISSA SULLIVAN  
THE BATTALION

With a positive outlook on education and a series of good relationships with colleges and universities, Dr. Miguel Angel Rodriguez, president of Costa Rica, will speak to Aggies in the Colleges of Science and Engineering as they prepare to walk across the stage on Dec. 14.

Rodriguez was elected in February

1998, and took the oath of office on the following May 8. He will conclude his term in May 2002.

"I have known him for over 40 years," said Jaime Darenblum, the ambassador to Costa Rica in Washington, D.C. "We were classmates at the University of Costa Rica together and he was one of the best students there."

Several Costa Ricans have studied at A&M and programs in the country

continue to expand, Darenblum said. "He has a clear vision of the future of Costa Rica," Darenblum said.

After graduating from the University of Costa Rica in 1963, Rodriguez attended the University of California-Berkeley, where he received his doctorate degree. He was appointed president of congress before being elected president.

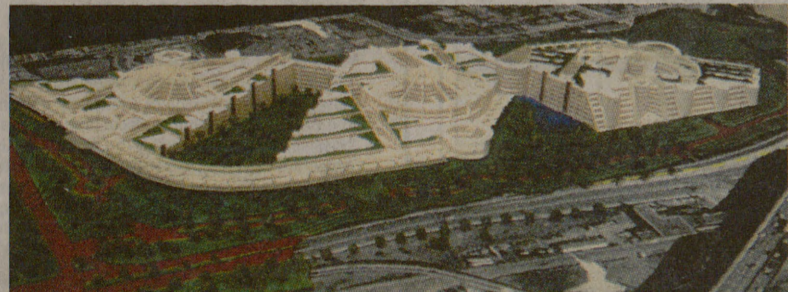
"He has definitely had a distin-

See RODRIGUEZ on page 2A.

## Students help design hospital

By JUSTIN SMITH  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's College of Architecture unveiled plans for a 4.1-million square foot medical center for McGill University in Montreal, Canada Monday. Planned by almost 150 graduate and undergraduate architecture



SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

students, the McGill University Medical Centre will be the new home for six of Montreal's aging hospitals.

The majority of health-care facilities in Montreal have been operating in old buildings, some of which pre-date World War II. The College of Architecture previously has worked on M.D.

Anderson Hospital in Houston and children's hospitals in Dallas and Chicago.

"The hospitals are just being moved to newer facilities and will still hold their same names," said George Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs endowed professor of health facilities design.

"We assembled a team of 75 third-year, fourth-year and graduate architecture students along with 50 third-year, fourth-year and graduate landscape students."

The new hospital facility will house two children's hospitals, one a Shriners' children's hospital, and a neurological center, along with the general hospital and emergency-needs building. The center will serve as a region

See HOSPITAL on page 2A.

## Report: Journalism in need of changes

By SOMMER BUNCE  
THE BATTALION

The three-member consultant team that descended on Texas A&M's Department of Journalism concluded Monday that the department was in need of drastic revision, including building a new facility, hiring at least five tenured faculty and cutting the number of students in the department by half.

In a report addressed to College of Liberal Arts Dean Charles A. Johnson, the consultants — journalism professors from the University of Alabama, the University of Wisconsin and the University of Texas who were nominated by A&M professors — expressed doubt that the Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation Test that all journalism majors are required to pass is not an adequate "screen for competency in writing."

After extensive interviews and meetings with faculty, staff and students in the journalism and speech communication departments,

See JOURNALISM on page 6B.

**PUBLIC EYE**

**Average per capita income in Texas**

1999  
**\$26,858**  
2000  
**\$27,871**

TODAY

**AGGIELIFE**

Page 3A

**Silver Taps**

• The tradition affects many, last ceremony of the semester tonight

**SPORTS**

Page 1B

**Ags headed for Houston**

• A&M awaits Conference USA opponent in Astrodome

**OPINION**

Page 5B

**Hit the road, Jack**

• Highway 6 should be a road traveled by naysayers

**WEATHER**

TODAY

HIGH  
76° F  
LOW  
61° F

TOMORROW

HIGH  
77° F  
LOW  
63° F

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