



**Entertainment:**  
MTV's new  
channel targets  
college students  
Page 4

Volume 110 • Issue 88 • 10 pages

A Texas A&M Tradition Since 1893

www.thebatt.com

PAGE DESIGN BY : LAUREN ROUSE

## Wright: Black History Month is for everyone

### Black History Month

George C. Wright, president of Prairie View A&M University, will speak to students, faculty and staff about the importance of Black History Month.

Where: Sterling C. Evans Library Room 204E

When: Tuesday, 1:30 pm.

A reception will follow the speech.

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE : STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY

By Rhiannon Meyers  
THE BATTALION

George C. Wright, president of Prairie View A&M University, will speak to Texas A&M students and faculty Tuesday afternoon at the Sterling C. Evans Library about the importance of Black History Month.

"I hope this will make the point very strongly that Black History Month is for everyone, not just for black people," Wright said. "I hope to give (A&M students) a real dose of our history."

Wright's speech will mark the 50th

anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court decision, which ended mandatory segregation.

"I will look at what the Brown decision did," Wright said. "People are simply not aware of the significance of the decision."

Charlene Clark, public relations officer for University Libraries, said the library invited Wright because he is a noted black scholar and historian. Clark said Wright will address topics such as desegregation and the civil rights movement.

Wright said he would like to engage the students and faculty in his discussion, challenge them and then allow them to offer him

their opinions.

"Race relations has been one of the most vexing things in American history," Wright said. "I can speak personally to how much progress we have made, but the bottom line is we still don't know much about each other."

Wright said he will answer any questions regarding the topic of Prairie View student voting rights and the recently filed lawsuit in the question/answer period after the speech.

Wright will speak at 1:30 p.m. in Evans Library, room 204E, immediately followed by a reception.

## Faculty Senate addresses master plan, enrollment

By Carrie Pierce  
THE BATTALION

The Campus Master Plan, which assesses Texas A&M's physical environment to meet Vision 2020 needs, is being discussed by the Faculty Senate meeting Monday afternoon.

Bill Perry, chair of the Built Environment Council and executive associate dean, said the council is focusing on the idea of an academic corridor that will be devoted to teaching and research.

"The goal that we have for the long term is a line space," Perry said.

Perry said the council is looking at master plans to estimate building needs.

"There is still a conversation to be had in the financial council," he said. "We've got to find out how to fund new construction."

The Senate also discussed A&M's admissions policy and minority enrollment.

Speaker Frank Ashley, acting provost for enrollment, discussed credentials for A&M enrollment and explained the statistics of the Fall Freshman class.

"We want to make sure that every student who admits to A&M is ready for academic rigor," Ashley said.

Ashley stressed the importance of

having a campus that is racially, economically and geographically diverse.

"We are not racially diverse," he said. "Our numbers were negative for African American enrollment last year."

Of the 6,500 freshmen enrolled in fall 2003, only 161 were black, Ashley said.

"We have something we have to work on here at Texas A&M," he said.

Ashley said the recruitment committee is sending people out to all regions of Texas to attract students, blanketing the whole state.

The recruitment committee and financial aid department are also coming together for the first time to discuss options, Ashley said.

Robert Strawser, former speaker of the Faculty Senate and accounting professor, discussed the continuing search for a new vice president of student affairs to replace J. Malon Southerland, who retired last year.

Strawser said there are 40 files being considered right now, including four internal files within the University, but the search committee may want to reopen the search.

The committee is still open to any nominations, Strawser said, and it will meet with A&M President Robert M. Gates on Friday to discuss more options for the search.

Gates will speak at the next Faculty Senate meeting scheduled for March 1.

## Bomber blows himself up trying to enter a home

By Mariam Fam  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A man wearing an explosives belt blew himself up Monday outside the home of two tribal leaders who have cooperated with American forces. Two U.S. soldiers were killed while disposing of explosives in northern Iraq.

Three Iraqi guards were seriously wounded in the blast outside the compound of brothers Majid and Ali Suleiman in Ramadi, northwest of Baghdad.

Witnesses said the brothers were receiving callers when a man approached the compound but was told to leave. He returned moments later and triggered the explosives, the witnesses said. The brothers are two of the city's most prominent tribal leaders who have worked with coalition forces.

Insurgents have repeatedly warned Iraqis not to cooperate with the Americans. The most recent threats were contained in pamphlets circulated in Ramadi and nearby Fallujah by a purported coalition of insurgent groups.

