

# THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 182 • 6 pages

www.thebatt.com

Wednesday, August 6, 2003

## A&M plans for game-day traffic

By Jodi Rogers  
THE BATTALION

More green lights will be offered to motorists going to and from football game on George Bush Drive, University Drive and Texas Avenue, thanks to a traffic reduction plan called "Go with the Green." University transportation officials said.

straighter and faster route to main arterial streets in College Station.

"By blocking Wellborn, we provide a quick exit route and lessen the impact of turning movement off of side streets and preventing additional vehicles from entering the central campus area that slow the flow of traffic," Broughton said.

A special task force within the Texas Department of Transportation created the plan eight years ago. The task force includes representatives from the University Police Department, Athletics Department and

Transportation Services. It also included the Bryan and College Station police departments and other local agencies.

The West Campus Parking Garage and the Wellborn underground passageway serve as major components of the plan for this fall.

The organization wants to give people the best routes to go in and out of town while ensuring pedestrian safety, said Elmer Schneider, associate director of the A&M Department of Security and University Police.

Schneider said there has been a great deal of cooperation on the task force between the University and local law enforcement, especially the CSPD.

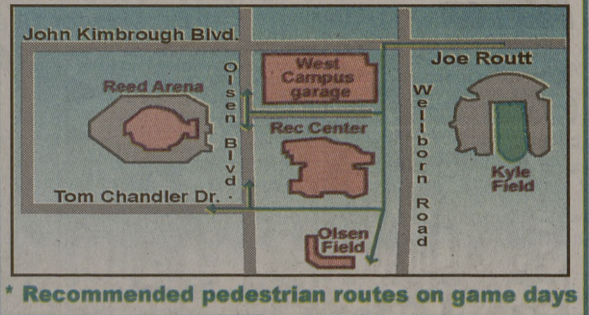
CSPD Lt. Larry Johnson said people could cross Wellborn whenever they wanted in past years due to restricted lanes during recent construction. He said that will change now that the underground passageway will be used.

"We used to have to escort pedestrians across Wellborn, so

See **Traffic** on page 2

### GO WITH THE GREEN

- More green lights along streets such as George Bush Drive, University Drive and Texas Avenue
- New West Campus parking lot with 3,800 spots
- New underground walkway for pedestrians



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Grad student storm chasers uncover data

By Natalie Younts  
THE BATTALION

Mary Schulze once let her son tape his computer equipment inside her new van and drive it thousands of miles to chase storms.

Her son, Karl Schulze, chases storms as part of Texas A&M's Mobile Severe Storms Data Acquisition, an officially recognized student organization with about 100 members.

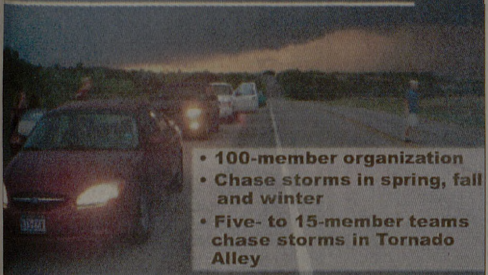
"The one thing that helps us to understand why (Karl) is doing it is that the information they get on these trips can save lives," said Mary, a resident of Waukegan, Ill. "Someone has to do this."

Mary said she now knows more about tornadoes, learning about them from Karl.

Karl, along with friends Tim Thomas, Brandon Ely, Scott Steiger and Dave Gold, have been chasing storms for nearly four years. They all graduated from the University of New York at Oswego and came to Texas four years ago, Steiger said. All four are currently graduate students in A&M's atmospheric

See **Storms** on page 2

### TEXAS A&M MOBILE SEVERE STORMS DATA ACQUISITION



- 100-member organization
- Chase storms in spring, fall and winter
- Five- to 15-member teams chase storms in Tornado Alley

PHOTO: KEVIN WALTER; RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: A&M MOBILE SEVERE STORMS DATA ACQUISITION

## Tailgating in style



Entrepreneur **John Smith** debuts his car decor on the hood of his Mercury Grand Marquis in a parking lot off of George Bush Drive Tuesday. **Smith** hopes to market his tailgating and team items to Aggie fans as part of his collegiate marketing tour, which will take him to eight college towns this month.

SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

## Church elects gay bishop

By Rachel Zoll  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — The Episcopal Church voted Tuesday to approve the election of their first openly gay bishop, a decision that risks splitting their denomination and shattering ties with their sister churches worldwide.

