



# Honors Week

April 8-13, 2002

Celebrate Honors at Texas A&M University!

### Schedule of Activities

- April 10: Lechner Lecture Series: Craig Dupen: "The Electoral College" 7:30 pm - Lechner Hall Seminar Room Open to the Public
- April 11: Open House - 9:00-11:00 am -101 Acad. Drop by for donuts and coffee Register for a **\$200 scholarship!**
- April 12: Honors Day - wear an Honors Shirt **Rudder Fountain from 12:00-1:00 pm** Get a brain for Finals and hear some good music!



Honors Week is sponsored by the University Honors Program



## Going Home for the Summer?

### Alvin Community College

#### SUMMER REGISTRATION DATES:

##### SUMMER 1

April 9—May 17 Telephone  
April 9—May 10, & May 28 On Campus

##### SUMMER 2

July 8—On Campus Only

Telephone Registration  
281-756-3824

Class Schedule available online  
[www.alvincollege.com](http://www.alvincollege.com)  
or call

3-Week Mini Semester  
May 15-28  
Register April 22-May 14

281-756-3531

# Bizarre stars found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two bizarre objects found by an orbiting X-ray telescope may represent a new class of star and may contain a new form of matter, defying current theories of particle physics and astronomy.

Observations of the objects, called RXJ1856 and 3C58, found they were too small and too cold to fit the pattern of neutron stars, which are collapsed, very dense stars composed of neutrons, an extremely heavy, elemental particle.

At a news conference Wednesday, astronomers announced that RXJ1856 has a temperature of about 1.2 million degrees, too cool for a neutron star, and a diameter of about 12 miles, too small to fit the standard model for neutron stars.

This evidence "points to a star composed not of neutrons, but of quarks in a form known as strange quark matter," said Jeremy Drake of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, the lead researcher for the RXJ1856 observations.

Quarks are elemental particles that make up a neutron. The quarks in an ordinary neutron are of two types - up and down. Drake said that data from the X-ray telescope suggests that RXJ1856 is composed of up and down quarks, plus another particle called a strange quark.

Strange quarks are much denser than up or down quarks. The group of quarks could have evolved from neutrons that were collapsed by the extreme density and mass of the star, Drake said.

A team led by David Helfand of Columbia University observed 3C58, the neutron star remnant of a famous supernova, or exploded star, and found that its temperature was less than 1.8 million degrees, far below the predicted value for a neutron star.

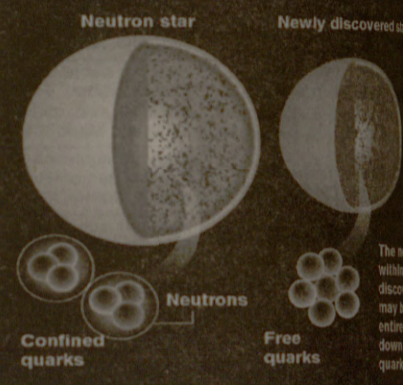
This cool temperature, said Helfand, violates the standard theory for neutron stars and raises fundamental questions about the matter in 3C58.

"It appears that neutron stars aren't pure neutrons after all new forms of matter are required," said Helfand.

### Strange stars evidence of new

NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory has found two unusual neutron stars. One is too small and the other too cold to fit the standard model for such stars. This raises the possibility that the newly discovered stars are composed not of neutrons, but of particles of the neutrons called quarks.

Neutron stars are collapsed stars with an extraordinary density. They can have a diameter of 20 miles with a mass greater than our sun.



SOURCE: NASA

Michael Turner, an astrophysicist at the University of Chicago, said the two objects suggest the objects "may be new members of the stellar family tree."

He said they appear to be less dense than black holes or white dwarfs, two other objects in the universe, but are clearly denser than neutron stars.

"It is possible that all of the stars we see in the universe may be strange stars," such as those observed by Drake and Helfand, said Turner. He said that the observations will have to be confirmed by others.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Grand Canyon flood

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — An artificial flood created six years ago failed to distribute sediment along Colorado River beaches in the Grand Canyon as intended, a group of researchers concluded.

After opening Glen Canyon Dam floodgates and letting high water flow for two weeks in the spring of 1996, then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt declared the \$1.5 million experiment a success.

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The idea was to churn sand and silt from the bottom of the river channel and distribute it on banks, sandbars and side canyons to help fish in the river.

However, scientists say benefits of the artificial flood apparently were short-lived and not illusory.

"We're sort of back to where we were before the '96 flood," said Jack Schmidt, a Utah State University geography professor.

# THE BATTALION

## SUMMER & FALL '02 STAFF APPLICATION

If you can write, edit, design pages, draw, use a camera... Texas A&M's award-winning newspaper is looking for you.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cellphone or pager: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit hours you will take in the summer/fall: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expected graduation (semester): \_\_\_\_\_  
 How many hours per week would you be available for work at *The Battalion*? \_\_\_\_\_

### OPENINGS INCLUDE:

Please check the position(s) for which you are interested. If you are interested in more than one position, number them in order of preference with "1" being your top choice.

Summer  Fall  Both

\_\_\_ Managing Editor

### Section Editors

- \_\_\_ News\*
- \_\_\_ AggieLife\*
- \_\_\_ Opinion\*
- \_\_\_ Sci|Tech (fall only)
- \_\_\_ Sports\*
- \_\_\_ Design Director
- \_\_\_ Copy Chief
- \_\_\_ Graphics\*
- \_\_\_ Photo\*
- \_\_\_ Radio Producer
- \_\_\_ Webmaster\*

\*Assistant editor positions available (fall only)

### Staff

- \_\_\_ News Reporter
- \_\_\_ Sci|Tech Writer (fall only)
- \_\_\_ Feature/Entertainment Writer
- \_\_\_ Sports Writer
- \_\_\_ Radio Reporter
- \_\_\_ Opinion Columnist
- \_\_\_ Page Designer
- \_\_\_ Copy Editor
- \_\_\_ Web Designer
- \_\_\_ Photographer
- \_\_\_ Graphic Artist
- \_\_\_ Cartoonist

ALL APPLICANTS: Please type your responses on a separate piece of paper, and attach a résumé and samples of your work (stories you have written for publications or classes, pages you have designed, photos taken, drawings made or other creative samples—just show us what you can do).

### Section Editor Applicants

- 1) What are your goals for managing your staff?
- 2) What do you believe is the role of the section for which you are applying?
- 3) What changes would you make to improve *The Battalion*? Pay particular attention to the position for which you're applying.

### Staff Applicants

- 1) Why do you want to work at *The Battalion*, and what do you hope to accomplish?
- 2) What experience do you have that relates to the position for which you are applying? (include classes, seminars, etc.)
- 3) What changes do you feel would improve the quality of *The Battalion*? Give special attention to the section for which you're applying.

DEADLINES: 4:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 17**, for editor positions, and 4:30 p.m. **Wednesday, April 24**, for staff positions. Turn in applications at 014 (basement) Reed McDonald Bldg. Interviews will begin immediately after application deadlines.

Extra applications available in the newsroom or online at <http://www.thebatt.com>



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