

THE BATTALION

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Foreign families receive sparse aid

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

International civil engineering graduate students Prithviraj Chavan and Prashant Jadhav are currently in critical condition following an automobile accident that killed fellow graduate student Chiang Cheng-Hsien on Oct. 25.

The Department of Student Life and International Student Services are working with the families of the two students to facilitate the process of coping with their difficulties. The families of the injured are trying to visit their children, but entering the United States is a difficult and expensive undertaking.

Although ISS provided some assistance for the families to enter Bryan-College Station, the organi-

zation has no provision for financial assistance to families in this situation, said Suzanne Droleskey, executive director of International Student Services.

"At this time, there has not been any consideration," Droleskey said. "Our role is to facilitate and (to) make sure people are taken care of."

ISS's biggest concern is coordinating the efforts to pay for the students' medical bills, Droleskey said. All international students get a certain type of medical insurance when they enter the United States, but this is a difficult situation because the medical insurance provider is having to sort things out with the three automobile insurance providers involved with the accident.

"There's a lot of complexity

involved with this," Droleskey said.

While the ISS maintains a supervisory and indirect role in all of these functions, the India Association, a student group comprised of primarily graduate students who were raised in India, has been the most active in caring for the families and friends of the two graduate students, Droleskey said.

The Department of Student Life expressed a similar aim in the care of the students' families. Unfortunately, Student Life, like the ISS, is unable to provide financial aid to the families, said Carol Binzer, associate director of student life.

"For the most part, we would not offer to do that," Binzer said.

Any assistance Student Life could give would be from the Student Welfare Fund, which is

part of a coordinated effort with the Aggie Mom's Club, Binzer said.

"It's a gift account," Binzer said.

The Student Welfare Fund can be used primarily to help house the families and friends, Binzer said, but it would not cover travel costs. However, she said Student Life does have many other resources to help.

"My suspicion is that, if they get here, we would house them," Binzer said.

This incident falls under the jurisdiction of the Student Life's Critical Incident Response Team.

These events foster a team effort from everyone involved, Droleskey said.

"(We're) trying to work together as a team," she said. "Everybody has a role, and we all just need to work together."

Helping International Students

The Department of Student Life and International Student Services aids the families of international students once they get to the United States.

The ISS helps provide housing once they get to Bryan-College Station.

Student Life offers some assistance through the Student Welfare Fund, a coordinated effort with the Aggie Mom's Club.

Neither the ISS nor Student Life can provide significant financial aid to families of international students.

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: ISS AND DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE

Student Senate to see Campus Master Plan

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

Associate Vice President for Administration Mary Miller will present Texas A&M's Campus Master Plan to the Student Senate in the governance room of the Koldus Building Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Miller has chaired the Campus Master Plan committee since the designers from Michael Dennis & Associates and Barnes Gromatzky Kosarek Architects first set foot on campus in August 2002. The plan is a long-term design for the College Station campus put together over the course of the 2002-2003 academic school year by the two firms.

The finalized plan, including blueprints and medium-sized color illustrations of what the campus will look like once all recommended changes have been implemented, is on display in Rudder 101, across from the MSC Box Office, and is also accessible at www.tamu.edu/campusplan.

Students, faculty and staff are free to attach notes with questions or comments to the designs in Rudder. One note already attached to the parking plans asked why on-campus parking was necessary and suggested moving everyone to a bus system.

The plan encompasses such issues as parking, demolition plans, plans for working around the railroad and improving the overall look and feel of the campus.

ATM Student Senate Review

Who: Student Senate

Where: Koldus 146

When: Tonight at 7:35 p.m.

- College of Liberal Arts report by Dean Charles A. Johnson
- Campus Master Plan presentation by Associate VP for Administration Mary Miller
- Recall amendment

SETH FREEMAN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: STUDENT SENATE

Buildings targeted for demolition include residence halls and buildings the designers found blocked their paths or were too unattractive to remain.

The plan has attracted the attention of administrators. At the Sept. 24 Student Senate meeting, University President Robert M. Gates said the planners found that most buildings added after the 1970s, including Rudder Tower and the Oceanography & Meteorology Building, were not attractive.

See Master Plan on page 8

Sound of Music



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Charlu Wu, a pipa musician from Houston, plays the Zheng, a string instrument originating in China more than 2,300 years ago, during "An Evening of Music and Dance" at the George Bush Presidential Conference Center at Texas A&M.

The program also had performances by the Texas A&M Chinese American Association vocalist and its children's dance academy. This event was sponsored by the Asia Society of Texas and is part of the celebration of China Week.

