

THE BATTALION

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Student activities encourage campus recycling

Texas Recycles Day

Only 10% of waste cannot be reused or recycled

In 2001, Texans threw away more than 27.9 million tons of waste

source: www.texasrecyclesday.com



By Amy Adams
THE BATTALION

A fashion show in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Flagroom Friday afternoon won't feature the latest designs or the best brandnames; instead, in the name of recycling, students will model used clothing.

Texas Recycles Day, a statewide public awareness campaign and spin off of

America Recycles Day, kicks off its 10th anniversary Friday.

"We are encouraging all volunteers, civic organizations, business organizations and state agencies across Texas to host several recycling activities in their area," said Sonya Besteiro, director of programs for Keep Texas Beautiful. "This can include anything from a community garage sale to a book and clothing drive."

Besteiro said she hopes everyone can learn that there are countless ways to reduce, reuse and recycle and also that there are a number of ways to save money and natural resources.

This year's theme "Everything Old is New Again," focuses on reusing, which saves more money than recycling and is better for the environment.

Festivities on campus include the resale fashion show

at 12:30 p.m. to bring attention to the resale stores in the Bryan-College Station area, said Laura Tankersley-Glenn, event cosponsor and executive director for Keep Brazos Beautiful.

"Items that students believe are not useful anymore can be donated to needy families, therefore keeping the reusing cycle going," Tankersley-Glenn said.

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Author says advancement leads to equality

By Lecia Baker
THE BATTALION

Women are not as successful at work as men, even though they may have the same credentials, said Virginia Valian, author and professor who deals with gender inequality, as part of the National Science Foundation Equity Project's lecture series Thursday.

Valian, a professor of psychology and linguistics at Hunter College in New York, spoke about the slow advancement of women and other topics in her book, *The Advancement of Women*.

Valian said the cause of women's slow advancement is found in gender schemata, the way society expects a person to act based on perceptions.

"We evaluate people as members of a social category, not as a person," Valian said. "The slight overvaluing of men, and the slight undervaluing of women is taking a large toll on women's careers."

As adults, it's harder for women to take themselves seriously, because people don't consider women eligible for leadership positions, Valian said.

She said people need to educate themselves and their colleagues about gender equality.

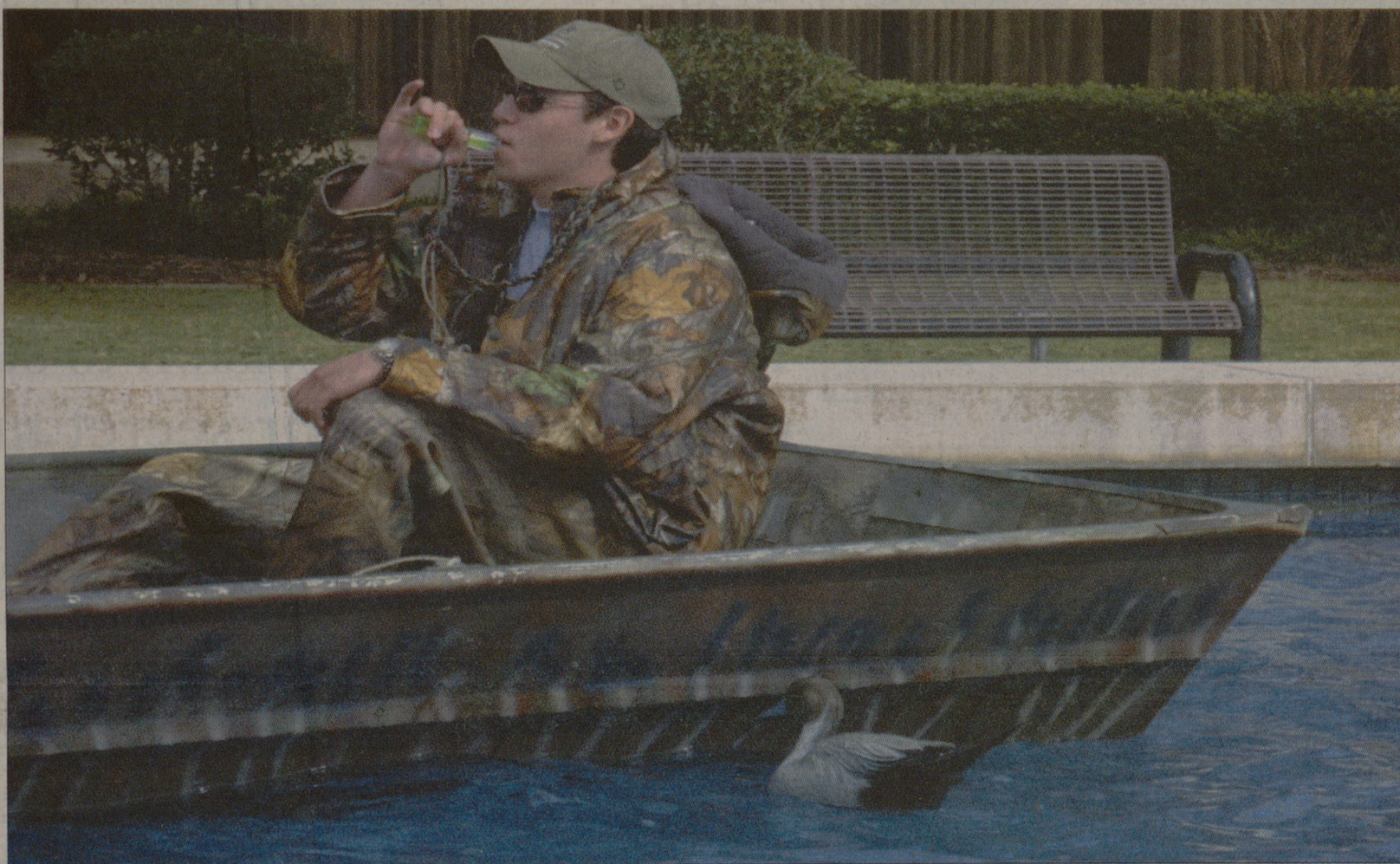
"Everyone must realize that we are all a part of the problem, women as well as men," Valian said. "We also need to create a world where people are not hindered by schemata, gender and racial."

