

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 104 • 12 pages

Texas A&M University

www.thebatt.com

Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Hawking talks physics at A&M

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Stephen Hawking, one of the greatest minds of the 20th century, arrived in College Station Feb. 24 and will remain until March 21. His visit is sponsored by the Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics.

Hawking will be working mostly with professors and graduate students who take part in the institute, but he will also give a speech to the general public on March 8 at 4 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

The black hole scientist suffers from an acute case of Lou Gehrig's disease that confines him to the use of only his thumb and appearances by him are rare, said Christopher Pope, an A&M professor and organizer of the Mitchell Institute. Pope said it would be best for students to not bother Hawking when they see him around campus.

Hawking is able to speak through a special computer that he operates with his thumb.

Whitney Wilkinson, a junior bioenvironmental sciences major, said she is excited about the prospect of hearing Hawking's speech, despite

the necessary computer assistance.

"It doesn't matter how he talks, it just matters what he says," she said.

Pope said he has already heard Hawking's speech, "Gödel and the End of Physics." Kurt Gödel (1906-1978) was a 20th century mathematician and logician who invented the theory of incompleteness. The theory states that even the field of mathematics will always include underlying complications even after an initial solution is found.

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"Gödel and the End of Physics"

Featuring speaker
Stephen Hawking

- Saturday, March 8
- 4 p.m.
- Rudder Auditorium

Tickets available at **MSC Box Office****\$3 students, \$5 general public**

REBUN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: TEXAS A&M DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Dairy funding still questioned

By Janet McLaren
THE BATTALION

Students and employees of the Texas A&M Dairy Science Center, which will close in August due to budget deficits and environmental concerns, say the University's reasons for closing the dairy are unfounded and they will continue to fight to keep the dairy open.

A&M's dairy center has estimated its budget deficit for the 2001-2002 fiscal year at \$16,712.25, despite reports from the Animal Science Department of a deficit totaling about \$93,000.

Dairy Science Center manager C.J. Cordell, Class of 1999, said last week that the center was meeting its budget for this fiscal year as well as making up the deficit from last year.

"We're not making money, but we're a teaching facility so we shouldn't be," Cordell said. "Just to break even is impressive, especially as a facility that is totally run and operated by students."

Head of the Dairy Science Center John McNeill said

Cordell's budget information was incomplete, according to The Bryan-College Station Eagle.

Laura Hamilton, a senior animal science major and calf manager at the Dairy Center, said the department's environmental concerns including complaints that waste water drainage into Turkey Creek, were not true.

"Any drainage is more water than anything else," she said. "And anything that's not water is just manure."

Cordell said the Dairy Center met all environmental regulations.

McNeill said the waste management systems were inadequate despite a great reduction in the number of cows at the dairy, according to the University Agriculture Program's newsletter, AgNews.

If the Dairy Center closes, the Department of Animal Science will consider having regional programs at other universities including Texas Tech University, New Mexico State University and Oklahoma State University.

See **Dairy** on page 2

Sweet melody



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Monks robed in traditional costumes perform ancient temple music with 10-foot-long dunchen trumpets for world healing in Rudder Auditorium Tuesday night. The monks, from Tibet's

Drepung Loseling Monastery, are also constructing a mandala sand painting in the Memorial Student Center Flagroom. They are here for Texas A&M's International Student Week.

Cameraman snaps secret photos of Rec Center jogger

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Officials at the Student Recreational Center said they will inform the University Police Department today of reports they received on Monday of an unidentified male who took photographs of female patrons without permission.

"We are taking this seriously and are trying to find this individual," said Dennis Corrington, director of the Department of Recreational Sports.

The cameraman was reported to Rec Center officials by multiple people, including an aerobics instructor who saw the man taking pictures of her aerobics class, Corrington said.

Katie Hensley, a senior English major, said that she noticed a camera flash behind her during a pre-run stretch on the third floor of the Rec Center near the track. Hensley said she turned to look toward the flash and saw a white male in a blue sweatshirt, but there was no camera visible.

After she started running, a fellow runner told her that he saw the man

take a picture of her, Hensley said.

"I was shocked," she said.

