NATI0 E BATTALIO

Opinion cers

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response to the Feb. 28

hope students will take more to consideration when casting a vote than the recommendation made by The Battalion. To vote nder way to pos for Barton simply because he is rust" in school an Aggie and understands Aggie December ## traditions is absurd. It seems that to can be hung in recent years, Sen. Kay Bailey

# THE VALUE OF **STUDENT INPUT**

On Wednesday, Texas A&M chose Dr. Linda Lekawski to replace he late Dr. Lucille Isdale as the director of Student Health Services. The hiring of Lekawski came amidst controversy regardng the candidacy of Dr. Scott Spear, who is a supporter of aborion rights and a former employee of Planned Parenthood. Many students, including members of Aggies for Life, expressed conern that Spear's political views would make him a poor fit for he primarily conservative A&M community.

Spears was not passed over because of his views, which would have been wrong. But students have the right to their views, and the administration has the right to hear them.

In expressing its views to the administration, the student body ave officials an opportunity to make an educated decision to nclude student concerns in the decision-making process. Students should be applauded for taking the initiative to provide heir leaders with the information necessary to make a decision that impacts virtually every student on campus. As a vital part of the A&M community, it is important that Student Health Services have a leader the student body feels comfortable with. By providing the administration with feedback, students allowed the administration to do precisely that.

It is crucial that students take the time to express their con-cerns regarding campus issues if they want their opinions to be considered. Through open and honest communication, students not only have a heightened opportunity to make their mark upon this University, but they also develop a stronger relation-ship with A&M administrators.

### THE BATTALION

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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 200 words or ss and include the author's name, class and phone number. The opinion editor serves the right to edit letters for length, style and accuracy. Letters may be submited in person at 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be nailed to: 014 Reed McDonald, MS 1111, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 7843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mailcall@thebatt.com

MAIL CALL

#### **Students should** vote in elections

EDSOLE JONES

OZANO

MER

Campaigns across the nation are watching Texas A&M and the District 31 race to see if we will make a difference in it. What they will find, and what was expected, is that the students do not care. Less than 100 students voted in the Republican primary by Wednesday, Feb. 27. I can't imagine the Democratic pri-

EDITORIAL A HOPELESS CASE Lawsuit against bin Laden unlikely to succeed

The weapons used during Operation **Enduring Freedom** have included Marines, mines and missiles. But now another weapon is being introduced in the

war against terrorism coming in the form of a lawsuit. In February, seven women who lost the men they loved on Sept. 11 filed a federal lawsuit against Osama bin Laden, Mullah Mohammad Omar, leader of the now-defunct Taliban, the entire al-Qaida network and the governments of Iraq and Iran, among others. The goal of the suit, according to one of the plaintiffs, Fiona Havlish, is to "bankrupt all terrorists." This is a truly noble goal — but to try and seek legal action against these brutes will accomplish nothing. Of course, one cannot help but feel compassion for these families. On Sept. 11, their lives were torn apart by a monstrous act of evil. No one could possibly imagine the type of pain or anger they must be going through. However, their lawsuit will have no impact on the war against terrorism and should not be pursued any further.



COLLINS EZEANYIM

been frozen. The United States and its allies do not need to be prompted by a lawsuit to properly deal with the terrorist threat.

The plaintiffs claim they

wish to freeze terrorists'

assets through the lawsuit,

rorists' assets already have

but millions of dollars in ter-

The plaintiff's case asks for \$1 billion in compensatory damages and more than \$100 billion in punitive damages. In this area, these women are treading on thin ice. Already, there is a significant public perception that some of the Sept. 11 victims' families are greedy. This arises from complaints by some family members that the compensation they will receive as a result of the attacks is unsatisfactory. Unfortunately, a lawsuit seekCHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

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Friday, March 1, 2002

THE BATTALION

Another reason the lawsuit will have no effect is the sluggish nature of the nation's court system. Amazingly, there are still lawsuits to be processed from the previous World Trade Center Bombing. For example, after 400 individuals sued the Port Authority for the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the lawsuit was still pending eight years later. If it took eight years for this lawsuit to be brought to trial, it may be more difficult to seize the assets of many of the individuals and organizations named as defendants.

Although their lawsuit has virtually no chance of success, those who filed it should be commended for their grace and character. They have admirably refused to sue any American companies or individuals. Unlike the 1993 WTC bombing law-

rizona, Virgini Hutchison (who graduated from are considering the University of Texas) has been more of an advocate for Texas

rd members A&M than Sen. Phil Gramm (a gets of a patriot former A&M professor).

ers voted against Hutchison has secured impor-s a way to fulfil tant funding for research and o offer the pledge and she was the one who read lorado's Senation the Senate record a tribute to Texas A&M on the University's 125th anniversary. While Agging tradition riotism. The boar extension projects at Texas A&M,

While Aggie traditions have tudents to do a place. Congress should be con-cause them to cerned with the war on terrorism, taxes, social security and other national issues, not Bonfire, Fish Camp and other Aggie traditions. This is not a football game, this is

government. Responsible IN BRIEF voters should choose candidates ased on how the candidates ts rescued will respond to those issues, not simply which school they gradu-

DOMING Republic (AP) a scientists lost

ountry.

