


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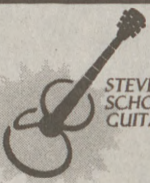
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THE BATTALION

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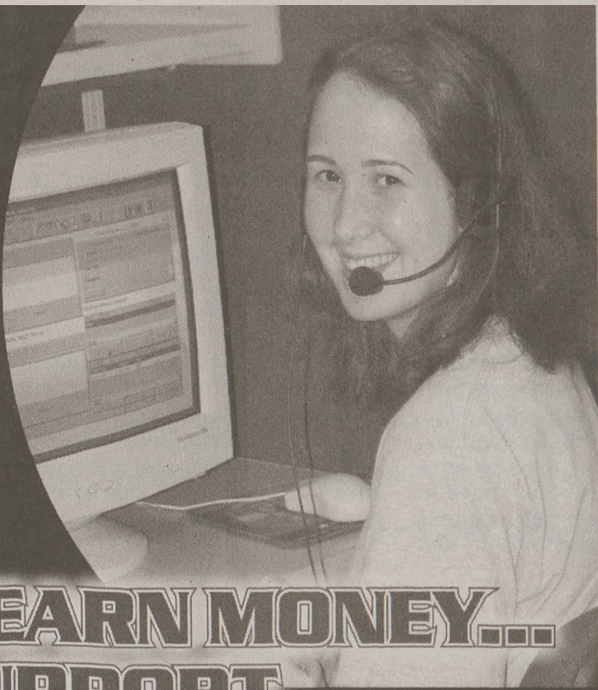
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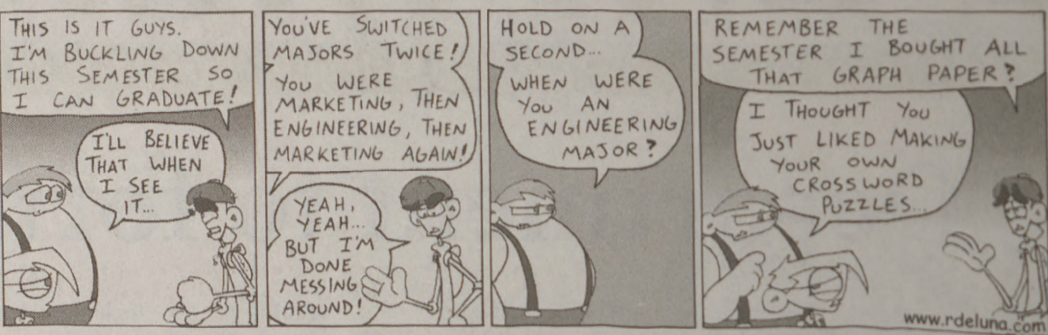
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### FISH



BY R. DELUNA VP

Continued from page 1

spirit.  
"You could argue in  
ways," Prior said. "A  
people who come to  
A&M who are not  
become quite committed  
University and its unique  
ture."

Prior said the salary for  
new vice president is  
stable and may depend on  
iority and qualifications.

Nominations and ap-  
plications may be given to  
search committee mem-  
bers should include a letter of  
est, past experience in the  
and names, addresses,  
phone numbers of five  
ences.

To learn more about  
nating someone for vice  
dent of student affairs, you  
call contact Robert Strain  
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### Conference

Continued from page 1

Dream" week.  
Executives said the  
the week is to increase  
diversity on campus.  
For more information  
conference log on to the  
Web site  
http://sbsic.tamu.edu.

### NOISE & POLLUTION



BY JOSH DARWIN

### DUNN



by Will Lloyd

## Christian Orthodox spiritual leader becomes first to visit Latin America

By Anita Snow  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAVANA — Ecumenical  
Patriarch Bartholomew I was  
greeted by President Fidel Castro  
as he arrived in Cuba Wednesday  
night, the first visit by a Christian  
Orthodox spiritual leader to  
Latin America.

Dressed in his traditional  
black robes and cap and carry-  
ing his patriarchal staff, the  
patriarch of the world's 300  
million Orthodox Christians  
was also greeted by scores of  
faithful from around the region  
when he arrived after the long  
flight from Istanbul.

Castro, wearing his olive  
green uniform and cap, greeted  
the patriarch at the bottom of  
the plane's steps. Together they  
walked down a red carpet,  
greeting diplomats, Cuban  
officials, local Orthodox Christian  
leaders and representatives of  
Cuba's Roman Catholic and  
Protestant churches.

