

# THE BATTALION

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## SBP Coventry reflects on administration

By Melissa Fowler  
THE BATTALION

Zac Coventry is no stranger to complications from rain.

Not only did showers interfere with the first Spring State of the University Address held Wednesday afternoon in the Academic Plaza, but Coventry attributes poor weather to the failure of the Farmers Fight Festival in November that was a centerpiece of his agenda as student body president.

Looking back on his term and his accomplishments before a crowd of 25 people, Coventry said the Fall Activities Council was concerned with

what events students wanted to participate in, and that the Farmers Fight Festival did not succeed because of circumstances beyond his control.

"It (the Farmers Fight Festival) was a great idea and a great concept, but the weather didn't cooperate," said Coventry, a senior agricultural development major.

Coventry's predecessor, Schuyler Houser, created the Fall Activities Council to poll the student body about potential fall activities. Coventry used survey results from the FAC to construct his goals of promoting unity and rallying spirit, which were major aspects of his agenda as SBP.

Critics claim the Farmers Fight Festival was a failure that marred Coventry's administration.

Luke Cheatham, a senior civil engineering



COVENTRY

major and organizer of last semester's off-campus bonfire Unity Project, said the festival's low attendance showed it was a poor substitute for Aggie Bonfire.

"When you make that (the festival) the biggest part of your campaign and come up so short, it's hard to get away from that," Cheatham said.

Coventry said the events organized by the FAC, including the Reveille Ball, a formal held in Reed Arena, and the Farmers Fight Festival, were not intended to replace Bonfire.

Coventry reflected on his administration's assistance with the Bonfire memorial, which is

scheduled to be completed in November 2004 and will include input from the families of the 12 Aggies who died in 1999, he said.

In keeping with his platform goals, which included unity, accountability and communication, Coventry said his administration was proactive and accomplished much through programming committees such as CARPOOL.

By placing more than 150 students on University committees, Coventry said his administration worked to give students a voice. Getting student members to serve on various search committees and a student co-chair on the search committee for the vice president of student affairs has

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## Travelers cautioned away from Toronto

By Barry Brown  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO — Global health officials warned travelers Wednesday to avoid Beijing and Toronto, where they might get the SARS virus and export it to new locations.

Canadian officials angrily said they would challenge the health advisory and declared their nation's largest city still "a safe place." Toronto is the first location outside of Asia targeted in efforts to contain the disease.

In Beijing, Chinese officials said all public schools would close Thursday for two weeks, affecting 1.7 million children. Thousands of people trying to flee the outbreak packed the capital city's train station and airport.

A major medical center in China's capital, the People's Hospital of Peking University, was closed Thursday amid a SARS outbreak. More than 2,000 employees were under observation for the disease while the hospital was being disinfected.

Dr. David Heymann of the World Health Organization said the new travel alert, which includes China's Shanxi province, was necessary because

"these areas now have quite a high magnitude of disease, a great risk of transmission locally ... and also they've been exporting cases to other countries."

The advisory, which says any unnecessary travel to those locations should be postponed, will be reviewed again in three weeks, he said. Previously, WHO warned against non-urgent travel to Hong Kong and the Chinese province of Guangdong, where the virus was first reported last November.