Is park for a weel Only a day after *The Battalion* by a Dominical acknowledged that Barton was and were recu "light on political substance but hursday for heavy on Aggie credentials," they fficials said. endorsed Barton in the District 31 artin and Olivi primary? What an embarrassment! st on Feb. 21 i Barton is a joke, a misan-mudez Nation thrope who lays the blame for Pico Duarte, the taxes on the feet of Ted untain in the Kennedy, and who dares breathe "pro-life" and "pro-bearly 10,500 feed by rationing as though those two issues were moral equivalents. Maybe king spring wall Barton should run for yell king spring wal<sup>®</sup> Barton should run for yell ue team found leader, but at least that position day afternoon has minimum grade point his assistant requirements to check against a from Come lack of "political substance."

ere researching tree, Pino occi ch grows in parts inican Republic

mary has received much more. There are more than 3,500 registered voters on campus alone. That doesn't even include the off-campus Aggies who are registered. This is our chance to make a difference in govern-ment. Texas A&M can choose the next U.S. and Texas representatives for our area, not to mention all the local officials. This gives us great power, and we should wield it!

Shannon Dubberly Class of 2004

#### A&M makes bad business decision

In response to Richard Bray's Feb. 21 column:

Texas A&M's current policies toward the journalism department and Vision 2020 are ridiculous, not to mention bad business. There are currently more than 900 students in the Department of Journalism. This department has faculty and facilities for less than half of that number. For you economists out there this means the demand is greater than the supply. Instead of trying to correct this problem by hiring more faculty and improving the department, the University is positioning itself to get rid of the department altogether. The University is establishing its policy with problem departments right now. This policy, to simply be rid of the problem, will not make Texas A&M a top 20 school.

> James Schneider Class of 2002

ing hundreds of billions dollars in damages will only add to that perception.

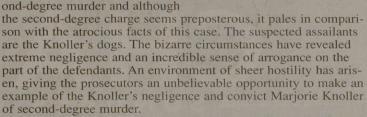
The likelihood that the women will ever see a nickel of this money is very small. So why should they risk their reputation on a lawsuit that Ellen Sarachini, another plaintiff, admits has only a limited chance for success? If it is vengeance they want, they should allow the might of the U.S. military to dispose of these monsters.

suit, these widows see no point in seeking legal action against true heroes like the Port Authority. These are outstanding Americans with a worthy goal, but they are going about it the wrong way.

> Collins Ezeanyim is a junior computer engineering major.

## Pet owners guilty of murder

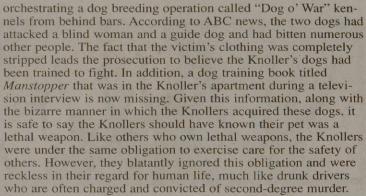
wo prominent San Francisco lawyers, Marjorie and Noel Knoller, have been charged with involuntary manslaughter. Marjorie Knoller also faces a harsh charge of sec-



JENNIFER LOZANO

The story begins Jan. 26, 2001, when Diane Whipple, a 33vear-old lacrosse coach, arrived at her affluent San Francisco apartment and was attacked and killed by the Knollers two 120and 113-pound Presa Canarios. According to Rolling Stone, the first police officers on the scene found Whipple lying face-down, naked and covered in blood on the hall carpet in front of her apartment door. Shortly after finding the victim, Marjorie Knoller, also covered in blood, stepped out of her apartment. Knoller claimed she was walking her dog, Bane, down the hall when he lunged at the victim. She said she barely managed to lock Bane and his mate up in her apartment and was afraid to go back inside. It took animal control officers three dart tranquilizers and "catch" poles to walk Bane to a van, where they euthanized him a short time later.

Further investigation found that the Knollers were raising the Presa Canarios for a Pelican Bay State Prison inmate and feared leader of an Aryan brotherhood who had recently joined their family. Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, who they call their son, was

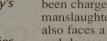


Although the Knoller's claim Whipple provoked the attack by wearing a pheromone-laced perfume or by menstruating, the Knollers had no right to be keeping dogs whose breed is characterized as "dominant and highly aggressive" in an apartment setting where they would inevitably encounter unsuspecting children and adults.

A Website for Presa Canarios says that only "responsible people that have the know-how to establish a correct relationship" with them should be allowed to own these dogs. The Knollers obviously did not fit this description. Somewhere along their journey through law school, these educated people traded their common sense for arrogance.

Although convicting Marjorie Knoller with second-degree murder will be difficult, it is far from impossible and needs to be done to assert the court's intolerance for blatant disregard of human life.

> Jennifer Lozano is a junior English major.



ch team ated from.

#### Stan Pounds graduate student

Nick Rangel

doctoral student and

teaching associate