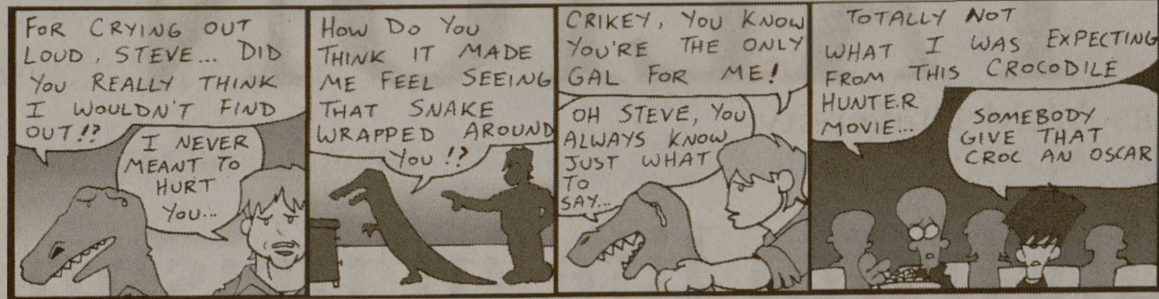


Jack

by R. DeLuna



Beernuts by Rob Appling



NEWS IN BRIEF

Train derailed in Wisconsin

ALLENTON, Wis. (AP) — A freight train derailed Monday and at least three cars carrying lumber, waxes and plastics caught fire, officials said. One of the 34 cars that derailed was carrying potash, a moderately hazardous chemical, said Allenton Assistant Fire Chief Ron Naab. Crews

kept the chemical from spilling into a nearby creek, he said.

No injuries were reported; only the conductor and engineer were aboard the train.

The 107-car Canadian National freight derailed in rural Washington County in eastern Wisconsin, about 40 miles northwest of Milwaukee and at least a half mile from any homes.

Online

Continued from page 1

"By offering the program online, we are able to provide outreach to non-traditional students who will benefit from the program, and also we are able to enrich our certificate students' experiences by attracting a great variety of students through the online option," Small said.

The online certificate requirements are identical to the traditionally offered certificate, and online credits are transferable toward an appropriate master's degree, she said. Students will be awarded the certificate after completing four courses, two in the fall and two in the spring.

"Our professors are noted experts in the fields of international economics, international politics, world culture and international affairs," Small said. "Allowing distance students access not only

to these outstanding faculty but also to a diverse student population makes the certificate program a rich learning experience."

During the fall, Professor Jim Olson will teach the "Role of Intelligence in Security Affairs," and Professor Kishore Gawande will teach "Fundamentals of the Global Economy."

In the spring, Professor Charles Hermann will teach "International Politics in Theory and Practice," and Professor Peter Hugil will teach "World Cultural Geography."

In-state costs for the program is \$1,300 and out-of-state students pay \$2,050, Small said.

Although the individual courses follow the University's semester timeline, distance education students may take more than two semesters if needed to accumulate the hours for certificate completion, she said.

"This program will help any student enrich their background with a global perspective," Small said.

MBA

Continued from page 1

question the cost of getting an MBA."

Since the MBA program length has been changed to a 16 months, this shortens the length of the program and also decreases total living expenses and tuition.

"They will be gaining a half a year's salary," Robertson said. Robertson admits a decision for a graduate education is an investment of time and money.

The Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of

Business costs students approximately \$10,000 for resident tuition to \$20,000 for out-of-state tuition. At a top ranked institution, like the example featured in the Business 2.0 article, paying six figures for an MBA is not unrealistic, Robertson said.

"[Here at A&M] the return to students on investing in an MBA is outstanding," Robertson said. "Many people generalize from articles; they may assume an MBA will cost \$100,000 wherever they go."

Another main issue in the article was the lack of communication skills taught by business schools.

"We (at the Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business) have a required business communication course that stresses written and oral communication skills," Robertson said. "No student can waiver this course. There is a tremendous increase in reception in the market place after having taken this course."

