



**Sports:**  
Women's basketball team wins.  
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## Fake Fives

The Bryan Police Department recommends checking bills for authenticity by looking at these characteristics:

- 1 The color of the bill.
- 2 The cut of the bill. It shouldn't be crooked or too small.
- 3 On bills larger than \$1 there should be a watermark and a security strip.
- 4 The color should not run when the bill is wet.

ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: WALT MELNYK, BRYAN P.D. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

# B-CS hit with forged five dollar bills

By Sonia Moghe  
THE BATTALION

Area vendors are being warned to check all incoming bills after four reports of counterfeit \$5 bills were made by local businesses last week.

"At the last count we've had 20 \$5 bills turned in," said Walt Melnyk, public information officer for the Bryan Police Department.

Will Lee Sims was arrested on Jan. 25 outside of King Mart on 800 E. MLK after being caught using counterfeit bills, Melnyk said.

Reports of counterfeit bills were made on Jan. 29 at the Sonic and the Preference Inn Motel, located on

South Texas Avenue.

Tobacco Barn also reported a counterfeit five on Jan. 30. On Jan. 31, another report of counterfeit \$5 bills was made by the Appletree on 2001 E. State Hwy 21.

Melnyk encourages those dealing with cash to invest in counterfeit detection pens which are available at most office supply stores.

"(The pens) work off of a color coding system," said Monty Northern, assistant store manager for Office Depot. "If a bill is marked by a pen and the mark turns yellow or clear, then it's a legitimate bill; if the mark turns grey or brown then the currency is suspect."

Shirley Stratta, store manager for Appletree, said counterfeit pens helped her store detect forged bills.

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"We used the counterfeit pen," Stratta said. "But the \$5 bill was obvious; the ink was running and it was smaller."

Stratta says the store routinely checks \$100 bills and \$50 bills with the pens, but in light of the recent circumstances, it will start checking \$5 bills as well.

Chris Johnson, assistant to the special agent in charge of secret service in Houston, said he does not feel that the pens are accurate.

"The only things those pens do is detect calcium that's

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# Ross Street construction delayed due to problems

By Erin Price  
THE BATTALION

Ever since Erin Weigle came to Texas A&M in the fall of 2001, she has seen the cones on Ross Street but has yet to watch any construction being done.

"I really think they need to hurry up with the construction," said Weigle, a junior marketing major. "Ross Street is an inconvenience to everyone who uses it."

Dick Williams, assistant vice president for Physical Plant, said there is a plan for Ross Street, and that funds and other priorities have postponed the street's rebuilding.

"About six years ago, the cones were placed as a safety precaution to block off a portion of the north side of the street," Williams said. "We started the planning of what we needed to accomplish in order to permanently fix the street."

Williams said the reconstruction of Ross Street was initially part of the Main Campus Roads and Drainage project, which began in 2001. The highest priority at the time was to correct the major flooding problems on Bizzell Street and New Main, as requested by the city of College Station, he said.

"We delayed the Ross Street issue because of the present construction of the new Brown Chemical Engineering Building," Williams said. "We could not close Spence and Ross streets at the same time."

Williams said the delays were also caused by the abundance of utility lines that lie beneath Ross Street. A 10-by-10 foot tunnel for water, electrical and telephone lines will have to be

built underneath the street to avoid service interruption.

"The hardest part of the project is going to be continuing (utility) service to the buildings along Ross Street," Williams said. "Another major concern is protecting the surrounding trees."

Liz Adams, a junior psychology major, said she has almost given up hope that construction will ever start.

"To me, Ross Street symbolizes laziness which in turn reverses productivity," Adams said. "I don't think we are promoting a productive environment."

Megan Fincher, a student bus driver and a sophomore interdisciplinary studies major, has also noticed the problems on Ross Street, but it does not bother her.

"It's not hard to maneuver (the buses)," Fincher said. "It's usually the other cars and pedestrians that cause the traffic jams, but it's usually not that bad."

Fincher said the sooner Physical Plant fixes all the potholes, that the better the driving conditions will be.