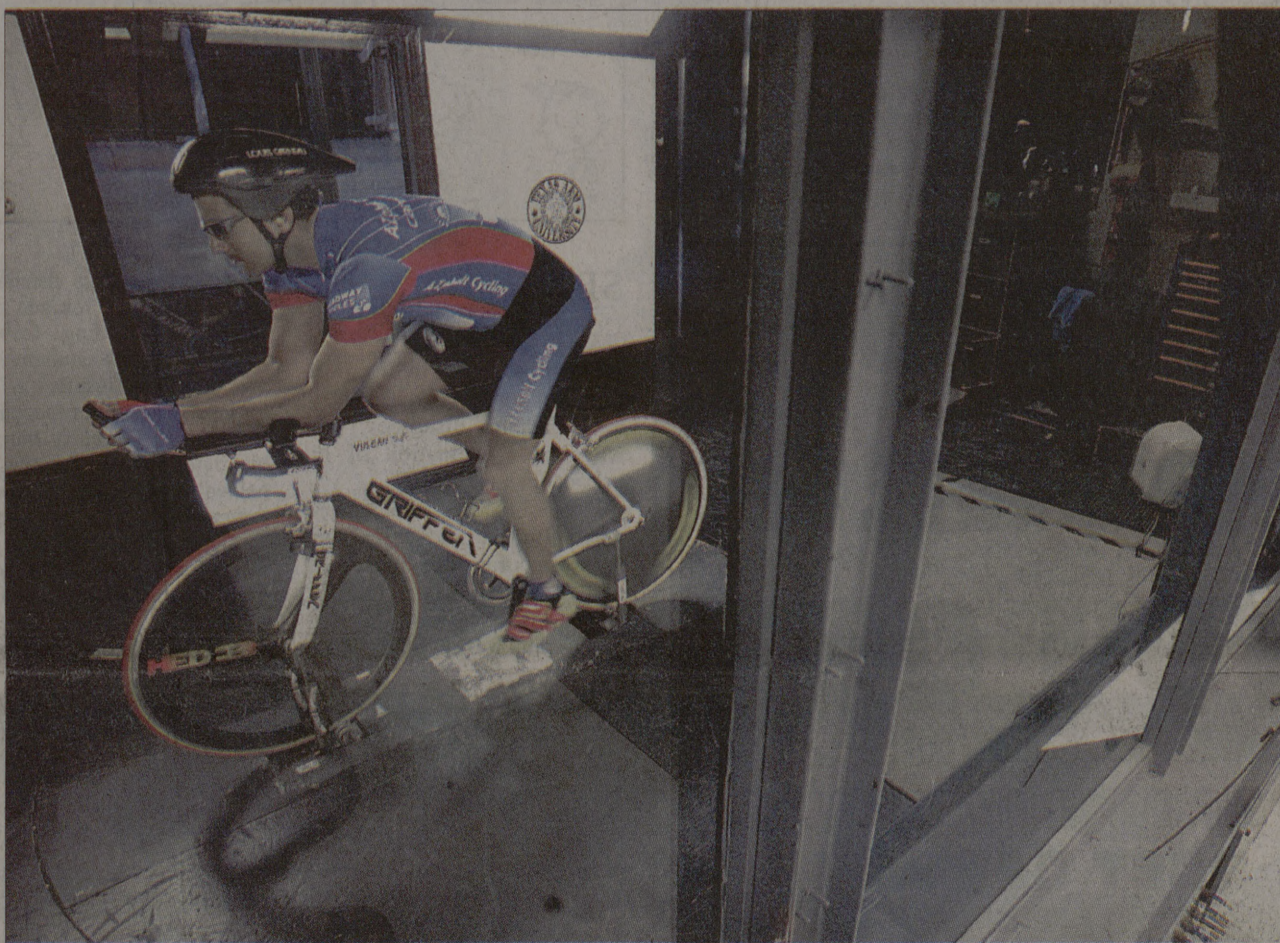
Dr. Paul Gully, director general of Health Canada, said he would challenge WHO's assertion in a letter.

"Toronto continues to be a safe place," he said.

And Toronto medical officer Dr. Sheela Basrur said the outbreak, while serious, "is contained — largely in hospitals which is, frankly, where it belongs. So we don't have widespread community spread."

But Heymann, WHO's communicable disease chief, said Toronto had not contained the disease. A major reason for WHO's action, he said, is that a cluster of SARS cases among health workers in another country was traced to the Canadian city in the last week.

## Need for speed



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Hillenbrand Racing Team sponsor and rider Mike Hillenbrand performs a set of wind tests in the Texas A&M low speed wind tunnel to improve the aerodynamics of his racing with the help of John Cobb from Bicycle Sports.

## Students submit plans for Boston facility

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

Building designs prepared by Texas A&M architecture students could be incorporated in a soon-to-be constructed 157-acre planned community for the elderly near Boston.

Sixteen students, 13 undergraduates and three graduate students are submitting nine project proposals for different aspects of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged.

The center has hired a professional architecture firm to prepare final designs, but wanted to review more options before commissioning a final plan, said Dr. George Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor of Health Facilities at A&M.

"What (the HRCA) wants are different ideas, and students offer that," Mann said.

Tiffany Rogers, a junior environmental design major, said she is confident that her ideas for the nursing care unit will be considered by the professional architects.

"There are schools in Boston they could have used. To (pay to) bring up 17 people from Texas, they are very serious," Rogers said. "In a firm, you get set in your ways, and students offer fresh ideas."

Mann said A&M was chosen instead of renowned Boston area universities because A&M is a leader in architectural designs for health care facilities.

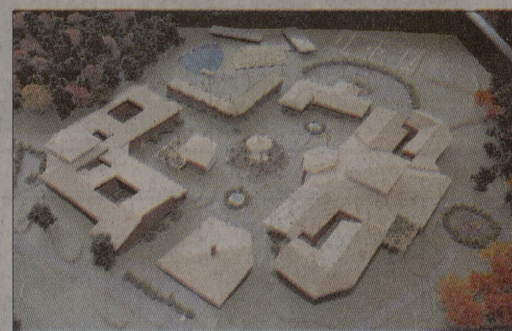
"We have graduates across the country leading firms in design," Mann said. "Altogether, firms with (A&M) graduates have designed thousands

of health facilities."

The sprawling \$100 million community will include an elementary school, playgrounds, playing fields, assisted living and nursing care for the elderly, healing gardens, nature trails and picnic areas.

Mann said the half-million square foot facility is much larger than most student projects. Designing a facility for the elderly and for an ethnic group students were unfamiliar with also posed challenges.

Junior environmental design major Zachary Inman said his designs had to take into account Jewish culture and its special needs, such as a divided "kosher" kitchen, eastern alignment of religious buildings and inclusion of small outdoor meeting areas called Sukkahs.



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Students submitted model structures for the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged.

"(Mann) made sure we didn't forget the little things," Inman said. "He kept saying, 'Where's your Sukkah?'"

Senior environmental design major Thomas

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## Iraqi oil flows for first time since war began

By Tini Tran  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASRA, Iraq — Engineers began restoring the lifeblood of Iraq's shattered economy Wednesday, pumping crude oil for the first time since the war. Although the oil is not for export, the quick startup means one of Iraq's largest fields could be back to prewar production levels within weeks.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert Crear turned the tap at a storage facility outside the southern city of Basra and watched as slick black crude dribbled from the spigot and oozed between his fingers.

"Now we're in the oil business," Crear said, laughing.

The oil will be used for domestic production only, and the meager flow sprang

from just four of hundreds of wells in Iraq's southern oil heartland.

But the rekindled petroleum production is a sign that Iraq is already capitalizing on its biggest natural resource and top economic hope.

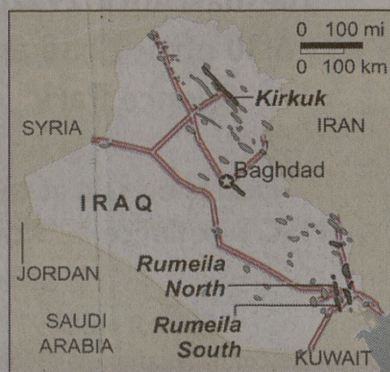
Once transformed into refined products such as fuel oil, the petroleum will be distributed throughout the southern part of the country for use in vehicles, power plants and generators, officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said.

Twelve wellheads in the Rumeila oil fields were believed to have been sabotaged by retreating Iraqis, who blew up some and set fire to others. The fires are out, but workers are still assessing which wellheads can be salvaged.

## Oil flowing in Iraq

Crude oil from Iraq's southern fields began flowing through pipelines Wednesday, the first time since the start of the war.

- Other oil field
- Oil pipeline
- Supergiant oil field (5 billion barrels in reserves)



SOURCES: United Nations; CIA AP

## Student Senate appoints three to new VP positions

By Brad Bennett  
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate unanimously approved Student Body President-Elect Matt Josefy's three nominees for executive vice presidents.

Trisha Derr was approved as EVP of operations, Megan Stephenson as EVP for policy and Andy Herreth as EVP of communications Wednesday night along with senate caucus leaders.

Having three executives in the legislative branch of the Student Government Association is a new structure Josefy has initiated to fit his goals and style of leadership.

"There is no set structure for executives in the legislative branch

of SGA. It changes from year to year depending on the student body president," Josefy said. "What I have done is a more drastic change, but I think it will fit my style and my platform during the election, which is to branch out more to students."

The EVP of communications, a new position, will be occupied by Herreth, the only SGA outsider of the three candidates.

Josefy said the Office of Communications will oversee two-way communication between SGA and students and will be the main contact between the SGA legislative branch and The Battalion. The new office will also set up a mentor

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