

THE BATTALION

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Mock trial to increase awareness

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Eighteen-year-old Laina Elizabeth Bagby was not present the day 2002 fall semester classes commenced at Southwest Texas State University.

On June 9, 2002, Bagby, who was visiting a friend, was killed in a one-car rollover near the southbound University Drive off-ramp of Earl Rudder Freeway South. The driver of the car, 21-year-old Stuart "Clint" Thompson of College Station, was intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of .268, more than three times the legal limit of .08.

This event is one of the many that Khrist Thurmond, victim assistant coordinator for the Brazos Valley Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, has faced in her five years with the organization. Thurmond said even though the MADD Brazos Valley Chapter has seen few driving while intoxicated cases, the impact left by each is tremendous.

"Our stats are low, but that doesn't matter if you are one of those stats," Thurmond said. "One

case is too many, because driving while intoxicated is 100 percent preventable."

Prevention is exactly what organizers of Aggie Alcohol Awareness Week aim to accomplish. The week is an annual fall event organized by the Department of Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education Programs. This year's theme, "Law and Order: Responsible Aggie Unit," is illustrated by a mock DWI trial scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday in Rudder Auditorium.

The mock trial is sponsored by the Coalition on Alcohol Responsibility and Education, a community, campus and alcohol industry coalition effort dedicated to reduce alcohol abuse and underage drinking.

The trial will be a replica of a DWI trial with a judge presiding and genuine attorneys and officers playing the roles. One student will be "arrested" from the audience by the officers and will act as the defendant. After the judge makes his ruling and gives the sentence, the trial will conclude with a panel of guest speakers to whom attendees can direct questions.

"With this trial, students can see in real life that this could happen to anyone," said Dennis Reardon, senior program coordinator for ADEP. "We want to make sure students understand the severity of underage drinking, abusive drinking and driving while intoxicated."

A DWI offense is considered a Class B misdemeanor, said Texas A&M University Police Department Sergeant Allan Baron of the Crime Prevention Unit. Those convicted of a DWI charge can face a fine of up to \$2,000, 180 days in a county jail, the loss of driving privileges, community service and probation.

If a student is convicted of a DWI on A&M's campus property, they can face University sanctions on top of criminal sanctions, including deferred suspension, a strict form of probation, said Jeff Stefancic, coordinator of Student Judicial and Mediation Services.

Reardon said organizers chose to hold a mock DWI trial to illustrate the recent alterations to DWI laws.

"There have been changes in the laws regarding underage drinking and driving while intoxicated and we wanted to highlight these changes," Reardon said. "Consequences are much more

DWI Facts

Tuesday's mock DWI trial aims to raise awareness about the legal consequences of drinking and driving.

It is estimated that one out of every two Americans will be involved in an alcohol related accident in his lifetime.

Alcohol related crashes are the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 years old.

More than 50 percent of all fatal highway crashes involving two or more cars are alcohol related.

The risk of causing an accident is six times greater for intoxicated drivers than for sober drivers.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: WWW.NH-DWI.COM

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Brian Mulroney, Canada's 18th Prime Minister, along with former President George Bush were the inaugural speakers at the Lenore and Francis Humphrys International Speakers Program Monday evening at the Ansburg Presidential Conference Center.

Mulroney stresses close relations

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney spoke Monday evening at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex about the benefits of keeping tight-knit relations with other countries and of supporting President George W. Bush.

Former President George Bush gave opening remarks about Mulroney, whom he said he regarded as a family friend.

"I was blessed when I was president to have a prime minister and candidate not only that could work closely with

but whose advice I respected," Bush said. "(Advice) not just on the irritating matters of trade that come up between prime ministers and presidents, but more importantly on the affairs of the entire world."

Bush said a poll was recently taken among Canadians to determine the most popular prime ministers, and that Mulroney came in second only to former Prime Minister Lester Pearson.

In attendance for the speech were Mulroney's wife, Milla, as well as Barbara and Jenna Bush.

Mulroney shared anecdotes of his political career, including

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Sound off



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Freshman aerospace engineering major and Corps of Cadets fish commander Ryan Geyer, left, and sophomore general studies major and past fish commander Jose Marin work on vocal

discipline during Corps drills Monday afternoon. Marin is helping Geyer work on his vocal volume and the expansion of his diaphragm, which will help him communicate effectively.

