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BATTALION

AGGIELIFE

Playing the game

Intramural sports offered by the Rec Center beat the monotony of studying

By Kristin McNulty THE BATTALION

As the fall semester nears, students will out away their suntan lotion and beach balls in exchange for books and scantrons. But to beat the back-to-school blues, students can participate in intramural sports offered by the Texas A&M Student Recreation Center.

The Rec Center offers a wide variety of intramural sports – from flag football to vallyball – for the fall and spring semesters. A&M students can find stress relief from school in intramural sports, according to Dane McGinnis, a sophomore wildlife and fisheries science major.

"Intramurals give you something fun to do so you don't have to worry about school. You are just there to have fun," McGinnis said.

McGinnis played 7-on-7 flag football ast fall and 4-on-4 last spring. He said he enjoyed it and that he plans to continue aying this fall.

Melissa Sherrod, a junior kinesiology najor, played intramural basketball and

said it was a fun hobby.

"My favorite part of playing was the competition and staying in shape while meeting new people," she said.

While intramurals offer a good time with friends, teams do compete for

All-University Champions in classes A and B are awarded intramural champion T-shirts, and All-University Champions in classes C and D receive certificates.

Rec Center employees encourage students to speak with a Member Service clerk to find what days and times are available for sports with a round robin playing format. Intramurals are offered to all A&M students, faculty and staff who are 18 to 25 years old. Players must present their student or employee I.D. at the

The intramural program also provides an opportunity for students to become intramural officials.

Tarvoris Johnson, a 2003 A&M graduate, worked as a basketball official and refereed games and ran the clock.

"It was a way to make money and a

way to participate in something I liked basketball," he said.

Anyone seeking to become an official must attend training clinics, provide a good attitude toward players and other workers, be dedicated to the sport and must always follow the rules of the game.

Though students play intramural sports to have a good time, the sports are not to be taken lightly.

McGinnis stresses the importance of being a team player.

"Only play if you are going to be dedicated. Don't let your team down," he

There are 38 intramural sports offered, and the Rec sports staff is always looking to add new activities. To suggest any sports or activities contact Mike Waldron at 845-9672, and for more information call member services at 845-7826.

The entry dates to sign up for intramurals are listed online www.recsports.com, in the Rec Handbook and on flyers around campus.



GRAPHIC BY SETH FREEMAN • THE BATTALION

BIZARRE IN BRIEF

Giraffe struck and Ledder said. killed by lightning

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) - Lightning struck and killed a giraffe at Disney's Animal Kingdom as the animal roamed among tourists, company officials said Wednesday.

accident occurred Monday as a severe lightning. storm moved over the Mimanjaro Safari attraction, in the past" at other U.S. parks,

Disney spokeswoman Diane

"To the best of my knowledge, it was a quick death," she said. It was unclear if any tourists saw the lightning strike.

Betsy the giraffe, who was 6 years old, was the first animal to die from a lightning strike at the theme park, Ledder said. "It's very unfortunate and unusual...but it has happened

The park has lightning rods placed throughout the safari area to protect animals.

Egg yolk sellers found innocent

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - A poultry researcher and a surgeon were cleared Wednesday of defrauding the public by marketing powdered egg yolks as an

immune-system booster, but were found guilty of selling unapproved drugs.

Prosecutors said Marilyn Coleman and Dr. Mitchell Kaminski told people the egg powder could cure or prevent yeast infections, autism, cancer, chronic fatigue syndrome and

Under federal rules, food supplements are considered drugs - and thus subject to a rigorous approval process -

when they are advertised as treating a disease.

Coleman, Kaminski and their company, Ovlmmune Inc., were convicted of 15 misdemeanor counts, including selling unapproved drugs and failing to regis-

The jury, which started deliberations Friday, acquitted each defendant of mail fraud and conspiracy

Each count carries up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. No sentencing date has been set.

Coleman's attorney Max Kravitz said he would decide later whether to appeal. "I believe in the product," Kravitz said.

Kaminski, a plastic surgeon in Niles, Ill., said the government was trying to obstruct science. "This jury doesn't know how important this verdict is," he said.

The government must regulate such products to protect the public, said federal prosecutor J. Richard Chema.

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| .54 | D | SI | 157500 EGL Cert. | .60 | H | VS | 140000 | |
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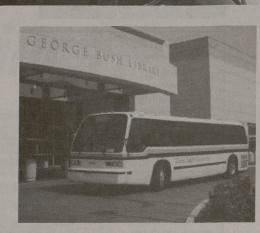
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