



Sports:
Aggie swimmers have impressive weekend.
Page 7



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Mike Ruesink of the College Station Fire Department operates a ladder at the Olive Garden restaurant on Texas Avenue. College Station firefighters responded to a call at 5:05 a.m. Feb. 8. The incident is still under investigation.

Fire destroys Olive Garden

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

A fire early Sunday morning destroyed the Olive Garden on Texas Avenue. The fire probably started in the kitchen's vent hood, said Battalion Fire Chief Fred Rapczyk of the College Station Fire Department. The fire is still being investigated. Rapczyk said CSFD was informed of the fire at 5 a.m. because the smoke in the building had set off the sprinklers, which activated a water-flow alarm. The alarm company then called the fire department, which sent one truck to investigate. That unit immedi-

ately called for backup, Rapczyk said.

Thirty-five firefighters with 10 trucks spent three hours putting the fire out, Rapczyk said.

Robin Burt, the general manager, said the entire roof caved in and most of the equipment was destroyed, either by the fire or the damage from the building collapsing.

"It's like losing your home," she said. "I don't think we could salvage a thing out of there."

Burt said another Olive Garden will most likely be built in College Station, although it could take a year.

"Whether we rebuild on that site or choose one that's maybe a little bit better than that one remains to be decided," she said.

Burt said she has 100 employees at the store.

"I have a great wonderful team of employees, and knowing that it's going to be very hard to survive this all the way until we get rebuilt and repaying every one of them," she said. "That's very painful, too."

Burt said she will probably give them two more weeks worth of pay and work hard to place them in other local restaurants or

See Fire on page 2

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MSC hosts Silent Witness program

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

More than 100 women in Texas were murdered in 2002 as a result of domestic violence and, of those, more than 15 were within 50 miles of the Brazos Valley, with one reported in the Bryan-College Station area, said Christy Elliston, a training specialist at Phoebe's Home, a shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Elliston said she wants to get the word out about Silent Witness National Initiative, a program founded in 1990 by a group of women upset about the growing number of Minnesota women murdered by their partners or acquaintances.

The women created free-standing, life-sized red wooden figures, each one bearing the name of a woman who worked, had neighbors, friends, family or children, whose life ended violently at the hands of a husband, ex-husband, partner or acquaintance, Elliston said. These figures are called witnesses.

They started with 26 figures in 1990, and today there are an estimated 3,500 witnesses across the 50 states and in 27 countries.

A group of representatives from several law enforcement organizations and Texas Rep. Fred Brown will be on hand for the presentation of the Silent Witness project Monday at noon in at Memorial Student

Center Flag Room.

During the presentation, 16 life-sized red figures will be on hand to stand as silent witnesses to domestic violence. Each figure will have a sign indicating the name and a brief story of the victim it represents.

"This is a very serious issue that everyone needs to learn about, it should not be taken lightly," said Ehsan Azizi, a junior finance major.

Elliston said women need a strong support system of family and friends so one does not feel isolated, which would help

lower the number of domestic violence instances.

"The goal of the Silent Witness program is to have zero domestic violence deaths by 2010," said Sara Bendoraitis, a graduate assistant for Gender Issues Education Services. "A fight

can start out as an argument and turn out to be very serious."

Currently, there are no Silent Witnesses in the Brazos Valley area.

Bendoraitis said people need to learn more about domestic violence and they need to know the warning signs.

Texas A&M will hold a walk March 8-11, Elliston said.

Elliston said the celebration embraces the institution's commitment to the inclusion, welcome, and support of individuals from all groups, encompassing the various characteristics of people in our community.

"This is a very serious issue that everyone needs to learn about, it should not be taken lightly."

— Ehsan Azizi
junior finance major

Blood drive falls short of expected quota

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Brian Brozovic, a junior animal science major, said he donates blood every chance he gets.

"If I can help by donating then that's what I want to do," he said. "You never know what might happen."

Brozovic said he was inspired to donate blood by his grandfather, who made donating blood into a family competition to see who of the two would donate more blood.

Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity, sponsored a campus blood drive Feb. 4-6 with the assistance of Carter Blood Care, but did not meet its goal of 800 units.

Jeremy Parker, a phlebotomist for Carter Blood Care, said the drive collected only 70 units of blood as of late Thursday.

The donations from the first of the two blood

drives that Alpha Phi Omega hosts each semester help serve parts of Northern and Central Texas, Parker said.

