

THE BATTALION

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright** spoke about stability in the Middle East Friday at Texas A&M. She is the highest-ranking woman in the history of U.S. government.

Albright stresses U.S. ally relations

By Janet McLaren
THE BATTALION

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stressed the gravity of current conflicts in Iraq and North Korea and the importance of the United States' diplomatic response Friday in an hour-long lecture at Texas A&M wearing maroon.

"I am in my seventh decade of life and have seen few moments more dangerous, more disturbing

than this," said Albright.

Former Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, an expert on Middle East foreign policy, joined Albright in the event hosted by the Wiley Lecture Series on "Force and Diplomacy."

Albright, the first woman Secretary of State and highest-ranking woman in the history of U.S. government, delivered her first lecture at Texas A&M wearing maroon.

Albright stressed the importance of maintaining good relations with American allies and improving global confidence in

U.S. actions in the Middle East.

"Around the globe, American actions have not been so widely questioned since the Vietnam war," she said. "We have to remedy that."

Both Albright and Djerejian said economic help from other nations will be necessary to rebuild the Iraqi nation.

Albright, who worked personally with North Korean president Kim Jong-Il, said preventing North Korea from becoming a nuclear power is a priority for the United States.

"North Korea is as dangerous as it

is poor," she said. "Stopping North Korea is essential and is not going to be easy."

Albright said President George W. Bush must demonstrate the same urgency in resolving the North Korea problem as it did in removing the threat posed by Iraq.

"We must act now," Albright said. "It is absurd to stand by and allow North Korea to become a military power while sending United States

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Chilifest 2003

Record crowd and fewer shenanigans

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

Despite a record crowd, ChiliFest 2003 concluded Saturday night with fewer shenanigans than usual, law enforcement officials said.

Country music legend Willie Nelson helped draw more than 38,000 people to the annual music festival in Snook. More than 70 law enforcement officers were on hand to keep the crowd in line, said Burleson County Constable Dennis Gaas, who oversaw security for the event.

"I wouldn't say everyone was drunk, but they were all feeling good, and you might have expected a lot more trouble."

— Dennis Gaas
Burleson County Constable

Officers issued more than 125 citations, 80 of them for underage drinking. Citations were also given for public intoxication, urinating in public, disorderly conduct and presenting false identification to law enforcement, Gaas said. Considering the size of the crowd and the amount of alcohol consumed, the disturbances were minor, with only two incidents of fighting, he said.

"I wouldn't say everyone was drunk, but they were all feeling good, and you might have expected a lot more trouble," Gaas said.

Traffic congestion was alleviated through the park-n-ride service at A&M.

Consolidated High School, where partygoers could leave their vehicles and ride buses to and from the festival. The vast pastures surrounding the festival were divided into 10,000 parking spaces, but only 8,500 were used, Gaas said. Although traffic often slowed to a crawl, it never came to a complete halt.

Lt. Rodney Sigler, spokesman for the College Station Police Department, said an officer was posted at the high school parking lot to monitor partygoers returning to their vehicles. CARPOOL was on hand to take home those too intoxicated to drive, he said.

To prevent underage drinking, attendees who were of legal age were given wristbands necessary to purchase alcohol, and law enforcement officers were posted at beer vendors to ensure identifications were checked.

Students said the good music, favorable weather and security combined to make their ChiliFest experiences enjoyable.

"Everyone was drinking excessively, but nobody got hurt or out of control," said Jason Sellers, a junior wildlife and fisheries sciences major. "I'd definitely do it again."

Although some in the Snook community have complained about the festival in the past, most welcome the event, Gaas said. The festival last year raised more than \$100,000 for local charities, and some 500 volunteers helped direct cars in the parking lots and hand out wristbands at the gate.

"(ChiliFest) is strongly supported by the Snook community," Gaas said.

The site was left littered with beer cans, papers, chairs and other trash items, though there are fewer couches left behind this year, Gaas said. Last year, it took workers five days to clear the site.



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Four fans sit atop a tractor for a better view of Willie Nelson as the sun sets on Chilifest 2003. Around 38,000 attended the two-day event.

Chilifest By the Numbers

- 38,000 attendees
- 125 citations
- 70 law enforcement officers
- 8,500 vehicles on property



JP BEATO III AND TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: BURELSON COUNTY CONSTABLE



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Headliner **Willie Nelson** played to a large crowd at this year's Chilifest held in Snook, Texas on Saturday. **Nelson's** set lasted for two hours.