During the students last semester in the MBA program they do hands-on consulting with an accredited company.

"This is an actual business problem and the decision reached will be implemented," Robertson said.

Credit Cards

Continued from page 1

and students find the long term loans more convenient to fund their education.

According to the study, credit card interest rates vary around 13 percent, while student loan interest rates are at historic lows.

In July 2002, interest rates on Federal Stafford loans fell to an all-time low at 3.46 percent for students who will be enrolled during the upcoming academic year.

Piwonka said credit cards are so easy to get for students, it may be a factor in the high number of students who apply for them.

"Credit cards and college seem to go hand in hand. Nellie Mae's goal in publishing this information is to underscore the importance of educating college students about using their credit cards effectively, weighing their spending decisions and considering their source of borrowing," Prikazsky said.

Piwonka said MBNA, Wells Fargo and Aggeland Credit Union have been good partners, and MBNA America Bank has started offering debt management seminars at A&M.

The first seminar was last fall and A&M is planning to have these seminars at least once each semester to inform students about managing finances and credit card debt and how it effects future credit ratings.

Stroustrup explains his programming language

By Mariano Castillo
THE BATTALION

Bjarne Stroustrup is as passionate about computer programming as a poet is about writing.

He admits it is a pain to explain C++, the programming language he is famous for, to non-programmers, but he does not shy away from the challenge.

"It's so abstract and of course, invisible," Stroustrup said. "And even if you succeed in conveying the idea of software, how do you explain software tools for building software? Worse yet, how do you explain a language for expressing software, such as C++? I have always been envious of people who build things that you can see, touch, play with, et cetera."

It is very likely that most students use C++ programs in their daily routine without being aware of it. Internet Explorer and Adobe Photoshop are C++ programs, as is Quicken, other financial software and most computer games.

According to Stroustrup's personal website, all Microsoft programs are built on variations of C++.

Even those who do not use a computer directly are likely to use C++ programs, Stroustrup said. Every 800 call served by AT&T is connected by a C++ program.

Many cell phones are connected in the same way. Telephone systems that use AT&T, Alcatel,

Siemens and Ericsson components all use programming language.

"It is not a complete accident that my work has been in the telecommunications industry," Stroustrup said. "This is a field where the flexibility and efficiency of C++ can really be exploited."

In addition, Stroustrup said he has found C++ programs in PDAs, cameras, and even in a cooker.

"Another source of my pleasure may be that C++ is a language for non-programmers to appreciate," he said. "Code - the programs - can be beautiful. Writing good code can be like writing poetry, except that the code can have an immediate impact on the physical world."

Stroustrup's success definitely qualifies him as a bard of code, and it is not surprising that students and faculty are excited about accepting the Endowed Chair in Computer Science at Texas A&M.

His work with C++, Stroustrup said, is focused on expressing ideas more directly in code without losing efficiency.

"There are languages that allow you to write more elegant code than C++ does for some problems and there are languages that allow you to write code that matches C++'s efficiency for some problems," he said. "However, there is no language that can do both over the astonishing range of areas where C++ is used."

Friends, fishing buddies grieve for anglers killed in Alaska plane crash

KENT, Wash. (AP) — It was like many afternoons at the Kent Senior Activity Center. A group of men, some World War II veterans, sat at a small table talking about fly fishing.

But the discussion this day was sadder — the men had just learned three friends and fishing buddies had been killed in a plane crash in Alaska.

"They were all three jolly good fellows and good fly fishermen," Don Green, 72, said Monday. "We're going to miss them. There's a special bond between fishermen."

Melvin Daniel, 79, Daniel Maret, 70, and Harold Mamey, 65, were pursuing sockeye salmon on a trip organized by the senior center when the plane disappeared Friday.

Searchers discovered the wreckage of the float plane, a single-engine deHavilland, Sunday night in the Chignik Mountains west of Anchorage. The pilot, Matt Hipkiss, 35, also died.

