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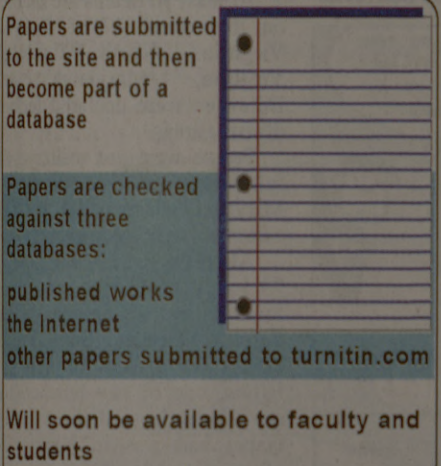
Volume 110 • Issue 17 • 12 pages

www.thebattalion.net

Monday, September 22, 2003

## HOW DOES TURNITIN.COM WORK?

Turnitin.com is an Internet application intended to curb plagiarism at Texas A&M.



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE • TURNITIN.COM & STUDENT AFFAIRS

## A&M buys plagiarism detection service

By Nicole M. Jones  
THE BATTALION

To stomp out plagiarism and cheating at Texas A&M, the University has purchased a license for TurnItIn.com, an online service that provides plagiarism detection as well as resources for educators and students concerned with developing quality writing and research skills.

According to its Web site, Turnitin.com is a database that accumulates student papers. Work submitted to the Web site is checked three times. Papers are checked against other published works, Internet pages and previously submitted student papers.

The service, endorsed by A&M President Robert M. Gates, is one of the best-known and largest services of its kind, said Bill Kibler, interim vice president for student affairs.

Kibler said recent surveys have indicated that plagiarism is a problem at A&M, and a year and a

half of planning was put into launching a new honor system in 2004.

"This new tool is part of a comprehensive approach to promote the honor system and academic integrity on this campus," Kibler said.

Kibler said he predicts that reactions to the incorporation of this new system will vary, but that they will generally be positive.

"Faculty may not be aware of this system yet, but it is for them," Kibler said. "I suspect that many of them will use it and find it to be a valuable tool."

Martha Loudder, chair of the academic integrity task force, said the goal of using this new detection system is not to "catch and punish" students, but to educate them.

"A lot of unintentional plagiarism happens because students don't really understand what they're supposed to do, especially freshmen and sophomores — they just learn as they go," Loudder said. "They have the idea that things on the Web are just free for the taking."

Elizabeth Tebeaux, director of distance edu-

cation and a former English professor, was instrumental in recommending the detection system to the AITF.

Tebeaux said national meetings have shown that cheating is a major problem, and TurnItIn.com is used successfully by many schools.

"We're trying to protect the good students and help the ones that a little too lazy to learn good writing methods," Tebeaux said.

The library has built a Web site, <http://library.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>, with an online tutorial to teach students and faculty how to avoid plagiarism. This site will be linked to the new honor system's Web site.

The IT department is providing support to faculty to help them learn how to use the TurnItIn.com system. The system will soon be available to students.

Kibler said the service will most likely be used for one year, then its use will be evaluated based on feedback from faculty, students and administrators.

## West Texas district remains troublesome

By April Castro  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — What started as a frenzy between Democrats and Republicans could be determined by roughnecks and cotton farmers.

West Texans in Midland and Lubbock are at the center of a Republican legislative stalemate over congressional redistricting.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick of Midland said he's not negotiating over the design of West Texas' congressional districts. Republican Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock, chair of the Senate Jurisprudence Committee that is tackling redistricting, says he won't vote on a map his constituents don't like.

"He's got to decide whether he wants to have redistricting. Are we going to have redistricting (or) are we going to have Midland?" Duncan said of Craddick. "Is this about Texas or is this about Midland?"

Craddick spokesman Bob Richter replied that once the Senate approves a redistricting map, a conference committee will work out differences and "try to pass a map that a majority of people can live with."

The full Senate is expected to take up redistricting early this week.

Craddick, who favors a map adopted Wednesday by the House, wants his home of Midland to anchor a district that could support a congressional representative separate from Lubbock.

With an autonomous Midland district, Lubbock and Abilene would likely have to meld together into one district, forcing either Lubbock's rookie U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, a Republican, or the popular congressional veteran Rep. Charles Stenholm, an Abilene

**"[Craddick's] got to decide whether he wants to have redistricting.... Is this about Texas or about Midland?"**

— Robert Duncan  
Republican senator

See District on page 2

## Puppy massage



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Stefanny Jay's 4-year-old Australia Chephard, Bee, receives a stress-relieving massage from Gay Niblack of McGregor, Texas, Sunday afternoon in the Louis Pearce Pavilion. Niblack charges \$1 a minute and attends dog shows across the state.

