

THE BATTALION

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Leaders hope for improved future China-U.S. relations

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Former Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen suggested that the United States lift trade restrictions with China as a step toward a better U.S.-China relationship on Wednesday morning at Rudder Auditorium.

Qichen, along with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, current Secretary of State Colin Powell and former President George Bush, discussed how to improve relations between the United States and China. The presentation was delivered to a packed auditorium and an overflow of people who watched from Rudder Theater via closed-circuit television.

"(This conference) is a useful endeavor," Qichen said. "It offers us a very valuable opportunity to sum up historical experiences, analyze the present and look toward the future of the China-U.S. relationship."

Trade volume between the United States and China reached \$97.1 billion this past year, but U.S. restrictions on technological exports still hinder the partners from being able to reach their maximum trade potential.

The U.S.-China relationship was built upon a mutual distrust of the Soviet Union, Powell said.

"In truth, at that time the U.S.-China relationship could not be very wide or deep

because of our ideological differences, and because of the then very closed nature of China," Powell said.

Powell emphasized the need for better communication between leaders. He also shared a story about a Saturday morning chat with Foreign Minister Lee Jung Binn of South Korea being interrupted by a barking dog and a ringing doorbell as an example of how communication has become less formal.

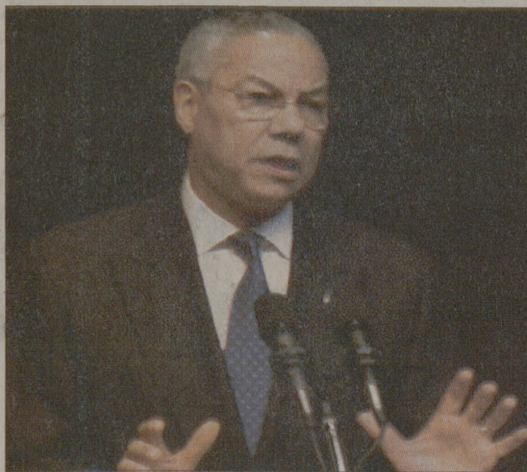
Despite the fact that common interests between the United States and China have increased, Qichen called for more improvements, saying that the relationship may and can be better.

Kissinger warned against exercising too much control over Chinese affairs, claiming that the U.S.-China relationship should not be one of mutual suspicion.

"It is not in our power to prevent China from developing," Kissinger said. "China evolved in the last 30 years, and it will continue to grow."

The topic of North Korea was also discussed in light of the "six party talk" that occurred in August between North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

"(It was said) that President George W. Bush should abandon the desire for a multi-party arrangement and just talk bilaterally with North Koreans," Powell said. "They said that



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Above: Falun Dafa practitioner Feng Shen of Houston meditates during one of the many exercises that the discipline teaches next to the George Bush Conference Center Wednesday afternoon. The group formed with about 30 practitioners to call Chinese government officials' attention to the persecution of Falun Dafa followers in China. Left: Secretary of State Colin Powell speaks at the George Bush Conference Center on Wednesday. Lower left: Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger greets former Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen.



JOSHUA L. HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Student bonfire to burn Nov. 22 despite discouragement

STUDENT BONFIRE

Student Bonfire, formerly known as the Unity Project, will put on a bonfire for the second year in a row.

- The bonfire is scheduled for Nov. 22, 2003
- The bonfire will be located on land off Dilly Shaw Tap Road in North Bryan
- The organization is hoping for 10,000 students to attend

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: STUDENT BONFIRE

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Bonfire was the main reason Marcus Mojica chose to attend A&M. He said he was especially attracted to the campus atmosphere of friendliness and unity fostered by Bonfire. After two years at A&M with no Bonfire, Mojica noticed a big change on campus.

"I looked around and saw everything was slacking," Mojica said. "The school and people just weren't the same. Friendliness began to disappear, and sometimes you would walk down the hall and feel like a stranger."

On Feb. 4, 2002, University President Ray M. Bowen delivered a blow to Bonfire with his decision not to return the fire to A&M in 2002.

"Bowen's decision sparked things," Mojica said. "I was shocked and angered, and I couldn't believe there wouldn't be another Bonfire. From that day, I decided that we had to have a Bonfire."

Mojica's sentiment was shared by others and shortly after the decision was announced, the Unity Project was formed — an organization committed to staging a new Bonfire.

Last year, Student Bonfire, formerly known as the Unity Project, kept that promise with an off-campus, student-run bonfire that burned in November 2002. This year, Student Bonfire continues the tradition with a bonfire scheduled for Nov. 22. This year's bonfire will be located on land off of Dilly Shaw Tap Road in North Bryan, 10 to 15 minutes from the A&M campus.

"We are pretty confident in this year's fire,

and hopefully it will be a success like last year," said Ramiro Lopez, a senior rangeland ecology and management major and an organizer of student bonfire.

