

# THE BATTALION

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## A&M, Mexico join for migrant health care

By C.E. Walters  
THE BATTALION

Globalization and the shift to emphasize the international community rather than the nation-state has dramatically changed the face of health care, said Dr. Enrique Ruelas Barajas, Senior Undersecretary of Health for Mexico.

Barajas was in College Station Thursday to sign a pact with the Texas A&M System Health Science Center which would enable the school and the country to show a united front when it comes to migrant health care. The agreement stipulated that A&M and the Mexican government would put

forth a joint effort to provide health services for migrants in the border states, a group Barajas said is suffering from globalization.

"Migrants are a particularly vulnerable population," he said.

Increased interdependence has also led to the transmission of more diseases across the borders. Barajas said plane flights can be shorter than the incubation times for some "microbial traffic." Globalization has led to the exporting of other health-related issues, Barajas said, as big tobacco has begun to look for more overseas markets.

"It is not only people and microbes that travel from one country to another," Barajas said.

A recent study said that 5 percent of border crossings made are health related, he said. Seventy-five percent of these crossings are Americans going to Mexico for cheaper drugs.

"Border regions tend to be places of intense contact," Barajas said.

The telecommunications revolution has turned information into a global good, Barajas said. Distance, he said, may no longer keep health care from the needy, but the digital divide must not replace the distance divide.

"Exclusion (is) one dark side of globalization," he said.

Barajas said A&M and Mexico

must work together based on a three-pronged plan of exchange, evidence and empathy. The two must find operations where they can combine efforts, he said.

"Health is a bridge to peace," Barajas said.

At the signing ceremony, Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, vice chancellor for health affairs and the president of the health science center, said the signing of the agreement was only the first step.

The Health Sciences Center, she said, is geographically diverse and increasingly international. The center is dedicated to improving health

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BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs **Dr. Nancy W. Dickey**, left, and Board of Regents Vice Chairman **Dr. Dionel E. Aviles**, right, look on as Senior Undersecretary of Health for the United Mexican States **Dr. Enrique Ruelas Barajas** signs an agreement to improve the health of people living in border states.

## Shake your bon bon



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Ten-year-old dance assistant **Katheryn Nash** shows her 3- and 4-year-old tap and ballet dance students a fundamental tap step. **Nash** is a student at the Suzanne School of Dance in College Station. The school offers dance classes for ages three and up.

## President of China may come to A&M

By Sarah Walch  
THE BATTALION

Chinese President Jiang Zemin will visit the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Center next week during his trip to the United States if all goes as planned, said Roman Popadiuk, executive director of the Bush Library Foundation.

"[Jiang] and forty-one are old friends," Popadiuk said, referring to former President George Bush. "We expect a luncheon, tour of the museum, and there are tentative plans for him to address students on Thursday, Oct. 24."

It will be a last minute announcement if Jiang does give a speech, said Dr. Charles Hermann, professor and associate dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

If there is a speech, security will be tight to prevent any protesters and demonstrators from causing problems, Hermann said.

Graduate international affairs major Liang Lihua, an exchange student from Beijing, said Jiang's visit comes at a critical moment for China and the United States.

Liang, a student at the Bush School, said the Chinese government has recently been softening in its attitude toward America in light of Jiang's visit and the recent visit of the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State to China.

"A month ago China was really opposed to unilateral action in Iraq," Liang said. "Now, the message heard (from Chinese-run media) is that Iraq should comply with U.N. sanctions."

Liang saw Jiang while working at a television station in Beijing, and is excited at the possibility she may get to meet Jiang on Thursday.

Falun Gong, a religious sect banned in China, may make an appearance actively protesting Jiang's visit with President George W. Bush in Crawford on Friday, Oct. 25.

Professor of Chinese history Dr. Di Wang said human rights, Taiwan, and the contention with Iraq are issues likely to come up between Bush

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## Witness gives fake description of sniper

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP) — A witness who says he saw a sniper fire with an assault rifle and flee in a cream-colored van gave a phony story, investigators said Thursday in a setback that casts doubt on much of what the public thought it knew about the roving killer.

Prosecutors are investigating the witness, whose name wasn't released, to determine whether he should be charged with filing a false statement. Fairfax County police Lt. Amy

Lubas said the inaccurate account was exposed by checking it against that of other witnesses to Monday night's killing of an FBI cyberterrorism analyst in a crowded Virginia parking lot outside a Home Depot. It was the only shooting so far that people actually saw.