If people would spotlight women with good leadership qualities, others would judge women more positively, Valian said.

Women must build power by performing jobs that are out of the ordinary, highly visible and that

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Quack, quack



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

Sophomore construction science major and Ducks Unlimited member, John Michael Alaniz, attempts to call ducks while boating in Rudder Fountain Thursday afternoon. The club is having its annual banquet Tuesday, Nov. 19.

International week activities promote study abroad programs

By Sarah Darr
THE BATTALION

A&M GOES INTERNATIONAL
International Week is:
Nov. 18 - 22

TUESDAY
6 - 8 p.m., Flagroom:
participate in an open forum

WEDNESDAY
7 p.m., Rudder Theatre:
watch international films

THURSDAY
5 p.m., Sbisa:
eat Mexican food with Aggie
international ambassadors

FRIDAY
9 p.m. - 1 a.m., Zone Plaza
and MSC:
join in the music festival

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

A year in Switzerland gave Texas A&M senior Chandra Akins a world of experience and landed her a job she wouldn't have received otherwise.

"My study abroad trip is what made all the difference in finding a job," said Akins, an international studies and French major. "It shows people you are flexible and unafraid of a challenge."

Akins lived in an international dorm in Lausanne, and attended a Swiss university every weekday, taking time to explore Europe on weekends. Akins, who will help raise awareness of study abroad programs as part of International Education Week, said programs that immerse students in other cultures give them a new way of looking at the world.

"I am so glad I did it because it completely

changed my life," Akins said. "I am much more self assured and I know I can handle myself in any situation."

Events for the week, which begin Monday, will be held worldwide on university campuses in Africa, East Asia and the United States, said Elizabeth Gregory, vice president of AmeriSpan, an organization that sponsors South American study abroad programs. Events will also be taking place at A&M during International Education Week in order to make students more aware of what is going on in the world, said Dr. Lynne Masel Walters, director of International Studies Programs.

"It will be good for students to receive different perspectives, especially about the Middle East conflict," Masel Walters said.

International Education Week is sponsored by the federal Departments of State and Education. The week will allow students all over the world to take advantage of international opportunities,

Gregory said

Students can learn more information about cultural awareness through the activities that are being offered, she said.

"This week is really just about spreading the word about the importance of cultural awareness, especially now with conflict directed against the United States," Gregory said.

AmeriSpan will host "Crazy for Spain," to encourage students to study in Spain, learn to flamenco dance and speak Spanish, Gregory said.

Though it was hard to deal with another culture, Akins said her year abroad brought her friendships and love, and she had a harder time coming back to America than she did leaving for Switzerland.

"I made some of my best friends there who were from Britain, Italy, France, Japan and Australia," Akins said. "We got so close because we were all going through the same thing."

Surgeon general says attacks showcased government systems

By Jeremy Osborne
THE BATTALION

The organization and cooperation of government agencies in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, while unprecedented, successfully tested several government systems, Rear Adm. Robert C. Williams said Thursday.

"The feds weren't the only ones there," Williams, assistant surgeon general, said. "There were state organizations, local organizations, private organizations, universities. Hundreds of thousands of people responded to New York City."

Williams, a former Texas A&M student, is the chief engineer for the U.S. Public Health Service. He spoke at the School of Rural Public Health in

College Station. Williams said the federal health service's response in the wake of the attacks proved many untested government response mechanisms capable.

"Within an hour of the terrorist attacks we had activated the National Disaster Medical System. For the very first time we sent out the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile," Williams said. "(Supplies) were sent to New York City within eight hours — so it works. The first time it was needed. It worked well."

Various agencies, including the U.S. Public Health Service, established five 24-hour-a-day temporary treatment centers near Ground Zero to treat rescue and recovery workers. During the next 11 weeks,

workers administered 9,528 medical visits, 936 rescue animal visits and 6,126 mental health visits.

"Things were not always the best. We didn't always have electricity," Williams said. "Sometimes you had to make do with doing sutures by flashlight."

Four federal teams, four state teams and four local teams collected more than 400,000 air, ground and water samples from lower Manhattan in the months following the trade center collapse to determine the safety of the environmental conditions around the site, he said.

"You can imagine the difficulty when everyone has their own idea about what should happen," Williams said. "The thing that helped us was the fact that we had a single focus when

we looked to the New York City Department of Health to channel all of our information."

Despite all of the success, Williams said improvements can be made.

"We have to have a process for making decisions," Williams said. "That has to be in place before going into an emergency situation."

Students in attendance said they enjoyed the speech.

"I was impressed with the amount of monitoring of the contaminants that were spread after the towers collapsed," said Matt McMullan, a sophomore construction science major.

Williams said the trade center collapse proved that public health responders on all levels are prepared to deal with disaster.

"The role of the public



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

Robert C. Williams shows the amount of dust build up with artifacts found in a person's house who lived blocks from the World Trade Center during the terrorist attacks.

health service is to protect the health of the people of the nation," Williams said. "As public health officials we are stew-

ards in the public interest, we are servants in the public trust. We are ready, we are willing and we are able."