"As long as they're working on it to the best of their ability, that's fine with me," Fincher said.

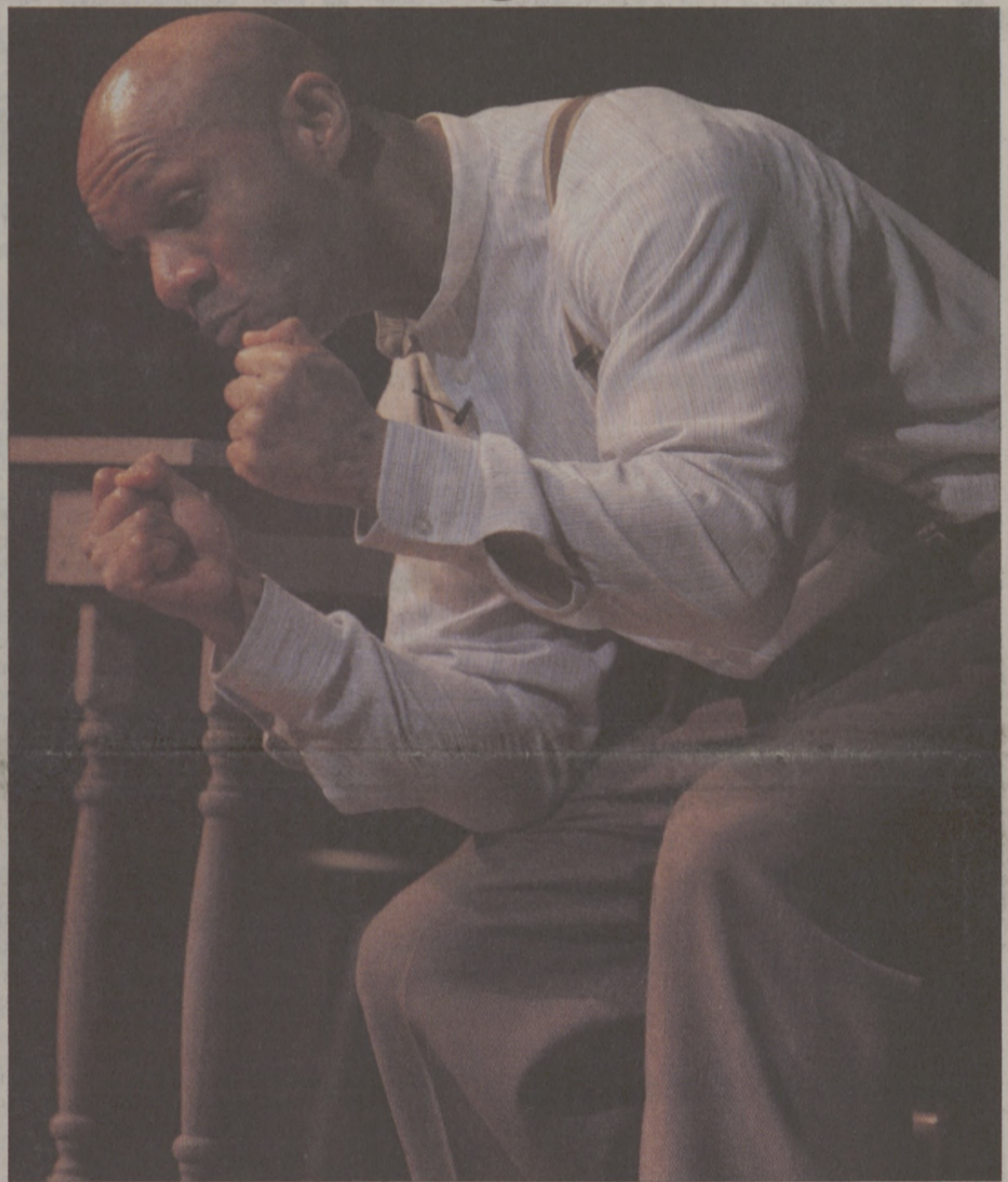
Williams said that once the final design is approved, construction on Ross Street will most likely begin in the spring of 2005. The project will cost about \$6 million and take nine months to a year to complete, he said.