After a delay caused by an allegation that he inappropriately touched another man and was affiliated with a Web site that had a link to porn, the Episcopal General Convention approved the Rev. V. Gene Robinson as bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire.

Robinson had been cleared of the accusations a few hours before the vote was taken.

Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold said the bishops voted 62-45 to confirm Robinson's election. Two bishops abstained from voting, but their ballots under church rules were counted as "no" votes.

American conservatives and like-minded overseas bishops who represent millions of



ROBINSON

See **Bishop** on page 2

## Bombing at Jakarta Marriott kills 13 in likely suicide attack

By Steven Gutkin  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A suspected suicide bombing at a Marriott Hotel created lunchtime carnage in Jakarta's business district Tuesday, killing 13 people and wounding 149, setting cars afire and scattering glass shards for the continuing threat of terrorism in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The blast came two days before a verdict in the trial of a key suspect in the Bali nightclub bombings last Oct. 12 that killed 202 people, many of

them foreigners. A Dutch banker was among the dead Tuesday, and at least 10 foreigners, including two Americans, were reported injured.

The attack occurred on the first day of testimony in another bombing case by the alleged leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been blamed for the Bali bombings. Authorities have linked the group to al-Qaida and say it hopes to create an Islamic state across Southeast Asia.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the Marriott bombing.

The governor of Jakarta,

Sutiyo, said the attack was "very likely" carried out by a suicide bomber. The national police chief, Gen. Da'i Bachtiar, said the van carrying the bomb was moving at the time of the explosion.

World leaders expressed horror and outrage. The White House called it a "deplorable attack on innocent civilians" and declared its support for the Indonesian government's fight against terrorism.

The Marriott — a frequent site for U.S. Embassy functions and a popular destination for foreigners — was shattered just after noon when the bomb exploded on the driveway

## Bomb rocks Jakarta

A powerful bomb exploded in downtown Jakarta Tuesday, killing at least 10 people including one foreigner and wounding more than 100.



SOURCES: ESRI; Associated Press AP

leading to its front entrance.

The blast smashed many windows in the 33-story hotel and smoke from burning cars blackened the outside of lower floors. The lobby ceiling caved in on charred sofas and

See **Bombing** on page 2

## Officials: Al-Qaida may use laptops to conceal bombs

By Leslie Miller  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — CD players, cameras, laptop computers and other electronic devices will get greater scrutiny at airports, the government said Tuesday, warning that terrorists may try to use such items to conceal weapons or bombs.

The Homeland Security Department sent an advisory to law enforcement personnel nationwide

alerting them to the possibility al-Qaida could use electronics to carry out attacks.

"Al-Qaida operatives have shown a special interest in converting a camera flash attachment into a stun gun type of weapon or improvised explosive device," the advisory said.

Among the items that will prompt increased scrutiny at airports are remote keyless door or lock openers, automatic camera flash attachments, cellular phones and multi-band or dual-speaker radios.

"Depending on location, placement and configuration of the device, the amount of explosives that could be contained within even

the smallest camera could cause collateral damage," the advisory said.

It also said terrorists could design such devices to be used against government buildings, public areas with controlled access and security screening checkpoints.

Security directors at airports were ordered to meet with all federal screeners within the next day and review procedures for checking electronic gadgets, said Brian

Turmail, spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration.

The TSA also is asking passengers to remove all their electronics from their pockets or bags and put them through the X-ray machine at the security checkpoint, Turmail said. Air travelers will

still be required to remove laptop computers from their cases before they're screened, he said.

David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association, predicted inconveniences for travelers, including longer lines at security checkpoints.

See **Security** on page 6

## E-mail about cell phone driving law proves a hoax

By C.E. Walters  
THE BATTALION

An e-mail circulating across Texas with information regarding cell phone legislation in the Texas House of Representatives is a hoax, said a Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Monday.

The e-mail provided information on House Bill 281, which would have made it illegal to drive while talking on

a cell phone without a headset.

Cell phone usage without a headset would have been restricted to emergencies, according to the bill.

According to the e-mail, the law would go into effect Sept. 1. If a person was caught, punishment would have been a misdemeanor with fines ranging from \$25 to \$200.

The bill was proposed last year, but was killed in March, a DPS spokeswoman said.

Mark Langwell, public information officer for the College Station Police Department, said that although officers from his department would be attending legislative update training soon, he had not heard any news about House Bill 281.

Benson Kilgore, secondary public information officer for the Bryan Police Department, said he had not heard any news on the legislation since his officers attended a conference July 13.