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TAES deputy director dies

By Brandi Foster
THE BATTALION

Charles J. Scifres, associate dean for agriculture and life sciences and deputy director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, died at his home Monday of an apparent heart attack. He was 62 years old.

Scifres' colleagues remember him as a great leader, mentor and friend.

"He was a lot of fun to work with," said Mary Pletzer, an administrative assistant

for the TAES. "He demanded efficient work, but he always made it a lot of fun."

Pletzer said one of her fondest memories of Scifres was from an office meeting. The discussion had become heated and Scifres went over to a computer, everyone thought, to look up some information. When he turned around, he was wearing a red clown nose. After that, the tension dissolved, she said.

He always knew how to make a situation fun, Pletzer said.

Frank Gilstrap, associate director of

the TAES, said Scifres was easy to get along with.

"He was an absolute delight to work for because you worked with him, not for him," he said. "I have never been around a leader like he was and I don't expect I ever will again. He was a great mentor, and those he mentored truly appreciated him."

Scifres held administrative positions at Oklahoma State University, University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and the University

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Dr. Charles J. Scifres



Deputy director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

Received his master's and bachelor of science degrees from Oklahoma State University

First Thomas M. O'Conner professor of range science

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

New majors prepare for closed dept.

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

Incoming freshmen journalism majors should not face many problems while completing their degree plan, said Dr. Edward Walraven, coordinator of undergraduate advising and student services for journalism.

Charles Johnson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, sent a request to administrators two weeks ago, recommending the journalism department be closed during the next three years because of budget issues.

Walraven said many students will be faced with a decision of whether to stay in the journalism program. Some freshmen may opt to change majors. However, he said he believes a journalism degree from Texas A&M will still be well-accredited, regardless of the department's status.

"Students will get very strong training within the journalism department," he said. "I think they will be able to take the strengths of the degree and use it to their benefit."

Walraven said it may still be possible for students to transfer into the department. Students who will be considered for transfer will be those with experience in journalism in high school or college, or those who have been attempting to get into the department for a number of semesters, he said.

"We'll review some students on a case-by-case basis, but ultimately, the college will decide if they would be qualified," he said. "But that will only be a very small number."

Walraven said the department is trying to provide future students with the same quality of education that former students received, while some classes may be discontinued.

"As of now, it doesn't appear that we'll still be able to offer broadcast classes in the future," he said. "Nobody knows what the budget will be."

Sonia Moghe, an incoming freshman journalism major, said she believes the closure of the journalism department may force some students to disregard A&M as a potential school.

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New American Talent



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Junior environmental design major **Hollie Lawler** brushes away dust and grime Tuesday from the pancake art "I Say So Many Things" created by Krista Hoeffle and on display until

Aug. 20 at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries. The artwork is part of a New American Talent showcase organized by the Texas Fine Arts Association.

Dems continue quorum buster in New Mexico

By Kelley Shannon
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Democratic and Republican senators duelled across the Texas-New Mexico state line Tuesday as each camp tried to score political points in the intensifying battle over congressional redistricting.

Republicans urged their Democratic colleagues to end their boycott and return from Albuquerque, N.M., to work on a fair redistricting plan.

"No Texas problem has ever been solved in New Mexico," said Sen. Todd Staples of Palestine, chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus.

But the 11 Senate Democrats who left the Capitol to break a quorum Monday just as Republican Gov. Rick Perry was about to call a second special legislative session, gave no indication they would give in. The senators said they're prepared to remain out of state — beyond the reach of Texas law officers sent to arrest them — up to 30 days, the maximum length of a special session.

"There's nothing fair about a partisan redistricting effort that turns a deaf ear to the overwhelming majority of Texans and turns it back on the minority opportunity," Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, said Tuesday at a news conference in New Mexico.

The Senate walkout comes less than three months after a similar move by House Democrats, who broke a quorum in their chamber and killed a redistricting bill by fleeing to Ardmore, Okla.

The Senate Democrats said they were paying for the trip themselves but did not give further details.

GOP-backed redistricting proposals could cause more than 1.4 million minorities in Texas to lose effective representation in Congress, Van de Putte said.

But Republicans denied that minority representation would be hurt under their plans. Staples, chief architect of the Senate's Republican proposals, said the maps would protect minority voting rights.

