

# THE BATTALION

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## Rain presents concerns for football game

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

With the chance of rain expected to be between 50 and 70 percent during Saturday's 6 p.m. Texas A&M vs. University of Nebraska game, the University is advising students to take the necessary precautions for inclement weather.

Margaret Griffith, Health Education Coordinator at A.P. Beutal Health Center, said people need to remember to wear rain gear to the game. Umbrellas are a safety hazard and are not allowed at any games, said Penny King, senior associate athletic director.

"We let people bring umbrellas a few years ago and we had many injuries from the points on umbrellas," King said. Umbrellas also block the view of people behind them, King said.

Kyle Wills, assistant chief of Texas A&M EMS and a junior general studies major, said as the weather cools, people still need stay hydrated during the game.

"People need to drink plenty of water before the game and bring a water bottle with them to the game," Wills said.

Heat-related problems are the most common health problems encountered during games.

King said students can bring up to a quart-sized bottle of water into the stadium, but if it's open it will be checked for alcohol content.

People should not drink alcohol before games, Wills said.

"EMS always discourages drinking alcohol, but if people are going to drink they at least need to drink responsibly and also drink water," Wills said.

Wills said the easiest way to get hold of EMS in case of emergency during the game is to dial 911. Two ambulances are stationed at Kyle Field in case of emergencies, more than what is required by the Big 12.

Along with the EMS, 60 to 100 certified Emergency Care Team members are divided among each level at Kyle Field.

**Gameday Safety Tips:**

- Stay well nourished and well hydrated
- Limit or avoid alcohol
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions
- Avoid sports rivalry arguments

Source: Texas A&M EMS

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

## China president visits A&M



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Members of Falun Gong meditate on the lawn of the George Bush Presidential Library in opposition of the China president's visit Thursday.

### Protests go on despite weather

By Sarah Walch  
THE BATTALION

More than 1,500 Falun Gong practitioners silently meditated and held signs while nearly 1,000 pro-China demonstrators waving Chinese flags held banners welcoming President Jiang Zemin to the the George Bush Presidential Library Complex Thursday morning.

The two groups were separated by 50 feet and confined by 3-foot-high metal barriers while police looked on during Jiang's brief visit to College Station. Zemin arrived in Houston at 11 a.m. in a large motorcade and departed around 2 p.m.

The torrential downpour and lightning overhead did not affect attendance, though lack of parking and transportation prevented some Falun Gong protesters from arriving, said Jared Pearman, an informal Falun Gong organizer and a student at the University of Central Florida.



J.P. BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Supporters of the President of the People's Republic of China gather alongside protesters outside the Bush Library Thursday.

Pearman was one of many out-of-state protesters. Other protesters came from as far away as Boston, Maine, Vancouver and Poland. Texas A&M graduate student Nian Wang came out with his friends to show support for China and welcome Jiang to College Station.

"Before (Falun Gong) was banned, some members of my family (in China) practiced it," Wang said. "But now, I think Falun Gong is absolutely bad. If they do believe in it, they will try to get rid of people who do not." Pearman said he participated in a protest in China in

February that let him see Chinese oppression firsthand.

"The police hate you so much, it's hard to keep thinking straight," he said. "The Falun Gong practitioners in China must be so strong."

Dr. Charles Hermann, associate dean of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, said the dedication of the supporters was clear because of their strong presence, even in the pouring rain.

"It's very clear that a number of Chinese and Taiwanese people feel very strongly about

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JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

China President Jiang Zemin answers questions from a crowd of more than 600 Thursday.

### Jiang encourages U.S. friendship

By Rolando Garcia  
THE BATTALION

Tensions that often characterize U.S.-China relations were kept in the background as China President Jiang Zemin urged closer friendship between the two countries in his speech Thursday at Texas A&M.

Addressing an audience of students and George Bush Presidential Library Complex donors, Jiang heralded China's economic reforms and modernization, and said China and America would benefit from improved ties.

"The more developed, more open and more intimately connected with the outside China is, the greater our need will be for an international environment of lasting peace and stability," Jiang said.

Security was tight and the thousands of demonstrators who braved the rain to stand outside the George Bush Presidential Conference Center to protest Jiang's human rights abuses were kept at a distance.

Jiang, who will meet with President Bush today at his ranch in Crawford, was introduced by former President George Bush, who praised Jiang's leadership and stressed the importance of U.S.-China ties.

"This is the most important bilateral relationship in the entire world when it comes to protecting trade and world peace," Bush said.

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## Faculty can no longer distribute grades by SSN

By Jeremy Osborne  
THE BATTALION

The U.S. Department of Education found that using part of a student's social security number to display grades violates the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

This month, the Texas A&M registrar's office circulated a memo to faculty members stating the new policy. The memo said faculty members are prohibited from leaving graded assignments outside of their offices for student pick up.