Crews were working Monday to recover the bodies. The cause of the crash had not been determined.

Another plane carrying seven members of the expedition made the trip safely from Anchorage to Lake Iliamna in southern Alaska.

At the senior center in suburban Seattle, friends recalled Daniel as a fly fisherman for more than 50 years and a World War II veteran who was taken prisoner in Europe.

Chair

Continued from page 1

correct."

Computer science experts consider Stroustrup one of the most influential people in the computing industry. His book *The C++ Programming Language* has become one of the most widely read books in the computer science field and has been translated into 14 languages.

Nancy Amato, chair of the search committee for the College of Engineering Endowed Chair in Computer Science, said Stroustrup is essentially the perfect person for this position.

"He is well known inside the technical community and outside," she said. "We are extremely excited to have him join our department."

Stroustrup will visit College Station once a month while he wraps up his work at AT&T Lab-Research and plans on settling in permanently by January.

Beyond the opportunities available to him at the University, Stroustrup said he looks forward to living in College Station.

"I'm familiar with some Aggie traditions and know that there are many more that I'll encounter and hope to enjoy," he said. "I have received email messages from perfect strangers kindly offering to introduce me to true Aggie ways."

Stroustrup's arrival is exciting news for the computer science department and its students.

His research will be very student-centered. One of his reasons for coming to A&M is his desire to teach.

The computer science department inaugurated a redesign of their web page to coincide with

Stroustrup's naming.

Amato said A&M was competing with schools with higher ranked institutions and other research centers.

"It's wonderful for the computer science department, for the College of Engineering and the entire University," Amato said. "It's increasing the visibility of our department."

Stroustrup said his research will directly include graduate students and he expects to teach undergraduate classes some years. In addition, he will have much collaboration with professors in the computer science department and other departments.

Stroustrup also will maintain strong ties with the computer industry. Particularly, he will retain official ties with AT&T Lab-Research and with the International Standards Organization Committee.

"Even those industrial contacts are meant to benefit students," Stroustrup said. "I will have direct access to industrial problems and ideas, and maybe my colleagues in the industry will show interest in my students' and our work."

In the long term, Stroustrup said he would like to help bring the discussion on programming languages and programming techniques to a more objective basis.

Stroustrup was born in Aarhus, Denmark, and received a degree in mathematics and computer science in 1975 from the University of Aarhus. In 1979 he earned his doctorate in computer science from Cambridge University in England.

His honors include recognition as an AT&T Bell Laboratories Fellow and an AT&T Fellow. He is also an Association for Computing Machinery Fellow.

Why bother with parking when you can walk to TAMU?

- Huge 1 bedroom floor plans
- Only 2 blocks from TAMU
- 12 month leases starting at ONLY \$410.00

Casa Del Sol
696-3455

Mention this ad and get \$50 OFF your 1st month's rent!

www.rent.net/direct/casadelosol

Hey Ags! Join the tradition! Get your FREE

www.college-coupons.com

COLLEGE COUPONS

Phi Beta Kappa

THE PEOPLE BOOK

Summer 2002

and save money all over town.

Available FREE at all locations of

Aggeland BOOK STORE

LOUPOT'S BOOKSTORES

ROTHER'S BOOKSTORES

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORES

THE BATTALION

Douglas Fuentes, Editor in Chief

Guy Rogers, Managing/Photo Editor
True Brown, Executive/Sports Editor
Christina Hoffman, News Editor
Melissa Sullivan, News Assistant
Lycia Shrum, AggeliLife Editor

Richard Bray, Opinion Editor
Jennifer Lozano, Opinion Assistant
Lindsey Fielder, Design Director
Ruben DeLuna, Graphics Editor
Sayeda Ismail, Radio Producer
Rees Winstead, Webmaster

THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Media, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: newsroom@thebatt.com; Web site: http://www.thebatt.com

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local, and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of *The Battalion*. First copy free, additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer or \$10 a month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express, call 845-2611.