Corps officials inspect cadet residence halls

By Lindsay Broomes
THE BATTALION

On Sept. 29, the Office of Commandant conducted a routine inspection of the Corps of Cadets' dormitory rooms, as authorized by the University's guiding directive for the Corps, The Standard, said Maj. Joseph "Doc" Mills, the Corps media relations coordinator.

To assist members of the Commandant's staff in conducting the inspection, the Commandant's Office obtained the services of Interquest Group, Inc., of Houston to provide contraband detection dogs and professional handlers.

"The dogs are trained to search for drugs, alcohol and explosives," Mills said. "The inspection was conducted on a no-notice basis, and dorms and rooms were inspected randomly."

A senior Corps member who wished to remain anonymous said he was bothered by the searches.

"I felt that my privacy was being violated," he said. "It was disturbing for them to think that cadets would actually possess that sort of thing, and they showed us no evidence that the act was justifiable."

A clause in a residence hall lease is not necessary to search the dorms, Mills said.

Members of the Commandant's staff, as well as cadet leaders, are authorized by the University to conduct formal and informal inspections of cadet rooms and halls to check on the health and welfare of cadets to comply with Corps and

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Ten killed in Gaza air strikes, worst Mideast day in months

By Ibrahim Barzak
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUSSEIRAT REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip — In the bloodiest day in the Gaza Strip in months, Israeli warplanes and helicopters pounded militant targets Monday, killing 10 Palestinians, including seven in a refugee camp where a car was destroyed, and wounding about 100.

The violent Islamic movements Hamas and Islamic Jihad threatened revenge, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged more raids and the State Department advised U.S. citizens to defer travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

With prospects for Mideast peace efforts further clouded, U.S. officials confirmed that John Wolf, the head of the team monitoring implementation of the troubled U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan, was not planning to return to the region soon.

The bombing raids Monday came a day after Palestinian militants fired eight homemade rockets from Gaza into southern Israel and Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli patrol in the West Bank, killing three soldiers and seriously wounding a fourth.

Israeli aircraft struck in five separate locations, hitting a suspected Hamas weapons cache

twice, another storehouse and a car carrying suspected militants.

The nighttime strike in the Nusseirat camp in central Gaza, in which 75 people were wounded in addition to the seven killed, was the bloodiest since an April missile raid on a Hamas leader in Gaza City killed nine people.

Residents said Israeli helicopters fired three missiles at the main street, destroying a car. An Israeli army statement said the vehicle was carrying members of a Palestinian terrorist squad fleeing after a failed attempt to breach the border fence with Israel a few miles to the northeast.

But Israel's Channel 10 TV said that none of the dead were militants, characterizing the refugee camp strike as a "mistake."

Residents said one of the dead was a doctor who was treating victims when a second missile struck. The identity of the other victims was not immediately known.

Hundreds of camp residents carried charred pieces of the vehicle aloft and chanted, "Revenge, revenge."

In Gaza City, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a building in the Shajaiyeh neighborhood,

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Three Israeli strikes in four hours

Military helicopters and warplanes unleashed a string of missile attacks in Gaza City Monday, killing two Hamas members and a bystander and wounding 23 other Palestinians.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

Reveille VI euthanized

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

Former Texas A&M mascot Reveille VI was euthanized Saturday because of failing health.

The 10-year-old American collie served as the University's First Lady for more than seven years, from November 1993 to May 2001, at which time she was retired due to increasing problems with arthritis and epilepsy.

Company E-2 Commander Matt Stalcup said the decision to put Reveille to sleep was made by her veterinarian and caretaker, Dr. Charles Hall, who has watched over the collie since her retirement.

"It was a judgment between her suffering any longer and putting her to sleep," Stalcup said.

Reveille's retirement two years ago came after her condition, diagnosed in 1996, worsened.

"It was in her best interest," Stalcup said. "It was so she could have a more relaxed lifestyle."

During her tenure as mascot, Reveille oversaw the University's first Big 12



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

Reveille VI was mascot from 1993 to 2001.

Championship in 1998 and President George W. Bush's inaugural ball in 2000. Her successor, Reveille VII, is 3 years old.

Plans for Reveille's burial and a ceremony at Kyle Field are tentatively scheduled for early November. The former mascot will be buried outside the North side of Kyle Field, along with the University's previous mascots.