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A&M fine arts budget cut by \$86K

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

The Department of Performance Studies will lose \$86,000 of its budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, as Texas A&M administrators respond to a decrease in state funding coupled with increases in other expenses.

College of Liberal Arts Dean Charles Johnson said performance studies was not singled out for a budget cut; rather, all departments

and offices within Liberal Arts faced cuts to make up for the \$1.5 million reduction in the college's budget, a 4.3 percent decrease.

"The effect on music and theater arts majors will be minimal since we are not canceling any classes," said Peter Lieuwen, professor and head of the performance studies department. "We do not intend to limit the enrollment of new majors as a result of the budget reduction."

Although \$10,000 will be taken from performance studies' produc-

tion fund, Lieuwen said, theater majors will still have adequate opportunities to perform. In past years, this fund has ranged from \$7,000 to \$20,000.

"The theater program in the Department of Performance Studies will be able to produce several plays next year due to funding from student activities and box office revenue," he said. "Normally, we produce two to four main stage productions in Rudder Forum and several smaller shows in the Wenck Fallout

Theater in the Blocker Building."

The remaining \$76,000 will come from reduced administrative costs, the departmental operating budget and a faculty departure, Lieuwen said.

In a June memo, A&M President Robert M. Gates outlined the University's budget issues and explained the need for cuts and a tuition increase.

"Even after taking into account

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Department of Performance Studies

Will experience an \$86,000 reduction in its budget

Will still produce several plays next year

No classes will be cancelled

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Task force seeks student opinion in energy push

By Karen Yancey
THE BATTALION

Student input is vital when beginning the campus energy awareness program, said John Weese, a regents professor who leads the temporary Energy Task Force.

A campus energy awareness program was recommended in a report from the task force, a group appointed by Charles Sippial, vice president of operations, to come up with ways to reduce energy consumption on the Texas A&M campus. The report said the campus energy awareness push should be a multi-faceted communications program that comes up with creative ways to gain people's interest in energy conservation.

Weese said the program will involve everyone on campus, but the program needs student opinion.

"Students will inherently come up with ways of communicating that do not occur to faculty," he said. "If we work together with students we will come up

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Campus Energy Awareness program

Aim is to come up with ways to conserve energy on campus

Involves everyone on campus, especially students

First year budget of \$5,000

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: ENERGY TASK FORCE

Shopping for beginners



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Two-year-old Hunter Anderson of Bryan rings up plastic fruit from his shopping cart Monday afternoon at the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley. The grocery store is one of the stations set up at the

Children's Museum that allows children to paint, make music, learn to shop and be a doctor. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

African peacekeeping troops begin Liberia rescue mission

By Alexandra Zavis
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONROVIA, Liberia — Hoisting a Nigerian army officer on their shoulders, Liberians cheered Monday's arrival of the first soldiers in an international rescue mission that will try to end 14 years of carnage and see warlord-turned-president Charles Taylor into exile.

By late in the day, 198 Nigerian soldiers armed with machine guns and assault rifles had been ferried by U.N. helicopters to the airport 30 miles outside Monrovia as the vanguard of a 3,250-man intervention force promised by West African nations.

Civilians poured onto the rain-slickened tarmac by the hundreds, waving white handkerchiefs and chanting: "No more war! We want peace!"

"I think the war is over," said Fayiah Morris,

who was in the throng swarming around Nigerian soldiers in camouflage and flak vests as whirling helicopters touched down, unloading troops and 16 tons of equipment, including one armored vehicle carrying a machine gun.

The sound of gunfire and black smoke rising from Liberia's ruined capital made clear the war was far from over.

For much of the day, Liberian rebels and Taylor's troops fired automatic weapons and rocket-launchers across the Old Bridge, separating the capital's rebel-held island port and the government's downtown stronghold.

At one point, rebels taunted their foes, dancing with brooms, doing back flips and waving at Taylor's men. The government troops fired a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on a pickup truck in reply.

Smoky plumes rose from the rebel-held side of the bridge. Residents said warehouses were



Peacekeeping forces enter Liberia

More than 190 Nigerian troops arrived in Liberia on Monday, the first of an eventual 3,250-strong deployment charged with helping end 14 years of civil war.

smoldering from fires started by mortar shells Saturday.

Taylor's troops accused rebels of looting before peacekeeping force move in, but arguments over goods among Taylor's AK-47-armed fighters suggested they were doing the same.

Watching the clashes, a 16-year-old government militiaman named Victor was among those pinning his hopes on the peace force. "Help us stop the killing. I'm very tired," he said, standing

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Dems, Dewhurst continue impasse

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A week into their holdout in New Mexico, the 11 Democrats who are boycotting the Texas Senate said Monday they are more resolved than ever in their mission to block congressional redistricting.

"To quote John Paul Jones, 'We've only begun to fight,'" said Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas. "We're strong, we're determined and we've been reinvigorated by the overwhelming support that we have received from the public in telling us that we are doing the right thing for all of Texas."

In Austin, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst also stood firm in his effort to push a new congressional map through the Senate chamber.

"I'm still optimistic that we're going to be able to have this resolved on a prompt basis. But it really depends upon our colleagues and our friends who are out in Albuquerque," Dewhurst said.

The Democrats have been in New Mexico for a week, after a fast escape from the Capitol on July 28, just before Republican Gov. Rick Perry called a second special legislative session on redistricting. The issue failed to pass during two previous sessions.

Republicans, led by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, are pushing for lawmakers to redraw congressional district lines. Democrats have a 17-15 majority in Texas' congressional delegation, but Republicans say based on the state's voting trends the GOP should hold the majority in the delegation.

The Democrats have said they will not return to the Capitol unless Perry removes redistricting from the agenda of the current

See **Impasse** on page 6

Episcopalians delay vote on church's first openly gay bishop

Openly gay candidate for bishop

Rev. V. Gene Robinson, 56, is the first openly gay clergyman to advance through the process of becoming an Episcopal bishop. His candidacy has stirred controversy throughout the global Anglican Communion.

Experience — Canon to the ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire since 1988; executive secretary of the Episcopal Province of New England since 1983; on the Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary in New York City since 2001; founding director of Sign of the Dove Retreat Center in Temple, N.H.

Education — B.A. in American Studies/History, University of the South, 1969; M.Div., General Theological Seminary, 1973

Family — Partner Mark Andrew; two daughters, Jamee and Ella from first marriage



Robinson

By Rachel Zoll
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Plans by Episcopalians leaders to vote on confirming the church's first openly gay elected bishop were thrown into turmoil Monday when allegations emerged that he inappropriately touched a man and was affiliated with a youth Web site that had a link to porn.

Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, head of the Episcopal Church, released a statement announcing the

delay as debate was about to start on whether to confirm the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as New Hampshire's bishop.

"Questions have been raised and brought to my attention regarding the bishop-elect of the Diocese of New Hampshire," Griswold said.

Griswold said that Robinson, the current New Hampshire bishop and representatives of his diocese decided together "that a thorough investigation be undertaken before we proceed."

Mike Barwell, a spokesman for Robinson, has said he

planned to release a statement later Monday.

James Solheim, a church spokesman, said the allegations of inappropriate touching had been e-mailed to bishops. In the e-mail, a man who identified himself as David Lewis from Manchester, Vt., said Robinson "does not maintain appropriate boundaries with men."

Solheim said "some of the bishops have talked to the accuser" and vetted the accusation.

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