Asked if the witness may have intentionally misled investigators, Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose, who is heading the investigation, said simply, "Yes."

Investigators had showed a certain optimism after the latest attack seemed to yield the best details yet about the killer. But that gave way to anger Thursday.

Moose said there was no credence to the witness' description of the cream-colored van with a burned-out rear taillight. And while Moose did not give the witness' exact description of the shooter, he chastised reporters for running reports that variously described the gunman as

dark-skinned, olive-skinned, Middle Eastern or Hispanic.

"When we have people from the media interviewing witnesses and publishing reports, we get confusion," Moose said. "We get this noise ... out there that gives people tunnel vision and makes them focus in on things that are not appropriate. ... We would like to be able to do our job."

Similar witness accounts of a

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## Former feminist shares conversion to Christianity

By Melissa Sullivan  
THE BATTALION

Former lesbian feminist Amy Tracy said that during the last four years, two things have transformed her life: God's grace and suffering.

Tracy, a former press secretary for the National Organization for Women (NOW), spoke to a crowd of about 100 in Rudder Theater Thursday night, sharing the story of her conversion to Christianity and the resulting entanglements of changing her out-

look on life.

"It has been pretty life changing and chaotic," Tracy said. "I lost my career and friendships. My world was turned upside down."

During her freshman year in college, Tracy said she felt lost and was searching for a place to fit in.

"Most of my professors were lesbian and I felt an attraction toward them," Tracy said. "They were strong women."

What she found, she said, was a deep identification with people.

After graduating from college, Tracy went to work for NOW as a program director and embraced the pro-life movement.

"Being an activist gave me my first experience with Christians and I didn't know they cared about life," she said. "I thought they were out to put women back in time."

She spent 10 years as press secretary for NOW's national headquarters, and served as vice president of the Washington State NOW. But during her last two years at NOW, she

said, she felt a desire to become a Christian. Tracy looked up churches and started attending.

"I thought they were going to tie me down to a chair and make me stay," she said. "Of course, that didn't happen."

Tracy said the decision to let God into her life was one she wrestled with for five years. She knew her life would be different, she said.

"God is not what you see in other

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CARRIE CARTER • THE BATTALION

Amy Tracy, former lesbian feminist activist, gave her testimony to a group of Christian graduate students and faculty at a luncheon Wednesday.

## Rainy weather to help Replant this weekend

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

This week's rains and the rain predicted for Saturday will help one organization's cause: planting 220 trees.

Charles Johnson, head of public relations for Replant, said rain from earlier this week will benefit Replant, the annual tree planting event which will take place Saturday.

"When the ground is wet more water gets into the roots of the trees, it really helps," Johnson said. "We will be out there rain or shine."

More than 1,400 students are signed up to plant trees at the Bryan Regulation Athletic Complex and at Lake Somerville. Last year, 82 student organizations were represented at Replant.

Replant began in the spring of 1990 and was recognized as an official University organization in 1991. This is the second year that Replant has taken place in the fall.

The change from spring to fall was made to benefit tree growth, organizers say, though the move came only after Bonfire was canceled and was no

longer the pinnacle of A&M's fall activities.

"Replant was not started to be a statement against Bonfire," Johnson said. The live oak, green ash and bald cypress trees to be planted are grown on tree farms near Lake Somerville and donated by the National Tree Trust. They are four years old, approximately five feet tall and take an estimated five people per tree to plant.

Marah Short, chair of the Student Government Association's Environmental Issues Committee and a junior economics major,

said Replant has an impact on local ecology.

"Mostly it helps replenish trees," Short said.

Replant has two shifts on Saturday, starting at 8 a.m. and another starting at 11 a.m. Both begin with a kick-off rally at the Academic Plaza.

Participants have no minimum number of trees to plant, but are encouraged to plant as many as possible, said Lynn Wink, a member of the Replant publicity committee and a freshman biology major.

### Replant 2002

• Kickoff ceremonies Saturday Oct. 19 at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the Academic Plaza

• Tree planting lasts all day at the Bryan Regulation Athletic Complex and at Lake Somerville

• 1,400 students will be planting

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION