

THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 158 • 8 pages

www.thebatt.com

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Student admits to thefts, awaits court date

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student turned himself in to police Wednesday in connection with several campus burglaries that occurred during the past month where the items taken were worth \$135,000.

Jonathan Wesley Mayfield, a junior speech communications major, is out on \$7,000 bond and is awaiting a court date, according to the Brazos County Sheriff's Office.

University Police Department Director Bob

Wiatt said Mayfield faces a second-degree felony theft charge for the burglary of a KAMU-TV van June 6, which is punishable by two to 20 years in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Mayfield also faces two counts of burglary to a building, which is a state jail felony charge punishable by six months to two years in jail and up to a \$10,000 fine, Wiatt said.

"It is a shame," he said. "He is in a lot of trouble."

KAMU employees discovered the van was burglarized 48 hours after the last time it was driven, which was June 4. Wiatt said Mayfield broke through the passenger side door and



MAYFIELD

crawled through a very small space to get into the back of the truck.

On June 11, Mayfield broke into Rumours Cafe, knocked over a wall that separated the cafeteria from the entertainment area and took \$10,000 worth of stereo and lighting equipment, including a 42-inch flat panel television.

Wiatt said a College Station citizen called police the night of June 17, the same day an article ran in The Battalion about the burglaries, to

inform them that, after reading the article, he thought his son may have purchased the stolen equipment for a video studio.

The police identified the equipment as stolen and returned it to the proper management.

Wiatt said Mayfield was also responsible for a break-in at Kyle field in April in which he took an LCD projector. He was also involved in a burglary at the Langford Architecture Building on June 13, in which he took computers, keyboards and a desk chair.

All equipment from those robberies has also been recovered and returned, Wiatt said.

Coaching success

Olympics help Corbelli to lead A&M volleyball

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

Laurie Corbelli has never been one to walk away from a challenge. When she came to Texas A&M in 1993, she inherited a volleyball team that had not finished more than three games above .500 in five



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seasons and had not broken the 20-win barrier in seven.

Corbelli wasted no time making her mark on the A&M record book, running off 27 wins in her first season and starting what is now a 10-year streak of postseason NCAA Tournament play.

It all started with a phone call more than 25 years ago after she was named MVP at a junior national tournament.

"Arie Selinger called and said he wanted me to come be on the team," Corbelli said. "And it scared me to death."

Selinger, one of the heavy hitters in the volleyball world in the 1970s and '80s, was the head coach of the U.S. national team. After a five-year stint as coach of the Israeli national team, Selinger moved to America, and he wanted Corbelli to come be with the group that was preparing for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

Selinger's demands to Corbelli were high: give up her college life, devote as much as eight hours a day to practice and move to the team's training facility in Colorado Springs, Colo.

After repeated phone calls from Selinger, Corbelli decided to give it a shot. It was something she says now was the hardest decision she's

ever made. "The main thought was that if I didn't take this opportunity, how would I ever look at myself," she said. "As scared as I was, I thought how stupid I would be if I didn't try. It would have been my own fears and my own fault for not trying, and I didn't know if I could face myself."

After joining the team, Corbelli's fear of not being able to face herself soon turned to a fear of Selinger. His practices were brutal: three practice sessions six days a week, film sessions that lasted as long as five hours, and an international travel schedule that included as many as 70 matches every year. Despite his

team's relative success (including a surprise fifth-place finish in the 1978 World Championships), Selinger never relented and pushed the team to the physical edge daily. It didn't stop there. Corbelli vividly remembers the verbal abuse Selinger dished out to the team.

"He was 100 percent focused toward the gold medal, but the way he wanted to go about it was very difficult," Corbelli said. "It seemed we never gave enough, we weren't committed enough in his eyes. We constantly had to prove and show our dedication about how tough we were."

The intense practices eventually wore Corbelli thin to the point where she thought about packing up and

leaving. "It was so mentally demanding," she said. "I would call home crying and tell my dad that it was too much, that (Selinger) was crazy, even that I hated it."

Ironically, it was from those phone calls during the worst of times that Corbelli found the best of remedies.

"The closer I got to the girls on the team, the more I realized I couldn't just leave them," Corbelli remembers. "They were really an inspiration to me, and that was a situation where you had to look for all

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GSC nixes insurance meeting

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

The Graduate Student Council will not call an emergency meeting in response to the rising health insurance costs unveiled by Texas A&M last Friday.

GSC President Josh Peschel said the executive committee met Tuesday night and decided against calling an emergency session. For an emergency meeting to take place, it must be ordered by the GSC's executive committee.

