

THE BATTALION

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New ID replaces SSN number

By Eric Ambroso
THE BATTALION

With identity theft becoming a more common crime, Texas A&M plans to change student identification numbers from Social Security numbers to a randomly assigned universal identification number (UID).

Starting in the spring or summer of 2004, the student ID number will be replaced by a different nine digit number that is not in the same format of Social Security numbers.

"This project has been ongoing for years, but now we have the means and technology to make the change," said Donald Carter, A&M registrar. "We are hoping to be ready by the end of the fall semester."

A NetID, which is a student's neo-account name

and password, will be used for all student Web services, said Larry Malota, associate director for Computing and Information Services. The UID will be the number that appears on the student ID card and the first identification number a student gets when applying to the University.

For the past semester, incoming applicants have already been assigned UIDs, Malota said. These students will use this number instead of their Social Security numbers for the remainder of their careers at the University. The student ID number for current students will not be changed until next spring or summer, he said.

"We've been working on this for over a year," Malota said. "Very soon a universal identification number will be assigned to all students and employees of the University."

This change comes after the biology department accidentally sent out the Social Security numbers,

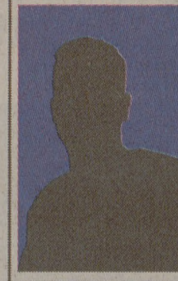
birthdays and GPRs of 1,300 students in late October. Although Malota insists the incident is not why the University wants to make the change so quickly, he said it does illustrate why such a change is necessary.

"Colleges are trying to get away from using Social Security numbers," Carter said. "We've had security breaches before, but with the use of the UID it will be more difficult."

In the past two or three years, identity theft has become a problem because of easy access to personal information, said Lt. Bert Kretzschmar of the University Police Department. If someone has a credit card number and expiration date, that's basically all that is needed to charge something on the

Identity Theft Prevention

Students should follow these guidelines to protect themselves from identity theft:



- Don't leave wallet or purse lying around
- Keep credit card receipts and carbon copies
- Never tell anyone your credit card number over the phone unless you initiate the call
- Collect mail regularly and destroy unwanted solicitations for credit cards
- Monitor credit statements

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SOURCE: UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Construction project



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Natalie Montgomery, a sophomore environmental design major, finished up one of her architecture projects for her Studio 205 class. The model is of a Galveston beach house and incorporates certain criteria required for beach houses.

Dean of geosciences named council chair

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Council of Senior Business Administrators recently selected Janice Mills, dean of geosciences as its 2004 chair.

The CSBA serves as a liaison between the upper administration and the user community in the finance and administrative arena of the University, said Gib G. Sawtelle III, human resources and payroll manager for A&M Computing & Information Services.

"Janice is an excellent candidate," said Kelly D. Gallagher, business manager for the Medical Science Library. "She has new ideas and is a positive influence on what we can accomplish this year."

Mills received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Idaho and an MBA from A&M in 1995. She was honored as a 2002 participant in the Leadership Texas program, which recognizes 100 women leaders from across Texas. Mills currently serves as senior academic business administrator for the College of Geosciences. She has 25 years of professional business experience in private industry and higher education.

"CSBA represents a diverse slice of the University business administration community with members from each academic college and all areas of administration and service units across campus. With state budget cuts and continuing University budget concerns, all units are being called on to be more efficient and more effective," Mills said. "One of CSBA's strategic priorities is to

provide avenues to ensure that administrative staff is adequately trained and have a conduit to business best practices across campus."

The CSBA sponsors free workshops designed to address the learning needs of business and administrative staff across A&M's campus.

Subject matter experts from across campus support this effort by volunteering their time to share information on a variety of topics. They believe that professional developments in these skill areas are essential to supporting the University.

Some of the other training resources include payroll and budget training, human resources training, computer training, environmental health and safety training, and training on a variety of topics that include fire extinguisher, hazard communication and laboratory safety. These programs provide employees with hands-on coaching sessions that will help them reach their professional development goals.

"This year the organization expanded tremendously," Mills said. "We have about 40-plus members now."

A&M supports staff members in business-related positions and established the CSBA Best in Business Staff Awards to recognize and reward superior service. Recipients are those who have made distinguished contributions to A&M and regularly exemplify outstanding service.

"It is going to be an interesting year," Mills said.

More information on CSBA is available on its Web site, <http://www.tamu.edu/csba>.

Freebirds thrives in burrito battle

By Lindsay Broomes
THE BATTALION

Freebirds stands strong in the Brazos Valley despite the recent addition of burrito rival Chipotle.

"This is truly a David versus Goliath situation," said Freebirds Brandmaster Kari Krueger, "and we are up for the challenge."

Freebirds competes in other markets as well as with Chipotle.

"Competition makes everyone stronger," Krueger said, "and we are

going to continue to move forward and ensure an awe-inspiring experience for our customers every time they come to The Bird."

Senior business major Chasity McCoy said she prefers Freebirds over Chipotle.

"Freebirds definitely has more to choose from and is easier to customize," McCoy said.

Freebirds differs from Chipotle by offering a variety of tortilla flavors, burrito sizes and overall product mix.

"We are two very different organi-

zations with different targets and a differing customer base," Krueger said.

Even with the addition of Chipotle, Krueger said Freebirds' sales at the Northgate store have surpassed last year's numbers.

"Having three stores in this market has been tremendously successful for us," Krueger said. "As the community continues to grow, so has Freebirds and we are grateful to our customers for their loyal support of what is now an Aggie tradition."

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Japan delays sending troops to Iraq

By Bassem M. Roue
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Japan put off a decision Thursday send troops to Iraq, a day after the biggest attack on coalition forces since the war, and South Korea rebuffed Washington by capping its contribution at 3,000 soldiers.

U.S. troops pounded suspected guerrilla targets in the capital for a second straight night under a new "get-tough" campaign against the insurgency. And the top American administrator, L. Paul Bremer, headed back to Baghdad after two days of White House talks with orders that Iraqis should take more responsibility for governing.

On the eve of a visit to Tokyo by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Japan decided the time isn't right to

send its forces to Iraq, indicating its deployment might be delayed until next year.

Japan had hoped to send troops to Iraq to help rebuild the country by the end of 2003, but chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda backed off, saying Iraq is still too unstable.

"Japan has said it wants to think about the timing" of its deployment, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said in Washington. "We understand that."

South Korea also decided to limit its contribution to 3,000 troops, President Roh Moo-hyun announced. Denmark also rejected a push by two Danish soldiers' unions to bolster its 410-member force by 100 more troops.

Many countries and agencies in Iraq, including Spain, the Netherlands, the United Nations and the international

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TEXAS TICKET SALE

Senior/Graduate students pull Monday, Nov. 17

Juniors pull Tuesday, Nov. 18

Sophomores pull Wednesday, Nov. 19

Freshmen pull Thursday, Nov. 20

Group pull is Monday and Tuesday

Windows will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be a limited number of guest tickets available at \$75 each.

Conversion tickets and guest labels will be \$37.50 each.

There is no limit on the number of conversions or guest labels.

Students who did not purchase a sports option will have an opportunity on Friday, Nov. 21 to purchase a student walk-up ticket if they are available.



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