Committee to seek student affairs VP

By C.E. Walters
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates established a nine-member committee to search for a new vice president for student affairs to replace J. Malon Southerland, who retired this summer.

Bill Kibler is currently serving as interim vice president for student affairs.

The committee will be chaired by Robert Strawser, Texas A&M System Regents professor and an accounting professor. The committee will include three student leaders: Student Body President Matt Josefy, Graduate Student Council President Josh Peschel and Student Government Association Vice President of Diversity Pablo Rodriguez.

Martha Loudder, a search committee member, speaker of the Faculty Senate and an accounting professor, said the committee has no firm plans yet. Loudder said she will strive to appoint the best qualified candidate for the job, but the committee has not yet determined what those qualifications will be.

"I'm keeping an open mind," Loudder said.

Josefy said students are looking for a vice president for student affairs who has a vision, but who will also be respectful of traditions and be able to relate to students and their needs.

"Ever since Dr. Southerland retired, students have been talking about who they want to see (as vice president for student affairs)," he said.

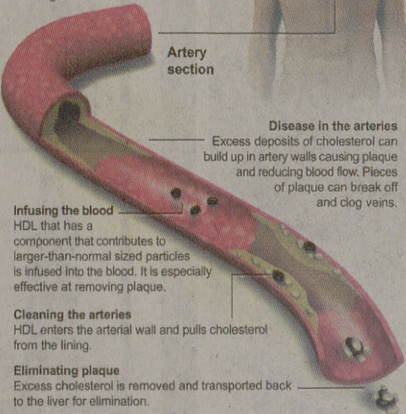
Josefy said Gates had said past experience with A&M is important.

"(It is) a huge, huge plus," Josefy said. "This is a crucial position."

Loudder said the committee will meet in the next few weeks to determine the selection process.

'Good' cholesterol can clear plaque

Infusions of a synthetic component of "good" cholesterol, or HDL, reduced artery disease in just five weeks in a small study that could have bigger implications for treating the nation's leading killer.



SOURCES: Journal of the American Medical Association; Esperion Therapeutics, Inc. N. Repp, C. New/AP

Experimental treatment works like 'liquid Drano' for coronary arteries

By Lindsey Tanner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Intravenous doses of a synthetic component of "good" cholesterol reduced artery disease in just six weeks in a small study with startlingly big implications for treating the nation's No. 1 killer.

"The concept is sort of liquid Drano for the coronary arteries," said Dr. Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who led the study.

Larger and longer studies need to be done to determine if the experimental treatment will translate into fewer deaths, but the early results are promising, said Dr. Daniel Rader, director of preventive cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

The treatment used a laboratory-produced version of an unusually effective form of HDL, the good cholesterol that helps protect against heart disease by removing plaque, or fatty buildups, from the bloodstream.

"This is clearly on the level of a breakthrough that will have far-reaching implications," pointing the way toward a rapid treatment for fatty buildups, said Dr. Bryan Brewer, chief of molecular diseases at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

The surprisingly quick results, though preliminary, shatter a long-standing belief that heart disease is a slow-progressing disease that takes a long time to undo, said Rader, who wrote an editorial accompanying

See Treatment on page 2

U.S. compound in Baghdad comes under mortar fire

By Robert H. Reid
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents struck Tuesday at the center of the U.S.-led occupation, firing mortars after sundown at the heavily guarded district that includes major American facilities. Three people were wounded, the Pentagon said.

Spain, a close U.S. ally, withdrew many of its diplomats because of escalating violence.

Huge explosions thundered throughout central Baghdad about 7:45 p.m. as the insurgents targeted the 2-square-mile "Green Zone," which includes coalition headquarters, the military press center and other key facilities.

Iraqi police said two mortars fell in the zone, but U.S. officials said the headquarters itself, located in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces, was not damaged.

However, the huge detonation sent coalition staffers running into

the hallways. It was the second mortar attack against the Green Zone in as many days.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Lt. Col. Jim Cassella said three people were wounded in the attacks but it was unclear if they were military or civilians.

Cassella said there appeared to have been three explosions, possibly from mortars or rockets.

The attack underscored the precarious security situation in the city. Late Monday, three mortars explod-

ed in the center of Baghdad. U.S. officials said one struck a camp of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which provides security in the palace district. Officials said there was no damage nor casualties.

The deteriorating security situation has prompted the United Nations, the international Red Cross and other international organizations to reduce their foreign staffs.

See Compound on page 8