"The committee unanimously decided, based on the favorable responses to our recommendations from (A&M President Robert M.) Gates, that an emergency GSC meeting will not be called at this time," Peschel said. "It does not rule out later meetings during the summer should they become necessary, but at this point there will not be a meeting."

Peschel said he has already presented the GSC's position to members of the administration, including Gates, Executive Vice President and Provost David Prior and John Giardino, A&M's dean of graduate studies. Peschel said the GSC's recommended position is for the University to pick up enough of the tab to reduce the monthly costs to where they are now.

"Even if the University does not implement our exact recommendations, any assistance by the University to significantly improve the current situation will be supported," Peschel said. "Our solution is probably one of many. We sincerely encourage and strongly recommend it. However, we just want the best outcome for all graduate students."

University administrators have said they will do everything they can to help alleviate the costs for graduate assistants, but that they are at a stalemate because the University has not yet released its budget for 2004.

All part-timers in the A&M System who purchase health insurance are subject to an increase of at least \$145.60 per month. Some employees with families will be faced with as much as a \$379.48 per month increase in their monthly health insurance bills.

12th Man Foundation aids future Fish Camp attendees

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

The 12th Man Foundation has donated \$5,000 to Fish Camp for freshmen needing financial assistance to attend camp this summer.

"Everybody that comes to (Texas) A&M is an Aggie, but the students who go through Fish Camp form special bonds early on in their time at A&M," said Miles Marks, executive director and CEO of 12th Man Foundation.

Marks made the decision to donate the money after he visited Fish Camp last summer and discovered some people were not able to attend because of the \$125 fee. The fee includes food, transportation and three nights of discussion and group activities.

Fish Camp allocates \$3,000 each year from its own budget for freshmen scholarships, said Dave Stanfield, assistant director of public relations for Fish Camp.

The \$3,000 that Fish Camp allocates for financial assistance comes from the membership fees from approximately 900 camp counselors, he said.

Stanfield said that the primary benefi-

fits of Fish Camp are meeting other freshmen and upperclassmen and learning about the Aggie way of life, including wildcats, yells and traditions.

Last year, about \$16,000 was requested from freshmen wanting to go to Fish Camp, Stanfield said.

In the past, Fish Camp has used other means to raise money for freshman scholarships. Stanfield said that Benjamin Knox has donated Fish Camp pictures that they were able to sell to make extra money, but this is no longer done.

Stanfield said Fish Camp is entirely self-funded and does not receive any financial assistance from the University.

"Only at A&M would people volunteer six months of their lives and pay \$100 to do it," he said.

Fish Camp is held in Palestine, Texas, and has several different camps freshmen attend all summer.

"(Lakeview) is pretty much the only camp within a reasonable distance that's big enough for Fish Camp," Stanfield said.

Last year, more than 70 percent of the freshman class, about 4,800, signed up for Fish Camp, Stanfield said.

Fish Camp FUNDS

Fish Camp allocates \$3,000 each year from its own budget

12th Man Foundation donated \$5,000 for Fish Camp this year

Last year, \$16,000 was requested from freshmen wanting to attend camp

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SOURCE: 12TH MAN FOUNDATION

Stanfield said they are expecting more freshmen than ever to sign up this year.

Marks said the 12th Man Foundation would like to donate more money in the future if the budget allows for it.

"We think the folks at Fish Camp are doing a wonderful job. We hope this helps them do what they're trying to do to benefit A&M," Marks said.

New center to study air pollution

By Megan Orton
THE BATTALION

A new Center for Atmospheric Chemistry and the Environment was established by the Texas A&M Board of Regents to study pollution and other environmental issues, said John Bevan, the center's new director.

The establishment of the center was facilitated by funding of \$3.5 million from the Environmental Protection Agency for the formation of a research consortium between the University of Houston, the University of Texas and A&M, to study air pollution issues in Houston. A&M will receive \$8.9 million dollars over three years to do research.

"The Houston-Galveston area is recognized as one of the most polluted areas of its size in the United States," Bevan said.

Regional emissions from major urban areas, large power plants, woodlands and the largest petroleum refining activities in the world combine to affect environmental sustainability in Texas. John Neilson-Gammon, a faculty member participating in the meteorological studies at the center, said federal regulations are becoming more exclusive regard-

ing how much pollution is acceptable by EPA standards.

A&M's research center will look at other pollution factors by specializing in areas different from the other research facilities. Although each campus studies different aspects of the environment, all

See Center on page 2

CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERE CHEMISTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Will be funded with \$8.9 million over three years
- Creation involved four colleges, 24 faculty groups and 50 graduate students
- A \$3.5 million grant from the EPA will create a research consortium between A&M, UH and UT
- Similar centers exist at schools such as Harvard and Berkeley

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SOURCE: CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC CHEMISTRY