The Senate met briefly Tuesday, but without a quorum no business could be conducted. The Senate is to meet again Wednesday morning.

Across the Capitol, the House struggled to achieve a quorum, which means the presence of two-thirds of its 150 members. Once enough legislators showed up, the Republican-controlled House pushed through a redistricting bill, the same one the

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Iraq leaders chosen, tape discusses sons' deaths

By D'Arcy Doran
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIKRIT, Iraq — In a new audiotape attributed Tuesday to Saddam Hussein, a calm voice acknowledged the deaths of the ousted dictator's two sons and called them martyrs. U.S. forces searched for clues to Saddam's whereabouts in documents and photo albums seized in his hometown.

If confirmed, the tape — the third attributed to Saddam this month — could put to rest any remaining doubts among Iraqis that Qusai and Qusai Hussein were killed in a firefight with U.S. soldiers in the northern city of Mosul on July 22.

In Baghdad, meanwhile, Iraq's U.S.-appointed Governing Council of 25 prominent Iraqis appointed a nine-member presidency, failing to agree on a single leader for the beginnings of a new Iraqi government.

The audiotape was broadcast Tuesday on the Arab satellite station Al-Arabiya, five days after the U.S. military released grisly photos of their bloodied bodies in an effort

to convince Iraqis that the sons were dead and to weaken support for an anti-American insurgency.

U.S. forces on Tuesday interrogated 12 suspects arrested in Saddam's hometown, Tikrit, and examined identity cards, bound notebooks, Baath Party records and other documents found in their homes to try to fill in the picture of his desperate flight.

In the nine-minute audiotape, a voice resembling Saddam's said he was glad Qusai and Qusai Hussein were killed because such a death "is the hope of every fighter."

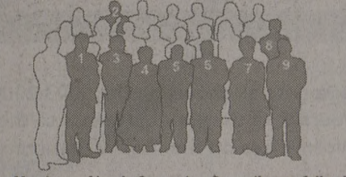
"Even if Saddam Hussein has 100 sons other than Qusai and Qusai, Saddam Hussein would offer them the same path," said the calm, even voice. "That is the hope of every fighter for God's sake, as another group of noble souls of the martyrs has ascended to their creator."

The tape also referred to Mustafa, Qusai's teenage son, who was killed in the firefight in Mosul. "Qusai, Qusai, and Mustafa died in Jihad field ... in a brave battle with

See **Iraq** on page 2

Iraq's Governing Council elects leadership

The nine members named Tuesday to the presidential panel of Iraq's Governing Council:



Members of Iraq's Governing Council pose following a meeting on July 13.

1. Ahmad Chalabi
Shiite Muslim; leader of Iraqi National Congress
2. Iyad Allawi
Shiite; secretary-general of the Iraqi National Accord
3. Adnan Pachachi
Sunni Muslim; foreign minister in government ousted in 1968 Baath Party coup
4. Mohammed Bahr al-Uloom
Shiite; highly respected cleric
5. Massoud Barzani
Sunni; leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party
6. Jalal Talabani
Sunni; leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
7. Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim
Shiite; leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq
8. Mohsen Abdel-Hamid
Sunni; secretary-general of the Iraqi Islamic Party
9. Ibrahim al-Jaafari
Shiite; spokesman for the Islamic Dawa Party



SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

Officials warn of further hijackings

By Leslie Miller
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Federal officials are warning of the possibility that al-Qaida will attempt new suicide hijackings but said Tuesday they have no plans to raise the nation's terrorism threat alert level.

The Department of Homeland Security sent a warning to airlines and law enforcement agencies on Saturday. Officials said the credibility of the threat is still being evaluated, and there was no precise information on when or where such an attack could take place.

A copy of the warning, obtained by The Associated Press, says terrorists may use five-man teams to take over airplanes just after takeoff or before landing and crash them into buildings, just like in the Sept. 11 attacks.

It suggests an attack could take place by the end of the summer.

"The hijackers may try to calm passengers and make them believe they were on a hostage, not suicide, mission," it says. "The hijackers may attempt to use common items carried by travelers, such as cameras, modified as weapons."

It suggests cities on the east coast of the United States and in the United Kingdom, Italy and Australia

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