According to FERPA, universities cannot release personal student information such as a social security number, citizenship, grades and gender. FERPA is administered by the Family Policy Compliance Office in the Department of Education.

Faculty members are allowed to use social security numbers when students sign a consent form.

Faculty members may assign random, arbitrary numbers to students for purposes of identification in one course.

"FERPA is not a law that's set in concrete," said Su-Zan Harper, associate registrar. "The (federal) legislature tweaks it and changes it on a regular basis."

The warning to A&M faculty comes after Hunter College of the City University of New York was given two weeks to end the posting practice and remove all public grade postings by the last four digits of student's social security numbers without their consent.

In May, an A&M student showed the University Web sites that displayed A&M students' grades by social security number from 1998 to the present, Harper said.

Since then, University officials have been attempting to remove the information.

"Not all of them (the Web sites) were identi-

fied by instructor. We had to look up the class as long as we knew what term it was," Harper said. "Some were password protected so we couldn't get in there to clean them up."

A&M has not been contacted by the Department of Education's Family Policy Compliance Office, Harper said.

"This is preventative," Harper said. "It's a good faith effort to say we are trying to instruct our faculty that posting grades by any part of a student's social security number violates FERPA."

The penalty for violating FERPA is the University's loss of federal funds administered by the Department of Education. These funds include financial aid.

"I am able to go to school here because of financial aid," said Jenifer Lack, a junior history major. "I'd rather wait a little longer to get my grade than not be able to go to school here."

Some students are upset over the delay this is causing.

"I think that it's very inconvenient that we have to wait," said Lindsey Grimes, a sophomore psychology major. "I think social security numbers are private enough, and using those numbers is good enough as a code."

Faculty members also expressed concerns. "Grades should be private, but we need to work out a satisfactory system to deliver grades to students," said Dr. Robert Strawser, accounting professor and speaker of the Faculty Senate.

Strawser currently uses a program titled Grade Viewer that allows students to view only their grades by entering the last five digits of their social security numbers.

"The question becomes, 'Can I continue using this?' because it does employ the last five digits of students' social security numbers," Strawser

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## Hunt for sniper ends

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) —

One of America's most extraordinary manhunts culminated Thursday in the arrests of an Army veteran and a teenager, asleep at a roadside rest stop — perpetrators, authorities believed, of a bloody, three-week sniping spree that left 10 people dead and multitudes paralyzed by fear.

John Allen Muhammad, 41, and 17-year-old John Lee Malvo were not immediately charged, but law-enforcement sources told The Associated Press investigators were certain they were the culprits.

One such source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a gun found in the suspects' car appeared to use .223-caliber bullets — the fatal calling card in a series of sniper attacks that began Oct. 2, with the killing of James D. Martin in a grocery store parking lot in Wheaton, Md.

Police also found a scope and a tripod in the car, the official said.

The suspects, it seems, might have been tripped up by their own arrogance; authorities said they received a call on the task force tip line taking responsibility for the sniper attacks and for something in "Montgomery."

Evidence from a Sept. 21 liquor store heist in Montgomery, Ala., which left one employee dead and another injured, then led police to Malvo and Muhammad.

But who were these two, and why might they have unleashed

### Two men arrested in sniper case

Two men were arrested early Thursday off I-70 in Frederick County, Md., about 50 miles northwest of Washington, D.C.

**John Allen Muhammad, 41**

Also goes by the name John Allen Williams  
Newspaper reports said he was stationed at Fort Lewis outside Tacoma, Wash., in the 1980s, served in the Gulf War and was later stationed at Fort Ord, Calif.



Muhammad in a 1995 mug shot

**John Lee Malvo, 17**

Jamaican citizen believed to be Muhammad's stepson

Attended high school last year in Bellingham, Wash., about 90 miles north of Seattle, where he raised a flag with local police when he arrived without transcripts or other papers.

His fingerprint was reportedly found at the scene of a



Malvo

Sept. 21 liquor store robbery in Montgomery, Ala., in which two employees were shot, one fatally.

SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

terror on Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia?

According to The Seattle Times, Muhammad is a veteran of the Gulf War who converted to Islam. Malvo, described in some media reports as his stepson, is a citizen of Jamaica. The Times quoted federal sources as saying the two had been known to speak sympathetically about the hijackers who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

But there was no indication, authorities said, that they were linked to al-Qaida or any terrorist group.

The two were arrested without incident by members of the

sniper task force at a rest stop in Frederick County, 50 miles northwest of Washington. The time was 3:19 a.m.

Three hours earlier, Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose had announced that Muhammad and Malvo were being sought and issued a nationwide alert for a blue, 1990 Chevrolet Caprice with New Jersey plates. A motorist and an attendant spotted the car and called police.

All told, 13 people were shot in the serial snipings. Three survived, among them a 13-year-old boy, gunned down as he arrived at school.