"We will do our best to inconvenience the fewest number of students, faculty and staff as possible," Williams said.

**"We will do our best to inconvenience the fewest number of students, faculty and staff."**

— Dick Williams  
assistant vice president for Physical Plant

# The Wright stuff



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Charles Holt performs "Black Boy" in Rudder Theater on Wednesday evening. The play is based on a book by Richard Wright that depicts the troubles of a young African American from the South.

# Wilson named MSC president

By Rhiannon Meyers  
THE BATTALION

Lindsey Wilson was named Memorial Student Center (MSC) president for the 55th MSC Council late last month after an interview process with seven council members and staff.

Wilson, a senior education major, will continue serving as executive vice president for human relations for the MSC Council until her official inauguration on April 19, 2004.

As president, Wilson will be responsible for overseeing the council, speaking with University administrators and leaders of student organizations and handling all internal and external MSC affairs.

Wilson, who has been involved with the MSC Council for four years, decided to get involved because of the council's great values.

"It is a place where I found out I really fit in," she said. Wilson decided to apply for president because she felt it was the best way she could serve the students.

"I put a lot of thought into where I wanted to be my last year at A&M, and I know how much passion I have for the MSC council," Wilson said.

Current MSC Council President Elizabeth Dacus said Wilson was chosen because she is highly qualified for the position.

"She worked directly under me for two years and has done a fabulous job," Dacus said. "I expect that she will deal well with any problems that come up and manage the council well."

After inauguration, Wilson plans to maintain the new MSC Council structure, continue the commitment to diversity on campus and provide quality programming for students. Wilson also plans to write out a code of ethics for the MSC for the first time in MSC history.

"I want to show the University and students involved in the MSC that we value ethical behavior and that we are fully committed to making this an ethical organization," Wilson said.

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# Busting feminist stereotypes

By Carrie Pierce  
THE BATTALION

Women have come a long way since the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, said Jennifer Baumgardner in front of a crowd of about 100 people Wednesday night at the Memorial Student Center.

The lecture is part of the "Can I Be a Feminist and Shave, Love My Boyfriend, Make Money, Get Married, Be Pro-Life?" campus tour.

"Women used to have to sneak into the Boston Marathon," Baumgardner said. "We've had so many opportunities in our lifetime to see that women are strong. Today we define feminism as having access to enough information to make informed

choices about your life."

Baumgardner, along with Amy Richards, spoke to promote the book they co-wrote in 2000, "Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future."

This book discusses Generation X's view of feminism and dismisses stereotypes that feminism has come to be associated with. It also questions what feminism is today and where it is as a movement, Richards said.

A woman can still be herself and be a feminist, Richards said. The third wave of feminism exists today and this wave has its own characteristics. The main difference is the recent issues concerning reproductive rights.

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Jennifer Baumgardner speaks about feminism and promotes her new book, "Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future," Wednesday night in the MSC.

# Bonfire memorial progressing

By Pammy Ramji  
THE BATTALION

Construction on the Bonfire Memorial, slated to be completed this fall, is making progress as the first delivery of granite panel stones arrived from China late last month, Texas A&M officials said.

Preparations for the memorial to honor the 12 Aggies killed and 27 injured in the Nov. 18, 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse began last year.

The granite panel and stones, part of the tradition plaza and history walk, are going to be installed this month, said Martha Raney, administrative assistant for the Bonfire

Memorial

In May, the granite portals of the spirit ring will be installed. In August the bronze portals of the spirit ring will be installed, and the construction will be completed in October, Raney said.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Nov. 18, 2004, the fifth anniversary of the collapse.

Richard West, father of Nathan West, one of the 12 students killed in the collapse, recommended a firm in Houston that could the ship the granite to College Station from China, said Bob Shemwell, who is with

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EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Roberto Salis (left) and Baldemar Hernandez nail beams in place for the "spirit ring" on Wednesday afternoon. The "spirit ring" will have 12 portals.