Lopez said the 2003 bonfire will differ from the original, A&M-affiliated bonfire as it will be smaller, with a different design. Lopez described this year's bonfire as a primitive teepee design, but heavily reinforced. All logs will be touching the ground and the stack will not exceed 40 feet.

"But it's not about the size so much, because Bonfire, itself is bigger than all of us," Lopez said. "It brings everyone together. It is part of what keeps the Aggie network so tight and the Aggie spirit so strong. It's a tradition that has lasted so long on campus. Why

See Bonfire on page 8A

Police STEP up ticketing

By Jenna Jones
THE BATTALION

Charlie Otte will head to the College Station Courthouse with two witnesses to contest a traffic citation he received last month for disregarding a red light at the intersection of Texas Avenue and George Bush Drive.

"The light was yellow when we went through the intersection but the motorcycle cop down the street argued differently and wrote me a ticket for disregarding the red light," Otte said. "Two friends and I were in the car on our way to the Rec (Student Recreation Center). They saw it as clearly as I did that the light was not yet red."

The major intersection of George Bush and Texas is one of the locations monitored

by the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), which is managed by the Texas Department of Transportation. STEP is a grant-funded program designed to reduce three types of violations that could contribute to accidents: speed enforcement, intersection enforcement and occupant safety enforcement, said Sgt. James Woodward, traffic supervisor for the College Station Police Department.

Woodward said some people think this type of program is linked to the common myth that police officers have a certain quota of citations to give out by the end of the month.

"You can always tell where they're out to get people," said Kelly Hicks, a senior sports management major. "Sometimes no one is there and then other times you will see six

Selective Traffic Enforcement Program

This grant-funded program is designed to reduce three types of violations that can lead to accidents.

- The program focuses on the enforcement of:
 - speed
 - intersection safety
 - occupant safety
- The intersection of George Bush Drive and Texas Avenue is one location monitored under the program.

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: STEP

people pulled over, one right after another."

Hicks said she has also received a ticket for disobeying the red light at George Bush and Texas. She said she saw the police officer from across the intersection and would

See Ticketing on page 2A

Ag College's Hiler to retire Aug 2004

By Nicole M. Jones
THE BATTALION

The man who led the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for more than a decade announced his plans to retire.

Edward A. Hiler, dean of the College of Agriculture, will retire effective Aug. 31, 2004.

Hiler said he chose to announce his retirement plans early so the college would have sufficient time to find a replacement.

"There will be a nationwide search to find a replacement for my position," Hiler said. "It is important to me to maintain a positive momentum within the college, and I will continue to push as hard as I can until the day I leave my office."

Before the end of his term as dean, Hiler hopes to incorporate new departments of nutrition and food sciences into the College of Agriculture.



HILER

Since his inception as dean in 1992, Hiler has introduced numerous initiatives, including Agriculture Program 21 in 2000. Goals of Agriculture Program 21 relate to water and the environment, leadership development, foods that can reduce diet-related diseases, biotechnology and advances in information technology, Hiler said.

Dick Creger, associate vice chancellor and associate dean for the College of Agriculture, said Hiler has been an effective dean.

Creger, who has known Hiler for more than 30 years, credits Hiler with increasing the numbers of women faculty and minority graduate students in the College of Agriculture, as well as increasing agriculture faculty numbers. Creger said Hiler "brought the extension and teaching together," creating a closer connection between the College of Agriculture, the agricultural extension and the agricultural experiment station.

Fuller Bazer, associate vice chancellor and executive associate dean of the College of

See Director on page 7A

Green River Killer pleads guilty to 48 murders

By Gene Johnson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Gary Ridgway, the former truck painter long suspected of being the Green River Killer, pleaded guilty Wednesday to 48 murders. "I killed so many women I have a hard time keeping them straight," he said in a confession read aloud by prosecutors.

"I wanted to kill as many women as I thought were prostitutes as I possibly could," Ridgway said in the statement.

Some victims' relatives wept quietly in the

courtroom as Ridgway, in a clear but subdued voice, admitted killing each woman.

He then entered formal guilty pleas to the 48 counts of aggravated first-degree murder — a process that took nearly 10 minutes. As Judge Richard Jones read each count, Ridgway replied, "Guilty."

Ridgway, 54, made the pleas under a deal that will spare him from execution in the King County cases and result in a sentence of life in prison without parole.

See Guilty on page 7A

GREEN RIVER KILLINGS
'Killed so many I have a hard time keeping them straight'

Gary Leon Ridgway confessed to killing 48 women Wednesday — more murders than any serial killer in the nation's history. Most of the killings took place in the Green River region of Washington and the victims were between ages 15 and 38.

- Confessed murder
- Ridgway confessed to killing four other women between 1976 and 1993 who are only identified as Jane Doe

SOURCE: Associated Press