The patriarch and the president  
also greeted a small group of  
children dressed in white, who  
gave them bouquets of roses. A  
choir sang sacred songs in liturgi-  
cal Greek.

After posing briefly for news  
photographers' and television  
cameramen, the pair boarded a  
black Mercedes Benz sedan for  
the trip to the Palace of the  
Revolution — where Castro  
keeps his offices — for an official  
welcoming ceremony.  
Neither man spoke to reporters  
at the airport.

The patriarch was invited to  
Cuba by Castro, whose govern-  
ment built a Byzantine cathedral  
the patriarch will consecrate on

Sunday. The church was offered  
as a gift to Orthodox Christians.

"We thank the people of  
Cuba for this gift," Metropolitan  
Athenagoras, regional leader of  
the Greek Orthodox Church,  
said of the new sanctuary on  
Tuesday. Greek Orthodox  
officials said it was the first new  
church of any faith to be built on  
the Caribbean island during  
Castro's 45-year rule.

"It is with much respect that  
we receive the patriarch, whose  
visit constitutes a gesture of  
friendship toward Cuba," Foreign  
Minister Felipe Perez Roque told  
reporters earlier Wednesday.

Perez Roque said the visit  
would show the world "that in  
Cuba there is freedom to express  
religion, a faith, and there is a  
commitment by the government  
to support that right."

Cuban officials take issue with  
a State Department report issued  
last month, which said surveil-  
lance, infiltration and harassment  
of religious groups is common on  
the island.

While Cuba became officially  
atheist in the years after the 1959  
revolution that brought Castro to  
power, the government removed  
references to atheism in the  
Constitution more than a decade  
ago and allowed religious believ-  
ers to join the Communist Party.

Before that, religious believers  
struggled under a system that dis-  
couraged — but never outright  
prohibited — religious worship.  
Believers were barred from  
important jobs and viewed with  
suspicion by officials who over-  
saw most aspects of life.

Relations between the  
Roman Catholic Church and the  
government warmed in early  
1998 with the visit of Pope John

Paul II. But Cuba's Catholic  
leaders continue to push for the  
right to open parochial schools  
for children and access to state-  
controlled media.

Bartholomew is the patriarch  
of Greek Orthodox Christians  
and considered "first among  
equals" of 14 patriarchs repre-  
senting Orthodox Christian  
congregations in eastern Europe  
and the Middle East, including  
Russia, Bulgaria, Romania,  
Ukraine, Syria and Iraq.

The Orthodox faith is little  
known in Cuba, as well as the rest  
of Latin America, where Roman  
Catholicism has long been the  
dominant church.

Eastern Orthodoxy and  
Roman Catholicism split nearly a  
millennium ago over questions of  
theology and papal authority.

The new church of cream-  
colored stone with red brick trim  
was built alongside the Roman  
Catholic San Francisco Basilica  
in Old Havana. It will be used by  
the island's estimated 2,000  
Orthodox Christians, who  
include diplomats and foreign  
business people from countries  
such as Greek and Turkey, and  
people who immigrated here  
before the fall of communism in  
former Soviet states and Eastern  
European countries including  
Russia, Ukraine and Bulgaria.

An estimated 500 Greek-  
Americans are expected in Cuba  
for the consecration, along with  
scores more Orthodox faithful  
from around the region,  
Metropolitan Athenagoras said.

The patriarch's visit coincides  
with a trip here by the National  
Council of Churches U.S.A.,  
which represents many mainline  
American Christian groups.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Pakistan details leading nuclear scientists

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan  
(AP) — Pakistan's desire  
to detain and question  
some of its leading nuclear sci-  
entists came after it dis-  
missed top-secret investi-  
gation teams to Iran and Libya  
check allegations that they  
led the men to cash in on  
nuclear know-how, a  
Pakistani official told  
Associated Press.

Disclosure of the  
investigative missions  
indicate the seriousness with  
which the government is  
allegations of nuclear  
proliferation after months of  
public denials.

#### Court postpones hearing of convicted killer

KARACHI, Pakistan  
— An appeal against a  
Wednesday again  
postponed a hearing  
appeals by four Islamic  
fundamentalists convicted in  
the killing of Wall Street  
Journal reporter  
Daniel Pearl, a lawyer said.

The Sindh High Court  
ordered the latest  
postponement because  
prosecution and a lawyer  
for three of the convicted  
failed to appear at  
hearing, said  
Attorney General  
Waheed Katpar, a lawyer  
for Ahmed Omar  
Saeed Sheikh, who has been  
sentenced to death in  
the killing.

## THE BATTALION

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