## Jobseekers face deadline for Career Center services

By Pammy Ramji  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students seeking full-time, internship or cooperative education employment can meet with prospective employers who will be conducting on-campus interviews through the Career Center this fall.

Monday is the deadline for requests for the first major week of interviews from Oct. 13-17. Interviews will continue through November.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., American Express, Dupont, Abercrombie & Fitch, Dell Computer Corp., Finish Line, Microsoft, 3M and Cargill are some of the many companies that will hold interviews this year.

"Well over 250 companies are already scheduled for the fall, and this number can creep over 300 companies in the near future," said Daniel Orozco, assis-

tant director for Interview Services.

According to the Career Center Web site, students should know the health of the overall job market and the demand for their particular skills when choosing a career or searching for a position upon graduation.

"The best way for students to prepare is to be active," Orozco said. "They should have their resume ready to go, have a strategy for interviewing, know what to do if they are offered three to four jobs, research the background of the company and just be ready."

For more information or to register, students can access the Career Center Web site at [careercenter.tamu.edu](http://careercenter.tamu.edu), stop by Suite 209 of the John J. Koldus Building or call the office at (979) 845-5139.

"Finding a job is a full-time job, this is an opportunity knocking at the door, all you have to do is open it," Orozco said.

## Resume Writing Tips

Students who plan to attend on-campus interviews this fall should have their resumes on hand for potential employers.

- Arrange categories and sections in order of relevance, presenting your most marketable information first.
- Use brief, descriptive phrases instead of complete sentences.
- Focus on results, accomplishments and skills.
- Always use good quality paper and limit length to one page.
- Avoid using personal pronouns such as I, me, my and their.
- Use action verbs when describing your experiences and accomplishments.

MAHESH NEELAKANTAN • THE BATTALION  
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## Gates to hold forum on spring tuition increase

By Rebekah Kratochvil  
THE BATTALION

University President Robert M. Gates will host an open forum addressing a possible future tuition increases at 5:30 p.m. in room 292 of the Memorial Student Center.

Tuition was raised \$4 per credit hour for the fall, and Gates has proposed a \$9 per credit hour increase for the spring.

Student Body President Matt Josefy said students should attend today's forum, which was requested of Gates by student leaders.

"The Student Government Association feels that students have a vested interest in understanding where their additional tuition dollars will be going and why tuition has increased," Josefy said.

To gain approval for a tuition increase, the administration was required to hold an open forum before the July Board of Regents meeting.

"Since the majority of students were not here during the summer, we requested that Gates hold an additional forum," Josefy said.

Following Gates' presentation addressing the increase in tuition, there will be a question and answer period for all who attend. In addition, SGA will distribute a survey and questionnaire that will allow questions to be addressed at the end of the forum.

The survey and forum will serve as informative tools for students and the administration, Josefy said.

"I think that it is important for students to attend so that we have a leg to stand on when we give our opinion and input into what is going to happen regarding tuition in the future," Josefy said.

## Water, power still big needs in aftermath of Isabel

By Erik Stetson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAMPTON, Va. — Utility crews had restored power Sunday to more than two-thirds of the people who had been without since Hurricane Isabel struck, but isolated price gouging and a general lack of information were starting to wear down residents in the hardest-hit areas.

Long lines formed in many places where there was news of ice or water or hot showers. But at the Red Cross office in Hampton, workers plastered the front doors with signs declaring in double-underlined words: "We do not have ice."

Newport News resident Shawn Williams went to the office to get water for his three young daughters, but all the office had was rice, meat, gravy and pineapple. His money reserves were running low and he was disgusted to find a local gas station demanding \$2.50 a gallon.

"Two days, we thought it was fun. We camped out," said Williams. "Four days is long enough."

Terri Ellis, who was a claims adjuster in Miami in the aftermath of devastating Hurricane Andrew, said Virginia's response to Isabel was abysmal. She vented her frustration Sunday at weary Red Cross volunteers, unable to control her anger at being told to call emer-

gency numbers.

"They say 'call the emergency management office.' When I get home, I have no phone," she said.

"Where is the assistance from other states?" she asked. "This city is not taking care of anything. Where is the water, where is the ice? I have babies in my neighborhood who yesterday couldn't get any milk."

The city had its own complaints about the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We've asked FEMA for generators. We haven't gotten them," Newport News Mayor Joe Frank said Sunday. "We've asked them for water, we've asked them for food, we've asked them for ice. So

far, we haven't seen any of that."

Frank said the city had to hire trucks to bring ice from Tennessee and Alabama.

FEMA Director Mike Brown was on the defensive.

"We've distributed 650,000 tons of ice down to that area," he said Sunday. "I just find it difficult to believe that we're not meeting someone's needs — if, indeed, they've been articulated to us."

The storm severed electrical service for more than 6 million customers from the Carolinas to New York. By Sunday morning, that figure had been whittled to about 1.8 million.

See Isabel on page 2