Corrington said a man similar to the description Hensley and the aerobics instructor submitted was confronted by two Rec Center supervisors on duty Monday but was not detained. But the supervisors were unable to hold him after he claimed he did not have a camera, because they did not have enough evidence.

The Rec Center has a policy of not allowing outside cameras inside the facility to protect the privacy of its patrons and control the image of the

Rec Center, Corrington said. Photographers must have Rec Center permission before bring a camera into the facility.

He said this is the first incident in which someone has reportedly brought a camera into the Rec Center. "The Rec is a pretty secure place. A situation like that could happen even with heightened security," Corrington said. "The only thing we can do is respond once it happens."

DeAun Woosley, fitness director for the Rec Center, said aerobics classes are inaccessible to onlookers

because they are on the third floor and can be observed only from that floor through a small window in the door. Corrington said people should report anyone seen with a camera to Rec Center officials.

"If it had been reported quicker we could have had a positive ID," Corrington said.

UPD Director Bob Wiatt said taking photographs without the subject's permission is a civil offense, and criminal charges can be enforced if those pictures are published on any medium, including the Internet.

Rain, low temperatures forecast until weekend

By Janet McLaren
THE BATTALION

Icy conditions and freezing temperatures hit the Brazos Valley Tuesday, yet Texas A&M held classes despite a warning issued by the City of College Station that urged residents to avoid driving altogether if possible.

Sporadic rainfall and freezing conditions were expected to make area bridges and overpasses treacherous overnight, and city crews were dispatched to sand city bridges and intersections.

Classes could be canceled at A&M this week if University President Robert M. Gates declares weather conditions unsafe, said Lane Stephenson, the deputy director for University Relations.

University officials advised students to listen to the radio or watch television for announce-

ments about classes for news Wednesday morning and the rest of the week.

"I (currently) know of nothing to prevent classes from meeting as scheduled," Stephenson said.

Temperatures for the rest of this week are expected to remain near freezing with highs in the 30s and 40s, and scattered rainfall can be expected until this weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

Bryan-College Station experienced flood warnings with the freezing temperatures and freezing rain throughout the county Monday and Tuesday. The area received more than 5 inches of rainfall during the past week.

Travis Herzog, a junior meteorology major who writes a daily weather report for Lechner Hall, said temperatures did not climb above freezing Tuesday. He said

Weather Woes

• Classes will not be canceled unless A&M President Robert M. Gates declares unsafe conditions

• State Highways 6, 21 and 47 had icy conditions Tuesday

• Wednesday's Forecast:

High: 46°
Low: 40°

with scattered showers
Listen to radio or watch TV for updates on weather conditions

the main weather concern was freezing rain, which can down power lines and ice up roads.

"There's a continued chance of rain for Wednesday," Herzog



JOHN C. LIVAS AND RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: WEATHERCHANNEL.COM AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

said, "and a chance of more cold weather and showers on Monday."

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Student hit on University

By Bernhard Hall
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student who was hit by a car while attempting to cross University Drive Monday is recovering at home after being treated for minor injuries.

Patricia Hickey, a freshman general studies major, was hit at 6:45 p.m. while crossing the University Dr. and College Main intersection. She had X-rays taken at the College Station Medical Center, said Officer Thomas Brown of the College Station Police Department.

The driver, Prabir Daripa, had the driver's side window of his Toyota Camry shattered after hitting Hickey. He stopped immediately and returned to help her, witnesses said.

Hickey said as she began to cross the road, the light was red, but then turned green.

"It was really my fault," she

said. "I got freaked out by the oncoming lights (of the cars) and froze."

Jacque Bezner, a freshman math major, was riding the bus home and witnessed the events immediately following the collision.

"I saw all these cars swerving around," she said. "The bus went real slow around a pickup truck, and I thought it was a traffic jam."

Bezner said the truck stopped to keep anyone else from hitting Hickey on the dark street. She said she saw Hickey laying in the street face down as the bus went by. Bezner then saw the driver returning to help.

"The guy was running back to the girl, like it had just happened," she said.

Hickey said she was trying to get home before it began to rain. "I'm really lucky," Hickey said. "It could have been a lot, lot worse."

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