

THE BATTALION

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Islam highlighted this week

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

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

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

"People have a fear of the unknown," said Latheef, a junior accounting major. "We want Islam 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 Saturday.

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.

Islam Awareness Week

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 4

Date	Event	Presenter	Time / Place
Tuesday, Sept. 30	"Deeper Roots"	Dr. Ihsan Bagby	MSC 226 @ 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 1	"Women in Islam: Oppression or Empowerment?"	Fatimah Bhutan	Zachary 102 @ 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 2	"Muhammad: Man & Myth"	Mutahir Sabree	MSC 226 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 4	Mosque Open House		417 Stasney St. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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SOURCE: MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Top officials meet behind closed doors to figure out deal

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Top Republican officials met behind closed doors Monday to 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 Oct. 6 lawmakers would have to move back the deadline for congressional candidates to file to run for office as well as the primary election date scheduled for March 2.

Other Republicans have issued the same warning.

"As long as we can agree and pass redistricting and (adjourn) before, on or before next Monday, then all that is required is moving the filing date one week," Dewhurst said. "Let's approach this step by step."

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

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

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

The House map draws a district so that Craddick's hometown of Midland, with its oil and gas economy, could anchor a congressional seat.

The Senate plan, favored by Duncan

pairs Midland in the same district with the larger city of Lubbock, keeping that agriculture-oriented city the base for a congressional seat.

Dewhurst said at 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

"I'm more optimistic today than I was last week."

— David Dewhurst
lieutenant governor

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Duck, duck, goose



Crystal Pecina, of College Station, watches as her one-and-a-half-year-old son Gabriel Pecina chases away large water fowl in Central Park in College Station Monday afternoon.

JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

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 unspecified 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, especially between 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."

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 only 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 of 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 San Francisco.

"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

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-per-couple 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 well-known researcher in addition to being a devoted teacher.



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

JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

"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

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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 eight-hour 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 Khaldiyyah, six miles apart along the Euphrates River and about 50 miles west of the Baghdad.

As the major firefight raged in Khaldiyyah, 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 north side of Khaldiyyah, 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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