

The Texas A&M University
Student Media Board
is accepting applications for
Editor
THE BATTALION
— Including radio and online editions —
Spring 2003
(The spring editor will serve from Jan. 6 through May 9, 2003)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;
- Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, — OR — Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, — OR — Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Dell Bomnskie, Student Media business coordinator, in room 011A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2002. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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Some food for Thanksgiving thoughts Scientists study body's hunger signals

NEW YORK (AP) — Sometime Thursday, your brain will probably be besieged by contradictory demands.

Your better judgment will tell you NO NO NO. Your surroundings will tell you YES YES YES. A nerve reaching in from your gut will insist NO NO NO. Signals from your mouth will make some brain circuits cry YES YES YES.

And in the end, your brain will make an executive decision and probably order your mouth to say:

"Pie? Sure, I'd love some."

Putting on a Thanksgiving feast is complicated enough, but it's nothing compared to how your body decides how much of it to eat.

Scientists have learned a lot in the past few years about what controls appetite. In a nation where many people eat too much, such discoveries often hit the front pages because they might lead to better weight-loss drugs. This year alone brought widely reported evidence that one natural hormone boosts appetite and another dampens it, for example.

Such research also sheds light on that

Thanksgiving Day war of impulses in your brain.

Your eagerness to eat on that day — or any other day — is an "exquisite interaction between our psychology and our biology and our environment," says Barbara Rolls, nutrition professor at Penn State University.

It all starts long before anyone buys the turkey.

Everybody needs to eat, of course, but eat too much and you get too fat. So your body has a regulatory system that works over the long haul for controlling how much fat you carry.

As many Americans can attest, it doesn't always work. But in fact, scientists say, in general it works very well at matching the number of calories you eat to the number you burn off over the course of a week or more. In Western cultures, on average, people put on a half-pound to a pound per year over much of their adult lives, which translates to an excess intake of just 10 to 20 calories a day, Drs. David Cummings and Michael Schwartz of the University of

Washington in Seattle note in a forthcoming review of the biology of obesity.

That excess is about the equivalent of a Ritz cracker a day.

Of course, some people put on more weight and others less. But the Ritz cracker example illustrates a remarkably precise regulation of body weight, considering the variable people's diets and activities from day to day, Schwartz says.

How does the body achieve that? Scientists have identified two hormones, insulin and especially leptin, that tell the brain how much fat you're carrying (Leptin, made by fat cells and discovered only in 1994, raised hopes of being a powerful weight-loss drug until studies in people proved disappointing.)

Leptin and insulin appear to influence how sensitive the brain is to the body's satiety signals, Schwartz said. If you've put on fat, their levels go up, making it easier for the brain to hear your body's signals to stop eating, so you eat less, he said. If you're underweight, low levels have the opposite effect.

Arrests linked to 'shoe bomber' plot latest in anti-terrorism sweep

PARIS (AP) — French police on Tuesday detained seven suspected Islamic militants with possible ties to the so-called "shoe bomber" — the third anti-terrorism sweep in France in four days.

Police have arrested 18 people since Saturday, including an Islamic militant who escaped from a Dutch jail. The interior minister described the arrest of another suspect as "very important" for the fight against terrorism.

The push by anti-terrorism investigators, comes amid mounting fears of terror attacks in western Europe. In the latest word of caution, Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said in an interview published Tuesday that "France is among the countries most threatened."

Anti-terrorism judges Jean-Louis Bruguiere and Jean-Francois Ricard put out orders for the pre-dawn arrests Tuesday of six Algerians and Pakistanis, picked up in the Paris suburbs of Montreuil and Garges-les-Gonesse, police said. Among those detained was an imam at a mosque north of Paris.

A seventh suspect who used to run a Paris prayer hall was picked up on Reunion island, a French territory in the Indian Ocean.

All seven are suspected of ties to Richard Reid, the Briton who pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a trans-Atlantic flight last year using explosives hidden in his sneakers.

Under French law, terrorism suspects can be held for questioning for four days before being placed under investigation or freed.

Reid, 29, a convert to Islam, has admitted to being a follower of Osama bin Laden, chief suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States. Reid pleaded guilty to federal terrorism charges in Boston in October.

"France is among the countries most threatened."

— Michele Alliot-Marie, Defense Minister of France

Two French nationals and a Pakistani have already been placed under investigation — a step short of being charged — for allegedly providing help with logistical support during his stay in France. He boarded the Miami-bound American Airlines flight in Paris. The plane made an emergency landing in Boston.

The arrest Monday of Slimane Khalfaoui was hailed by authorities as an advance of the fight against terrorism.

Counterintelligence agents surrounded his sister's home in the northern suburb of Montfermeil and nabbed Khalfaoui, wanted since 1998 and described by Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy as "operational."

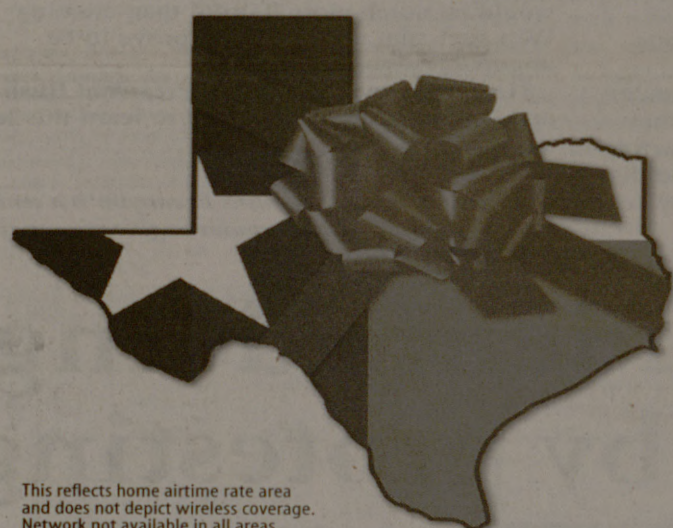
Khalfaoui was among the people detained Monday in connection with an investigation opened in 1995 into networks that for years ferried militants into training camps in Afghanistan, some once trained by bin Laden.

Investigators link Khalfaoui, who is French of Algerian origin, to a plot to attack the Strasbourg Cathedral and Christmas market during millennium celebrations. Four Algerians have been on trial in Germany in the case.

In addition, according to French newspapers, Khalfaoui allegedly had contacts with Ahmed Ressam, the Algerian convicted in the United States for a plot to bomb the Los Angeles airport, also during millennium festivities.

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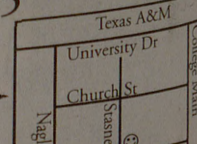
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