

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Credit card scam affects 200 people

EZ-Mart customers notice unauthorized charges

By Brandie Liffick
THE BATTALION

A College Station man was arrested Friday on charges of stealing credit card numbers from at least 200 EZ-Mart customers and charging \$20 to each of their accounts.

Josh Rajendran, an EZ-Mart clerk at the 10 University Dr. location, told police he would "note down" customer card numbers and then go to the A&M Student Computing Center where he would enter the numbers into a Web

page that would credit his own company, called Cataris. Rajendran was trying to start his own computer company, said College Station Police Department Detective Michael Pavelka.

EZ-Mart customers started noticing charges to Cataris on their bills last week, Pavelka said.

Rajendran currently is being held by the police department, and bond has not yet been set.

Pavelka said victims should contact their

banks and fill out a fraud affidavit, and then contact the police at 764-3618.

"They need to then bring in the forms from their bank, and we'll do everything we can to get their money back," Pavelka said. "This is a good example of why it is so important for credit card users to look over their statements carefully and make sure that they know where all the charges come from."

EZ-Mart corporate officials did not return phone calls Wednesday.

Credit Card Scam

- EZ-Mart employee targeted 200 customers, charging \$20 to each account
- The employee was trying to start a computer company named Cataris
- Customers with Cataris charged to their accounts should call College Station Police Department 764-3618

Source: College Station Police Department
CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Clowning around



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Charity the clown, Marcia Lightsey, was on hand at the MSC to make balloon characters for passers-by Tuesday afternoon. Lightsey was sponsored by the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life.

Health Services Director appointed

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M selected a new director of Student Health Services Wednesday.

Dr. Linda Lekawski was hired to fill the vacancy left by the late Dr. Lucille Isdale.

Of the three candidates considered, Lekawski came the most highly recommended, said Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Bill Kibler. In addition to Lekawski, Dr. Scott Spear and Reginald Bond were considered for the job. As

candidates, all three were interviewed by people drawn from a pool of 100 staff and faculty members, students and the local medical community.

"[Lekawski was] clearly the most highly evaluated," Kibler said.

The recent controversy surrounding the candidacy of Spear, a supporter of abortion rights and a former employee of Planned Parenthood, had little impact on the outcome, Kibler said. But, he said, all opinions were taken in to account.

Kibler said Spear did not

withdraw his application.

Brandon Posvar, president of Aggies for Life, a group that was critical of Spear's candidacy, said he was satisfied with the decision not to hire him.

"I'm happy and I believe that the administration made the correct decision, at least in terms of (not) hiring Dr. Spear," Posvar said.

At its meeting last week, the Student Senate tabled a resolution asking that Kibler consider a less politically-active candidate than Spear,

See **Health** on page 2A

Wiley: Media effects are far-reaching, powerful

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

The media decides what people think about, act upon and what problems society chooses to solve, veteran journalist Charles Wiley said Wednesday.

Those who think the media deliberately change the news to fit the reporter's point of view have every reason to feel correct in their criticism, Wiley said. Wiley spoke in the Memorial Student Center about accuracy and bias in the media during a lecture hosted by the Texas A&M College Republicans.

Wiley is a veteran journalist whose work has led to his arrest eight times by secret police, including the KGB and imprisonment in Castro's Cuba while reporting for WOR radio in New York. He has covered 11 wars and travels the globe lecturing on media bias and journalistic ethics. He is

also a frequent guest and commentator for many magazines, newspapers and television-news shows.

He works for the Accuracy in Media group based in Washington, D.C. Accuracy in Media investigates complaints of serious media malpractice and works to advocate higher standards in writing, editing and reporting the news responsibly.

Wiley spoke about advocacy journalism, which he said is the type of journalism most reporters use today. In that role, a journalist reports on a certain issue from his or her point of view.

He said the turning point from objective journalism to advocacy journalism was the 1960s.

Wiley gave his opinion of why he felt the

See **Journalist** on page 2A

Exhibit honors Black History in Forsyth gallery

By Christina Hoffman
THE BATTALION

Black History Month is coming to a close, but the Forsyth Center gallery in the Memorial Student Center will continue to look at the history of blacks at Texas A&M throughout the semester, with an exhibit, "In fulfillment of a Dream: African Americans at Texas A&M University."

The exhibit aims to recognize the historical contributions, achievements and participation of blacks since A&M began.

The exhibit, on loan from the Cushing Library, will help students and visitors to the gallery realize how far the history of blacks at

A&M spans, said Steve Smith, interim dean of the Cushing Library and administrative curator for the exhibit.

"It tries to show the good, the bad and the ugly part of this history. In doing that, however, I think we gain a greater appreciation for all members of the Aggie family," Smith said.

Research for the exhibit began in spring of 1998 by Angus Martin, a former staff member of the Cushing Library. Originally the exhibit showed in Cushing from February to June 2001, then was displayed in the ground floor rotunda of the Texas State Capitol during the summer.

"It is in a prime location. So far we have received really great reviews," said Marci Holland, director of marketing for the Forsyth

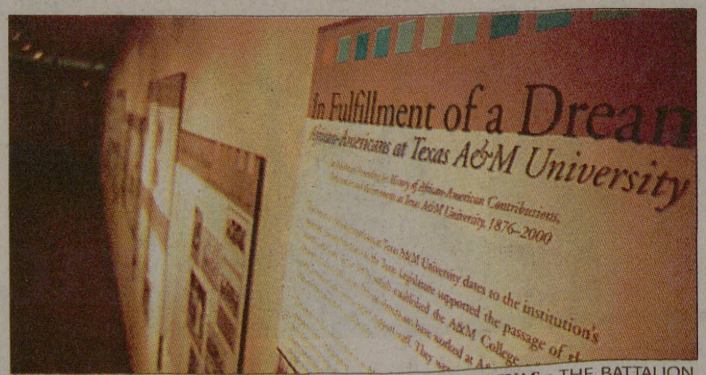
Center. "I encourage everyone to come by and see it."

The exhibit honors important black figures beginning in 1876, although blacks could not enroll until 1963. However, in their support staff capacity, many dedicated their lives to help build A&M, and these men and women are categorized as the invisible men and women, Smith said.

"For example, Daniel Jackson worked on campus from 1876 to 1920. He may hold the record for longest tenure of any A&M employee," Smith said.

Since integration in 1963, blacks have

See **Gallery** on page 2A



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M black history exhibit in the MSC Forsyth Center gallery.

Frying methods researched at A&M

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

The future of healthier snack food is promising, according to research of the frying process by Dr. Rosana Moreira, associate professor in A&M's Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

By using new technology in food frying, junk food can be made with a lower oil content, less vitamin loss and a higher overall quality.

Moreira has been studying the effects of various

methods and alternatives to food frying processes for more than 10 years, since the Frito Lay company first expressed an interest in understanding the scientific aspects of frying.

"At that time, no work in frying had ever been done. Everyone knew how to fry (food), but the engineering and scientific aspects were unknown," Moreira said.

Two areas of her research are vacuum frying and steam

See **Republicans** on page 8A

INSIDE

AggieLife Pg. 3A
Let them eat cookies
New wedding trends alter traditional ceremonies

SciJTech Pg. 5B
The truth about cloning

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 58° F
LOW 25° F

FRIDAY

50% HIGH 68° F
LOW 48° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF
www.collegeweather.com