Parker said many people depend on blood donations, from people who have blood related diseases such as leukemia to people who need emergency organ transplants, bone marrow transplants, heart surgery patients, burn victims and automobile accident victims.

However, Parker said blood supply levels are not at a critical level at this time, but that that could change at any time.

"Accidents, emergencies and disasters can occur at any time, and these are the times when levels become depleted," Parker said. "You never know when someone needs blood."

Jacqui Bourland, president of Alpha Phi Omega, said she was disappointed with the turnout, but said other blood drives may have been

a factor.

Blood donors can only donate blood every 56 days because it takes about a month for the body to replace the pint of blood donated, Parker said.

Bourland said only 3 percent of the Texas population donates blood, putting the state in a position to import blood from elsewhere, which is a costly process.

"Donating blood is necessary and important, you never know who is going to need it, you never know when you are going to need it," Bourland said.

Even though the expected goal was not reached, Bourland said she was not discouraged.

"You can not be disappointed with any result of a blood drive, every bit helps," she said.

Bourland said Alpha Phi Omega will be co-sponsoring another blood drive with American Red Cross April 12-16.

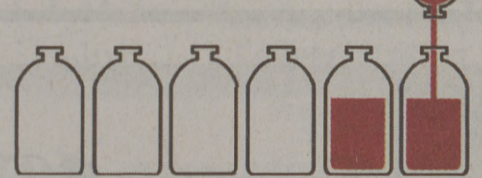
BLOOD WOES

Alpha Phi Omega sponsored a blood drive Feb. 4-6. The goal was to collect 800 pints of blood.

As of Thursday, only 70 pints were collected.

Only 3 percent of the population of Texas donates blood.

At crucial times, the state must import blood from out-of-state, which can be costly.



MAHESH NEELAKANTAN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE : CARTER BLOOD CARE

Panel discusses challenges facing women in academics

By Anthony Woolstrum
THE BATTALION

Although women have made great strides toward equality in academic circles, women are still discriminated against in different fashions, said a group of women administrators and faculty members who gathered Friday to discuss challenges that women face in academia.

A five-member panel of women administrators met in the Faculty Club and discussed tips on how women can succeed in the academic community.

The panel consisted of Patricia Arke, professor of teaching, learning and culture; Mary Jo Richardson, interim dean of the College of Geosciences; Karen Kubena, associate dean of Natural Sciences; Valerie Taylor; and Theresa A. Maldonado, associate dean of the College of Engineering.

They said a new mind set is developing that sees higher education and administration as much of a woman's job as a man's. The situation is just improving slower than in other professional communities. The panelists emphasized how they kept their personal lives separate from their professional lives.

"Networking is exceedingly important," Richardson said.

Larke said encouragement from her family and church friends was crucial to her ongoing success. Even with a strong network, when there are not many women in a department, some women say they still feel alone.

"The academic culture is very traditional and very political," Maldonado said. "You're going to fail, just learn from it."

See Panel on page 2

46th Annual Grammy AWARDS

Record of the Year

Coldplay
"Clocks"

Album of the Year

Outkast
"Speakerboxxx/The Love Below"

Song of the Year

Luther Vandross
"Dance With My Father"

Best New Artist

Evanescence

For the complete list of winners visit www.thebatt.com

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE : WWW.GRAMMY.COM

Luther Vandross, Beyonce big winners at Grammys

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Balladeer Luther Vandross, recovering from a stroke, won four Grammys on Sunday including song of the year for "Dance With My Father," and Beyonce earned a record-tying five honors.

OutKast won album of the year for "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" in a ceremony televised by CBS on a five-minute delay to avoid anything like Janet Jackson's Super Bowl flesh flash.

Despite a tightly scripted show devoid of outrageousness or spontaneity — a marked contrast to today's pop scene — Jackson's breast-baring at the hands of dance partner Justin Timberlake remained the major subplot, as CBS and

Jackson offered conflicting reports about why she was not at the show.

"I know it's been a rough week on everybody," said Timberlake, stifling a self-deprecating laugh while accepting the best male pop vocal performance award for "Cry Me a River." He brought his mother as his date. "What occurred was unintentional, completely regrettable, and I apologize if you guys are offended."

Vandross won for best song, best R&B album and best male R&B performance for "Dance With My Father," and best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals for "The Closer I Get to You," a remake he did with Beyonce.

He was unable to attend, but sent

See Grammys on page 2