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# Islam highlighted this week

### By Sarah Szuminski THE BATTALION

The Muslim Students' Association aims. educate the Texas A&M community on sues regarding the Islamic faith through a eries of events this week.

Islamic Awareness Week runs through Saturday and is geared toward clarifying ommon misconceptions and stereotypes, aid MSA officer Zahir Latheef.

"People have a fear of the unknown." said atheef, a junior accounting major. "We want slam to no longer be an unknown idea."

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, Latheef said, and it accounts for one-fifth of the world's population with 1.5 billion followers.

"Knowledge is important for students at A&M," he said: "It's important for us to learn about different cultures and religions."

The weeklong event includes three lectures on topics of the history of Muslims in America, the role of women in Islam and a biography on the prophet Muhammad. Those interested will also have the opportunity to visit a Mosque open house on

IAW is a national program in which more than 100 colleges across the nation participate, Latheef said. It has been held at A&M for more than 10 years.

Sana Mohiuddin, a senior history major and treasurer of MSA, said the week is important for college students because they strive to learn about unknown things, such as other religions.

Mohiuddin said IAW is not only for non-Muslim students, but can educate current followers of the Islamic faith.

"In every situation, you always learn something new," she said.

# **SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 4** Event Wednesday, Oct. 1 "Women in Islam: Oppression or Empowerment? Mosque Open

**Islam Awareness Week** 

ANDREW BURLESON + THE BATTALION **SOURCE : MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION** 

# Top officials meet behind closed doors to figure out deal

### **By Natalie Gott** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

— Тор AUSTIN epublican officials met whind closed doors Monday hammer out a congressional redistricting map but no final compromise was reached.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said that if the Legislature does not approve a plan by

66

optimistic today

than I was last

week.

Oct. 6 lawmakers would have to move back the deadline for congressional candi-dates to file to run for office as well as the primary election date scheduled for March 2. Other Republicans

same warning. "As long as we can agree and pass redistricting and adjourn) before, on or before ext Monday, then all that is

Weatherford, Republicans. Another meeting was held Monday evening involving top officials, in an indication that they want the

Senate have approved separate redistricting plans. One of the main differences in the maps is how West Texas districts are drawn.

Both the House and the The House map draws a district so that I'm more Craddick's

hometown of

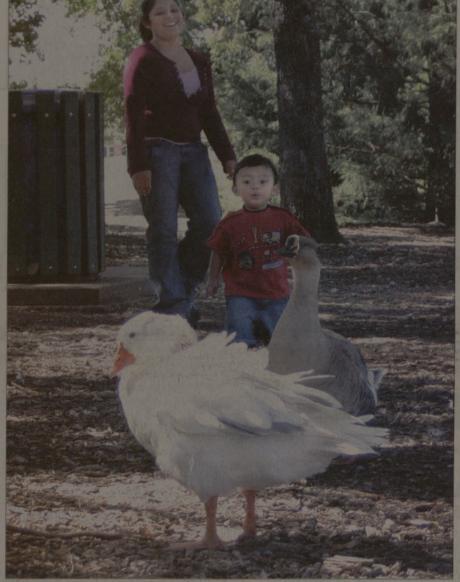
Midland, with

its oil and gas

economy,

could anchor a - David Dewhurst seat. The Senate lieutenant governor plan, favored Duncan by pairs Midland in the same district with the larger city of Lubbock, keeping that agriculture-oriented city the base for a congressional seat. Monday's meeting that four or five plans on how to draw the area were presented. "At least in my judgment, one or two should be acceptable to not only the House but the Senate," Dewhurst said. He said the two plans give

## Duck, duck, goose



## Music group settles 52 user lawsuits

**By Ted Bridis** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The recording industry on Monday announced settlements with 52 of the 261 Internet users it sued over allegations they illegally permitted others to download music from their computers using popular file-sharing software.

The Recording Industry Association of America, which plans to file hundreds more lawsuits in October, did not specify how much it collected. Defense lawyers familiar with some cases said payments ranged from \$2,500 to \$7,500 each, with at least one settlement for as much as \$10,000.

The settlements, which do not include any admission of wrongdoing, require Internet users to destroy copies of illegally downloaded songs and agree to "not make any public statements that are inconsistent" with the agreement.

The RIAA, the trade group for the largest labels, said one dozen other Internet users also agreed to pay unspeci-fied amounts after they learned they might be sued. They had previously been notified by their Internet providers that music lawyers were seeking their names to sue and agreed to pay to avoid a lawsuit.

"The music community's efforts have triggered a national conversation, especialbetween parents and kids, about what's legal and illegal when it comes to music on the Internet," RIAA President Cary Sherman said in a statement. "In the end it will be decided not in the courtrooms, but at kitchen tables across the country.

required is moving the filing date one week," Dewhurst aid. "Let's approach this step by step.

