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Johnson to media members: decision stands

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Charles Johnson said he will not reconsider his recommendation to close the journalism department, despite meeting with former journalism students and members of the journalism industry Wednesday.

Members of the Former Journalists Students Association, The Associated Press, the Dallas Morning News, Bloomberg News, the San Antonio

Express-News, Texas Aggie Magazine and other media organizations met with Johnson in hopes that he would reconsider his decision and find a department head or merge journalism with the Department of Communication.

"It is true not everyone (in the field) is a journalism major; in fact, I advised students who asked me if it is crucial to be a journalism major and said it is not crucial at all," said Stu Wilk, vice president and managing editor for the Dallas Morning News. "However, it is one thing to not major

in journalism and another thing to go to a university that doesn't have a journalism department."

Johnson said when he made his decision he did not consult people in the journalism industry to see how they recruit graduates and what experience they are looking for.

"I did have a fair amount of input from the external review team," he said.

A consulting team evaluated the journalism program in 2001 to suggest possibilities for the department.

Johnson said he consulted other universities, but did not reach out to those who taught on the high school level to see what they looked for when recommending a journalism program.

Sue Smith, deputy managing editor and recruiter for the Dallas Morning News, said she employs graduates with a variety of degrees, but that they come from schools that have journalism programs.

"I think there is a lot you can learn through the journalism department, even if it is not your major," she said.

John Lumpkin, Dallas bureau chief for The Associated Press, said he went to the University of Virginia, a school that did not have a journalism program, and has been successful, but that he would not be hired by the AP in today's competitive market.

"How I am (with the AP) is a fluke," he said. "That would basically be how someone from Texas A&M could get to where (Smith or Wilk) is."

Lumpkin said other schools are

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'Maggie the Aggie'

Griffith counsels students on sexual health, awareness

By Megan Orton
THE BATTALION

Health Education Coordinator Margaret "Maggie" Griffith said her passion in life lies in helping people.

"You get so much more than you ever give when you help people," she said.



Griffith serves as a counselor to students who have questions or concerns about sexual health and problems.

Griffith has been teaching at A&M for almost six years, but living here the past few years is definitely not her first taste of College Station or Aggie life.

Raised in College Station for most of her childhood and teen years, Griffith was one of the first women to attend A&M.

"It was different because I was the only girl in all of my classes and the guys acted as though they didn't want the girls here in public," she said. "In private, they were really glad you were here."

Griffith said she is proud of her Aggie background. That pride has carried on through her family. Not only is she married to an Aggie, but her son is an A&M graduate.

"Just like every other Aggie, one of the proudest moments of my life was when I got my Aggie ring," Griffith said.

Griffith left A&M during her undergraduate studies when she married her husband. After his 22-year military career, they returned to College Station, and Griffith went back to A&M to get her master's in health education.

"One of the motivating factors for me to go back and get my masters' was that I could get my Aggie Ring," she said.

Griffith's office is adorned with A&M paraphernalia and the nameplate on her desk reads "Maggie the Aggie."

"The best thing about A&M is absolutely, positively the stu-



RYAN WALSH • THE BATTALION

Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator for the A.P. Beutel Health Center, was one of the first women to attend Texas A&M. She has taught at A&M for six years, and hosted student participation programs. One program that earned Griffith her nickname as "Maggie the Aggie" was inspired by MTV's sexual issues talk show "Loveline."

dents," Griffith said. "The students are the reason we're all here."

Griffith is involved with students campus-wide. She has served as an Memorial Student Center Fall Leadership Conference Focus Group leader and also leads the Aggie Reach peer health educators group.

"We have some of the most outstanding people at this University who are students," Griffith said, "and getting to meet with them, to be with them and getting to know them has just

been an incredible experience."

Griffith said it is important to help students when they have health concerns, such as an STD, or have just discovered they are pregnant.

"It's nice doing what I do," Griffith said. "We can talk about their options and how to talk to people in their lives about it."

Last spring, Griffith taught Texas A&M's human sexuality class, an elective that students can take.

"The most wonderful thing about that class is that everyone

was there because they wanted to be there," Griffith said. "It's a whole different thing than a major class because you're not just there because you have to be."

As a Howdy Camp namesake in 2000, she attended Howdy Camp with her husband, who attended A&M before women became a part of the student body. Griffith said that he said the students never had anything like Howdy Camp when he was at A&M.

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Dean named to Qatar A&M

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

Charles Bowman, professor emeritus of petroleum engineering, was appointed interim dean and CEO of Texas A&M at Qatar until a permanent dean is appointed, said Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Prior.

Bowman served as the executive coordinator for the Qatar project. He said the planning team consisted of six faculty members.

"I basically negotiated the agreement," Bowman said. "My background is not in academics; it's in business."

Prior said Bowman understands the economic development taking place with the Qatar project and is the most qualified person for the position.

"The success of the Texas A&M team in securing this agreement is due, in great part, to his commitment, tireless effort and leadership," Prior said. "He's been operating as coordinator of the Qatar project over several months and he knows what it's all about."

