

THE BATTALION

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MSC Council decides fate of vice president

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The Memorial Student Center Council will decide Monday whether to begin disciplinary procedures against Chris Duke, a top MSC student leader who told police he had been kidnapped and robbed and later said he fabricated the story.



DUKE

Duke, the MSC executive vice president for marketing, faces removal from his position.

Dr. Dave Parrott, dean of student life, investigated the incident at the request of MSC Council President Barry Hammond and provided a report to MSC

leaders last week. Parrott declined to comment on the report.

Hammond said the report will be shared with the MSC Council, which is composed of students and senior MSC staff, in a closed session. Any council member can then call for an internal investigation of Duke to determine whether he will face any sanctions.

"(The MSC council) will have the information they need to make an informed decision," said Hammond, a senior marketing major.

Hammond said the report includes a summation of facts gathered from police reports and Parrott's analysis of whether Duke's actions violated student rules or the MSC constitution.

Duke could not be reached for comment. Duke contacted Corpus Christi Police shortly

after midnight Oct. 8 and said he had been approached that afternoon outside his College Station apartment by a Hispanic man with a gun. The two got into Duke's pickup truck and the assailant directed Duke to Corpus Christi, he said. There, Duke reported, they stopped at a quiet parking lot and he passed out when the man pointed the gun at him. Duke said when he awoke, his laptop computer, cash and credit cards were missing.

College Station police said they noticed inconsistencies in Duke's story. When police questioned Duke about the incident, he decided to obtain an attorney after confronted with problems in his story. At a second interview on Oct. 18, Duke, with his attorney present, admitted the story was false. Duke threw away his credit cards, but was not robbed of any property, said Lt. Rodney

Sigler, spokesman for the College Station Police Department.

This is the second time an MSC leader has faced the possibility of removal after public revelations of bad behavior. In 2001, Josh Rowan was removed as MSC president for inappropriate conduct during a University-sponsored trip to Italy. Rowan was accused of excessive drinking and making unwanted sexual advances to another student on the trip.

If the council decides to begin disciplinary procedures against Duke, it would mark a very rare instance of an MSC officer facing an internal investigation, Hammond said.

"In the 50 year history of the MSC, I would guess this has happened less than five times," he said.

Reveille VII banned from restaurants

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Reveille VII is the first of Texas A&M's mascots not to be allowed in public restaurants, a call passed down from the administration after the first-ranked lady took office last year.

Corps Commandant Gen. John Van Alstyne said the reason for the call was the violation of a health code that says dogs are not allowed in dining institutions.

"We don't want to jeopardize our relationship with the restaurant owners," Van Alstyne said. "Rev is so full of life, she would want to visit with everyone and everyone would want to visit with her."

The 2-year-old purebred Collie, who has been in and out of obedience school after she proved nervous in front of Kyle Field's more than 80,000 fans, can now be seen wearing what looks like a muzzle — a "gentle leader" that's designed to help Reveille hold her head high when she marches into the field.

"It is not a muzzle for preventing biting; it keeps her head straight while she marches so she can look forward," Corps public relations spokesman Burke Wilson said. "It also teaches good posture."

Reveille has not tried to bite anyone, Wilson said.

Following A&M's win over the first-ranked University of Oklahoma on Saturday, Reveille broke free from Caddick during the yell practice, ran 20 feet and sat down to get away from a bass drum. She was simply bothered by the noise, which

See Reveille on page 2A

Fire alarm



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Johnny Rosser of Drake's Towing and Scott Giffen of the College Station Fire Department look on as gasoline is drained from the tank of a burned '97 Ford Escort in the Exxon parking lot at the intersection of Holleman Drive and Wellborn Road. Junior history major Brenda Bare noticed smoke coming

from under the passenger seat while driving on Wellborn Wednesday afternoon and was preparing to turn off the road when the car's airbags unexpectedly deployed. Bare pulled into the gas station and got out of the car uninjured, where the fire continued to escalate until it was put out by

A&M geologist to help preserve Egypt

By Lecia Baker
THE BATTALION

The ancient lands of Egypt along the Nile River are eroding as urban development increases, posing a challenge for scientists who hope to direct new areas of growth while preserving the underlying bedrock that provides information about the Earth's stages of development.