A meeting Monday mornng involved at least Gov. Rick Perry, Dewhurst, House peaker Tom Craddick, Sen. Todd Staples of Palestine, Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock and Rep. Phil King

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JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

one-and-a-half-year-old son Gabriel Pecina chas-

Crystal Pecina, of College Station, watches as her es away large water fowl in Central Park in College Station Monday afternoon.

Just three weeks ago, the RIAA filed 261 lawsuits against what it described as "major offenders" illegally distributing

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## Sociological success Poston brings research on gender to A&M classes

### **By Justin Smith** THE BATTALION

If you see a 1996 Cadillac driving around campus, it could be the one belonging to Texas A&M professor Dr. Dudley Poston. Poston won his Caddy in Las Vegas on nly his fifth attempt at playing a 50 cent slot machine on his way out of a casino.

Poston, a sociology professor and the George T. and Gladys H. Abell Professor of Liberal Arts, has worked across America and around the globe. Poston is a guest professor of demography at the People's University in Beijing and a guest professor f cultural studies and sociology at Fuzhou University in Fuzhou, China.

Poston had originally planned to become a priest, but eventually chose sociology while studying at the University of

"I wanted to see what other options were available to me," Poston said. "I liked being able to study human behavior, but sociology gave it a more scientific way where you can measure and quantify things about people."

He received his master's degree from San Francisco State College and his doctorate in sociology at the University of Oregon.

After college, Poston went to Vietnam in 1968 to serve in the conflict and was awarded a Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.

When he returned to the United States a year later, he was hired to teach at the devoted teacher.

University of Texas at Austin. In 1981, China began to allow students to study abroad and three students came to study under Poston. Poston said he became

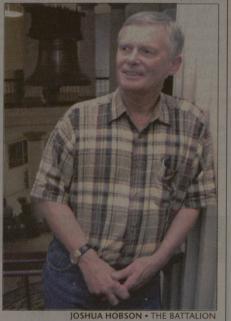
fascinated with China. He spent most of 1987 living and studying in Taiwan. After a stint at Cornell, Poston came to A&M in 1992 to head the Department of Sociology, a position he held until 1997, when he stepped down to teach and conduct more research.

Poston's research has focused almost entirely on the population trends in China. One of his concentrations has been studying the sex ratio at birth in China and the implications of that on the country's future. Since China imposed the one-child-percouple law in 1979, there have been 120 boys born for every 100 girls. Poston said China has 25 million extra boys and the difficulty in finding wives will lead them to look outside of the country.

Poston has also studied Chinese migration patterns across China and illegal immigration to America.

'These people do the same work (in China) that illegal Mexicans do in the United States," he said, "but there are only so many jobs (there) and eventually they will come here in bigger numbers.'

Dr. Carol Albrecht, internship program director and senior lecturer of sociology, said Poston is an excellent and wellknown researcher in addition to being a



Professor Dr. Dudley Poston teaches sociology at Texas A&M.

"He is excellent when working with students and is quick to enjoy in the success of others, which is rare in a lot of professors today," she said.

Allison Bellomy, a former student of Poston's who graduated in 2001 with a

See Poston on page 2

## American troops battle Iraqi resistance fighters

### By Tarek Al-Issawi THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHALDIYAH, Iraq — Iraqi insurgents ambushed U.S. convoys with roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades Monday, triggering an eighthour battle in which the American military - in a display of force — sent in fighter jets, bombers, helicopters and tanks. One U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded.

And in northern Iraq, U.S. soldiers launched two dozen raids, arresting 92 people and seizing weapons and ammunition. One of the raids involved the largest joint operation between U.S. military police and American-trained Iraqi police; about 200 Iraqi officers took part.

The two ambushes hit U.S. military convoys about 9 a.m. in the Sunni Muslim towns of Habaniyah and Khaldiyah, six miles apart along the Euphrates River and about 50 miles west of the Baghdad.

As the major firefight raged in Khaldiyah, it seemed as though the Americans were pinned down, with the insurgents opening fire each time the U.S. patrol tried to withdraw. Eventually

commanders called in jet fighters, A-10 Thunderbolt attack aircraft, helicopters and tanks.

The attackers apparently hid in trees and shrubs lining the dirt road where the roadside bombs left four big craters.

Reporters saw four badly damaged farm compounds in the al-Ourtan neighborhood on the north side of Khaldiyah, scene of several previous firefights between the U.S. military and guerrilla fighters. Angry residents cursed at reporters who entered the fire zone after the battle.

Civilians, including women and children, fled. One Iraqi man, running away with his wife, three other women, a nephew and five children, said many homes were damaged. He refused to give his name

"Is this the freedom that we were promised?" he asked. "I had to get my family out. ... The helicopters were firing almost nonstop. My 7-year-old is too young to hate but how can he not hate them (the Americans) after this?

Lt. Col. Jeff Swisher, of the 1st Infantry Division, defended the use of force.

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