

# THE BATTALION

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Texas A&amp;M University

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## A&M Dairy Center



Depressed milk prices and increased operational costs forced center past budget during last fiscal year

Will shut down effective Aug. 31, 2003, though Dairy Science Academic Program will continue

Built in 1952 - updated in 1980 and 1987

400 acres - has 115 milk cows

RANDAL FORD AND TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: A&M DAIRY CENTER, AP

## A&M Dairy Center shuts its doors

By Melissa McKeon  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Dairy Center which has been housed at A&M since 1886, will close its doors this August after more than 50 years, leaving dairy workers out of a job and putting A&M's dairy science program in jeopardy.

Twenty-five people will lose their jobs because of the closing announced Wednesday, and many say this could be the end of the dairy science program at A&M.

Laura Hamilton, calf manager at the center, said the mismanagement that has been cited as a reason for the closing could have been prevented.

"There are plans for a new Dairy Center dating back to 1980 that was never built," she said. "There weren't any improvements made to the existing center or equipment with the money that was set aside."

The current center has not had major renovations since 1952, when the center was first built, she said. To help pay for improvements, the Dairy Center sold several cows in 1996 to replace asbestos shingles on the buildings.

"The money from those cows did not go toward improvements like it should have," Hamilton said.

Dr. John McNeill, head of the animal science department, said the center will still be selling cows and equipment until it closes.

Financial reasons are to blame for closing the

center. College Station is not a good place to milk cows because of the weather, McNeill said.

"We are not reducing our commitment by these actions — we are simply going to cease milking cows in College Station," according to The Associated Press.

"Current state budget recissions just accentuated the need to close the center," McNeill said.

Cody Martindale, head feeder at the Dairy Center, said the financial and environmental reasons McNeill gave for closing the facility are unfounded.

"We lost \$40,000 last year but we made it all up," Martindale said. "We have passed all state

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## Senate opposes deregulation

By Rolando Garcia  
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate approved a resolution Wednesday expressing opposition to tuition deregulation.

With no debate, the resolution, introduced by Student Senator Kevin Capps, sailed through with no senators voting in opposition and five abstentions. Under a deregulation plan, caps on tuition would be removed and the Board of Regents could raise tuition without approval from the state Legislature.

"The purpose of the Legislature is to determine what price the people can afford to pay," Capps said. "As unelected representatives, there are no reasons for people of Texas to hold them directly accountable for the cost of education."

Although the Legislature has not yet taken up deregulation measure, Capps said the senate must act now so that the voice of students are heard in the upcoming debate on the issue.

While the resolution opposes the state Legislature giving complete authority to regents to set tuition rates, it leaves open the possibility that the student senate will support a limited deregulation plan, such as for summer school or graduate school, and recommends legislators should maintain at least some constraints on how much the regents can raise tuition.

"The reality is they don't have the money in Austin (to adequately fund A&M), and we're going to have to address a way to pick up the slack," Capps said.

The resolution also recommends legislators

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## Does a tiger good



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

ZooCats Zoological Systems employee **Nia Segovia** feeds milk to a 5-month-old Bengal Tiger **Nikita** in front of the MSC on Wednesday afternoon. Students were allowed to take pictures with the tiger as part of

the advertising for the Housing Fair at the MSC. The non-profit organization was there on behalf of Cambridge housing. The organization houses 23 tigers and works with Save the Tiger fund.

## City council considers age increase

### Filing for local office

Cities of College Station and Bryan accepting candidates Feb. 17-March 19

College Station City Council considered raising candidates required age from 18 to 21 on Feb. 10

If interested, contact:

- College Station: 764-3541  
- Bryan: 209-5120

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: CITIES OF BRYAN AND COLLEGE STATION

By Hedish Connor  
THE BATTALION

The College Station City Council has suggested raising the age requirement to run for a city council position from 18 to 21.

Connie Hooks, College Station city secretary, said council members mentioned the possible change to the city charter last week, and will consider the matter further this summer.

A new age requirement was suggested because, in the past, younger potential candidates who waited until the last minute to file for office were not aware

of the complete running process, Hooks said.

She said council members want candidates who understand how the council runs and know about current issues.

The majority of 19 and 20-year-olds who ran for city office in the past did not even know what a council meeting was, Hooks said.

"Someone who is 21 will make decisions based on the importance of the role, not necessarily (the importance) of (Texas A&M)," she said.

Any changes made to the city

See **Council** on page 2A

## Terrorist receives 15-year sentence

By David Rising  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMBURG, Germany — A Moroccan received the maximum 15-year sentence Wednesday for helping the al-Qaida hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks — the first conviction anywhere of a suspect in the terror plot against the United States.

Mounir el Motassadeq, 28, showed no emotion but occasionally shook his head or checked his watch as he listened to the verdict finding him guilty of more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder.

El Motassadeq helped pay tuition and rent for members of the Hamburg-based al-Qaida cell — allowing them to live as students as they plotted the attacks, prosecutors said.

Judge Albrecht Mentz said el Motassadeq lied when he testified he was unaware of the plot despite being close friends with suicide hijackers with Mohamed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and other cell members.

Mentz said he agreed with prosecutors who earlier described the defendant as "a cog that kept the machinery going."

He "belonged to this group since its inception. ... He knew and approved the key elements of the planned attacks," the judge said.

Sept. 11 victims' relatives who participated in the trial as co-plaintiffs — some offering emotional testimony that Mentz said prompted him to impose the maximum sentence — praised the verdict.

Joan Molinaro of New York City said she was "thrilled."

"It's the first small victory we've had since 9/11," said Molinaro, whose firefighter son Carl was killed at the World Trade Center. "I kind of feel like, 'OK, Carl, we got one,'" she said. "I think my son is smiling."

Another New Yorker, Kathy Ashton — whose son Tommy was killed at the World Trade Center — called the 15-year sentence "a drop in the bucket, especially for a young man, but at least it's something."

Interior Minister Otto Schily hailed the verdict as a "success in the fight" against terror. "It is a warning to all those who think they can toy with the idea of aligning themselves with terrorist networks."

See **Trial** on page 2A

## Powell waits for Turkey's support in war

By Barry Schweid  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Colin Powell interceded Wednesday with Turkish Prime Minister Abdullah Gul in an apparently unsuccessful effort to break a deadlock over a U.S. aid package designed to secure Turkey's help in war with Iraq.

At stake is the stationing of U.S. troops in Turkey and the use of bases there.

Powell gave no indication the telephone diplomacy produced a breakthrough. A Turkish official in Washington said Turkey wanted more than the United States had offered but the American side was holding firm.

CNN reported that the United States gave Turkey 48 hours to respond to the proposed aid package, but U.S. officials had no confirmation of the report.

"We are waiting to hear back from the Turks," Powell told reporters. "I think they understand the importance of this issue to us, and to our efforts, and they've got it under consideration now."

Powell added: "Time is moving, but I don't have a deadline I'd like to announce right now."

A senior U.S. official, also asked about the report, said the United States wants an answer right away but said he was unaware of a specific deadline.

The dispute with Turkey is only one of many problems the Bush administration is

having as it tries to line up support for a possible war with Iraq.

A new U.N. resolution demanding Iraq's disarmament — and testing the Security Council's resolve — will be introduced soon, Boucher said.

He dismissed two days of speeches by other governments at the council disapproving of force to disarm Iraq.

"It's a matter of the Security Council taking its responsibility," Boucher said. "I know that a lot of speeches are being made by a lot of people."

Powell, in his conversation with Gul, "stressed the importance of reaching a decision very soon," Boucher said.

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