Student media receive awards

By Rob Phillips
THE BATTALION

The Battalion received honorable mention overall among four-year collegiate newspapers Saturday at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's Spring Convention, winning first-place awards for photos, series, illustrations and sports features.

Randal Ford took top honors in the sports feature and news photo categories, while John C. Livas was awarded first place in the sports action photo section.

Christina Hoffman and C.E. Walters placed first for their series of articles regarding the Corps of Cadets hazing investigation in Summer 2002.

True Brown finished first in the sports feature story category.

Ruben DeLuna placed first and third for illustrations and received second place in feature page design.

The following staffers also placed second in various categories: Stuart Villanueva for

sports feature photo, Dallas Shipp for sports news story and Mariano Castillo in the editorial section.

Emily Peters took third place in the news story section for her piece on a convicted sex offender enlisted in the Corps of Cadets and living on campus, and Janelle Wilson placed third for a general column piece.

Chad Mallam, who once published cartoons for The Battalion under the pseudonym The Uncartoonist, received third place in opinion page design and honorable mention in the cartoon category.

During on-site competitions in Corpus Christi, Livas won first place for sports action photo and Kendra Kingsley won first place for headline writing. Michael Crow placed second in print sports writing.

The Associated Press Managing Editors also awarded The Battalion honorable mention overall for

See **Awards** on page 2

MSC officials tight lipped about cuts

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Budget cuts could put several Memorial Student Center committees on the chopping block, but MSC officials are staying tight-lipped on which committees may be eliminated.

All departments within the division of Student Affairs are required to identify spending cuts totaling 9.5 percent of their budgets and submit their proposals by mid-April, said Terry Pankratz, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

Pankratz said the proposals will be a list of "what-if scenarios" and actual budget cuts may be less than 9.5 percent. Final figures will not be known until the state legislature determines A&M's overall budget appropriations, Pankratz said.

"It is a little too soon to know what reduction, if any, will need to be made," Pankratz said.

The MSC has an annual budget of more than \$6 million, close to half of which comes from student fee money. The rest is derived from revenues and ticket sales.

MSC Council President

Barry Hammond declined to comment on potential cuts, and MSC Director Jim Reynolds did not return phone calls from The Battalion.

Travis Zimmerman, chair of MSC Cepheid Variable, a science fiction student programming committee that sponsors the annual AggieCon convention, said he and chairs of other committees that may be cut met with Reynolds and incoming MSC Council President Elizabeth Dacus in March and were told their committees may be eliminated from the budget. The committee chairs were also

briefed on how they could reorganize their groups under the department of Student Activities.

Zimmerman, a junior political science major, said that he had been informed by a MSC official that Cepheid Variable was a possible cut.

Zimmerman said he has not heard from MSC officials on whether the decision to cut Cepheid Variable was final, but the organization is operating under the assumption that it is.

Although the group uses little

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Troops push into Baghdad; death toll grows

By Calvin Woodward
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chipping away at the vestiges of Saddam Hussein's power, U.S. forces encircled Baghdad on Sunday and began flying into the capital's airport. British forces in the south made their deepest push into Iraq's second largest city.

A hulking U.S. C-130 transport plane landed at the Baghdad international airport, carrying unknown cargo but weighted with symbolism and tactical importance. The arrival presaged a major resupply effort by

air for U.S. troops, dependent until now on a tenuous line stretching 350 miles to Kuwait.

U.S. officials declared Baghdad cut off from the rest of Iraq.

"We do control the highways in and out of the city and do have the capability to interdict, to stop, to attack an Iraqi military forces that might try to either escape or to engage our forces," said Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Intense fighting took a growing toll on combatants and civilians.

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The cost of security

Much of the burden of homeland security falls on the federal and state level. Here are the cities who have the largest increases in security costs due to the high alert, according to a survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Additional homeland security costs per week

New York	\$5.8 million	Portland, Ore.	\$0.3
San Francisco	\$2.1	Austin, Texas	0.5
Los Angeles	2.3	Chandler, Ariz.	0.3
Atlanta	2.3	New Orleans	0.4
Fresno, Calif.	1.5	Baltimore	0.3

SOURCE: U.S. Conference of Mayors

AP