Bowman said he predicts the Qatar campus will be a great success. It will have curricula in mechanical, electrical, petroleum and chemical engineering, degrees identical to those offered in College Station. He said a Qatar graduate school program is already being considered.

"The thing that excites me in this whole project is the opportunity to bring knowledge of study and research we can't even visualize," he said.

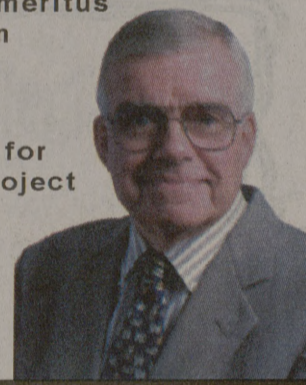
Bowman said this is a great opportunity to further research in the science and engineering fields for faculty and students at A&M, but that the University will also attempt to appeal to other students.

"We proposed a center in the study of cultures that liberal arts' faculty would find appealing," he

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Dr. Charles Bowman: Interim dean and CEO

- Professor emeritus of petroleum engineering
- Executive coordinator for the Qatar project
- Will serve until a permanent dean is appointed



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

110 India

Phalitis kills Indian children

Deaths were mostly poor, malnourished children from rural areas. A sudden change in weather from intense summer monsoon rains resulted in higher than normal deaths.



Associated Press

One of the 23 districts in Andhra Pradesh. Symptoms start with fever, followed by vomiting and finally, coma. These changes of behavior and

Iraqi mayor gunned down, guerrilla hostilities escalate

By Steven R. Hurst
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a marked escalation in attacks, suspected insurgents tried to shoot down a U.S. transport plane with a surface-to-air missile Wednesday, killed an American soldier in a convoy and gunned down the mayor of an Iraqi city.

The new American commander in Iraq acknowledged for the first time Wednesday that coalition forces are facing a "classical guerrilla-type war situation" against opponents ranging from members of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party to non-Iraqi fighters from ter-

rorist groups. Gen. John Abizaid spoke on the eve of a banned holiday Saddam loyalists could use to demonstrate their power.

The U.S. military said one surface-to-air missile was fired on a C-130 transport as it landed at Baghdad International Airport. It was only the second known missile attack on a plane using the airport since Baghdad fell to U.S. forces on April 9, said Spc. Giovanni Lorente. He said he did not know where the plane came from or whether it was carrying passengers, cargo or both.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Nayil al-Jurayfi, who had actively cooperated with

U.S. forces as the new mayor of Hadithah, was killed when his car was ambushed by attackers firing automatic rifles as he drove away from his office in the city 150 miles northwest of Baghdad, police Capt. Khudhier Mohammed said. One of the mayor's sons also was killed.

Mohammed said the mayor, who took office after Saddam's fall, was slain because he was "seizing cars" from Saddam loyalists who used to work in the deposed Iraqi leader's offices in Hadithah, a city in the restive "Sunni Triangle" that is home to many supporters of the ousted dictator.

Pro-American mayor, son killed

Mohammed Nayil al-Jurayfi, a pro-American mayor of Hadithah, and his son were shot and killed Wednesday by attackers as he drove through the city.



SOURCE: Associated Press AP

The American soldier was killed and three others were injured in a rocket-propelled grenade attack west of Baghdad near the Abu Ghraib prison, a U.S. military spokesman said. In a separate attack,

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Texas cleans up after Claudette

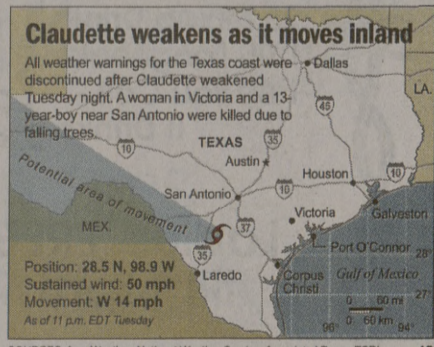
By Mark Babineck
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT LAVACA, Texas — Dodging persistent thunderstorms trailing the wake of what was Hurricane Claudette, Texans in her path spent Wednesday cleaning up and surveying the damage done by what turned out to be a wicked Category 1 system.

James P. Rizzo, a researcher at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, spent Wednesday on a Port Lavaca fishing pier with two assistants who helped him dismantle and cart away remnants of a destroyed weather and tide monitoring station valued at \$40,000.

"Events like these are the ones we're here trying to measure," said Rizzo, who said another of the nearly three dozen monitoring stations that line the Texas coast was washed away at San Luis Pass by Claudette.

"It's the nature of the business," he said. "That's what we have to deal with." American Electric Power worked to



SOURCES: AccuWeather; National Weather Service; Associated Press; ESRI AP

reduce the approximately 30,000 customers who woke up in the dark in Victoria and elsewhere Wednesday, sending an armada of tree-cutting trucks and cherry pickers to repair damage.

The storm first stumped forecasters by hitting much further north than anticipated, then pulled another trick when it unexpectedly picked up speed early Tuesday

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