By examining the orientation of layers of bedrock and the types of rock underneath the Nile Valley and Delta's rich soil, geologists can construct a historical record. But for Texas A&M geologist Mohamed Aly, the most important aspect of his research in Egypt has been predicting and avoiding foundation problems that could harm human dwellings.

Aly used Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques to capture, study, integrate and model data coming from a variety of underground sources in Egypt.

Almost 96 percent of the Egyptian population is concentrated in the Nile Valley and Delta, which places increasing pressure on their resources and environment, Aly said. As a result, the Egyptian government is encouraging the development of new cities and communities within the desert, away from the Nile.

New Minia City, located above decaying bedrock, is a developing community in Egypt that scientists are researching for alternative building techniques. Construction on the rocks located under New Minia, which include decomposing and cave-like limestone, could result in the collapse of buildings and other engineering structures, Aly said.

To assess the main geo-environmental problems, a GIS model was developed and adopted. Aly said that after a variety of GIS

See Egypt on page 2A

Mexico, A&M sign health care pact

By Melissa Mckean
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Health Science Center has signed an agreement with Mexico to unite in addressing issues concerning immigrant health care on the United States and Mexican border.

Among the issues being studied are the health of immigrants, citizens immigrating legally and illegally, and Mexicans who cross into the United States to get health care, said Dr. Nancy Dickey, president and vice chancellor for Health Affairs at the Texas A&M Health Science Center.

Dickey said another group being studied are Americans who cross into Mexico to buy cheaper drugs, as well as the quality of those drugs as compared to their U.S. counterparts.

Dr. Enrique Ruelas Barajas, senior undersecretary of Health for Mexico, came to the A&M campus in October to sign the

pact and said "border regions tend to be places of intense contact and migrants are a particularly vulnerable population."

The partnership hopes to create long-lasting effects that will benefit both sides.

"From this agreement, we will have the ability to sit down with legislators with good data and have an impact on policy," Dickey said.

Other areas of research include the School of Rural Public Health and the College of Medicine's studies in diabetes in the McAllen area. There will also be efforts to increase access to health care in the Rio Grande Valley through the Robert Wood Johnson Act.

"The cooperation will extend over several years setting up studies that also include measuring volume (of people in and out of Mexico) and why people cross the border," Dickey said.

The project is expected to run for a course of two years and be funded with

several hundred thousand dollars in grant money, Dickey said.

Dr. Ciro Sumaya, dean of the School of Rural Public Health, said he is looking for funding in several areas including private, federal and state funds as well as from private foundations.

Mexican cooperation and influence is an important factor in increasing the

See Mexico on page 2A

A&M	+	Mexico Target Health
- Project will run for a course of two years		
- First meeting is scheduled to be held in three to four months		
- Committee will be composed of members from the U.S. and Mexico		
- Undetermined amount of funding will be provided by private, federal and state funds and private foundations		

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

Proposed bill to support military efforts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate gave final approval Wednesday to a bill authorizing \$393 billion in 2003 defense programs that lawmakers said will give the military the support it needs to keep fighting the war on terror while preparing for a possible invasion of Iraq.

The bill was approved by voice vote one day after a months-long dispute over retirement benefits for disabled veterans ended in a compromise by House-Senate negotiators.

The bill was quickly approved by the House Tuesday evening and now goes to the White House, where President Bush is expected to sign it.

It is about 15 percent higher than the 2002 bill. It includes a minimum 4.1 percent pay raise for personnel, \$10 billion for fighting the war on terrorism and \$5.2 billion requested by the Defense Department for the F-22 stealth fighter.

"This bill will provide our men and women in uniform with the tools they need and the

pay and benefits they deserve," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

The veterans benefits compromise angered the American Legion and other groups that wanted to eliminate a 19th century law reducing retirement benefits of disabled veterans by the amount they are receiving in disability pay.

Both the House and Senate, in their earlier, separate versions of the bill, had voted to give disabled veterans their full

benefits. The White House threatened a veto, saying both proposals were too costly: \$18.5 billion over 10 years in the House version, \$58 billion in the Senate.

Under a compromise worked out by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the benefits would be limited to military retirees who were awarded the Purple Heart for combat injuries and to certain other

See Defense on page 2A

PRESERVING EGYPT'S FOUNDATION

- Nile River delta lands are eroding underground, but more people are moving there
- A&M scientists want to find a way to construct more stable buildings for human habitation

MANDY ROUQUETTE • THE BATTALION