Ramadi and Fallujah are located in the Sunni Triangle, a major center of resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

The two American soldiers were killed in an explosion outside Sinjar near the northern city of Mosul during an operation to dispose of ordnance. Army operations chief Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said.

Five soldiers were hurt in the blast, according to a statement issued by the U.S. military's Task Force Olympia. The statement said the soldiers were moving mortar shells and

rocket propelled grenades from a storage area to a demolition point when the explosion occurred.

One of the soldiers was killed instantly. The second soldier died later of his injuries. Three of the injured were hospitalized in stable condition and two others were treated for minor injuries and returned to duty.

The names of the two victims were withheld pending notification of their families.

Elsewhere, U.S. and Iraqi forces deactivated several rockets that were primed for launch along a road toward the city of Baqouba, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

Also Monday, defense officials in Washington said American forces in Iraq have detained one of the remaining most-wanted members of Saddam Hussein's government.

Muhsin Khadr al-Khafaji, No. 48 on the 55 most-wanted list, was turned over last weekend to U.S. troops in the Baghdad area, the officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. The officials did not say who turned him over.

In Baghdad, the U.N. experts met with several Iraqi politicians in a second round of meetings Sunday to discuss the chances of holding early elections, a source of conflict between the United States and the influential Shiite clergy.

Team leader Lakhdar Brahimi met individually with several members of the U.S.-installed Governing Council to "gather facts," said Ahmad Fawzi, the team's spokesman.

The transfer of power is becoming a major headache for the U.S.-led coalition and the Governing Council.

The current U.S. plan is to choose

See Bomber on page 2



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Kinesiology & sports management major Danita Gallegos reads plaques from the life-size wooden figures representing victims of domestic abuse, Monday afternoon in the MSC Flag Room. The 17 wooden statues are a part of Texas A&M's "Silent Witness" program, sponsored by the Department of Student Life's Gender

Issues Education service. The program was introduced to A&M in response to the violent death of a female A&M student in 2002. Each victim stands in silence wearing a plaque containing her name, age and a brief story on how her husband, boyfriend, partner or acquaintance ended her life.

## Silent Witnesses share stories

### New program sheds light on domestic violence

By Pammy Ramji  
THE BATTALION

On Dec. 28, 2002, Texas A&M freshman Jacqueline Roquemore, 18, was visited by her ex-boyfriend Christopher Taylor Young, who waited for her overnight outside of her apartment complex. After arguing with her in the parking lot for two hours, Young fatally shot Roquemore in the chest and then killed himself.

This was one of many domestic violence stories shared at the A&M Silent Witness program, which was held Monday in the Memorial Student Center Flag Room.

Sixteen life-sized red figures

stood as silent witnesses to domestic violence, each representing individuals who have been affected by domestic violence.

Rep. Fred Brown said the topic of domestic violence needs to reach women, especially at an early age.

"We are here to put an end to domestic violence," Brown said.

The goal of the A&M Silent Witness program as well as the Silent Witness National Initiative is to have zero domestic murders by the year 2010.

"Last year, two states had zero domestic murders," said Brian



Tenclinger, assistant director of student life.

Havilah Tower-Perkins, media relations coordinator for Texas Council on Family Violence, said every nine seconds a woman has been beaten and every week two women die from domestic violence in Texas.

"Abuse is not only physical," said Perkins, who was horrified when she heard that a woman was left on the side of the road after being stabbed by her husband. "Knowledge is empow-

erment."

See Witnesses on page 2

## University releases student rule additions

By Elizabeth Knapp  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University released additions and changes to student rules last week, including a switch from using Social Security numbers to University Identification Numbers, formalizing the usage of e-mail accounts for official communication and announcing the role of the Honor System Office, all of which will affect students, faculty and staff.

The University is reverting from the old system of using Social Security numbers to a random number given specifically to each student due to privacy concerns.

"I think it is a positive (move) for students in the long-run," said Matt Josefy, student body president and a senior accounting major. "For incoming freshmen, they won't even know the difference."

The rule requires all students to

remember a new 9-digit number that they will use upon registration and for taking tests on scantrons.

"I think that it is a good idea," said sophomore sociology major Kelly Dodd. "It helps prevent identity theft."

Student e-mail accounts are also in the process of being changed, said Pierce Cantrell, associate provost for information technology.

"This rule establishes e-mail as an official means for the University to communicate with students and places the responsibility to check e-mail on the students," Cantrell said. "The rule formalizes on policy on when we forward e-mail off-campus versus when we do not forward."

The new provisions to e-mail rules also note that e-mail addresses are part of directory information and describes how students can withhold the informa-

### New and revised student rules for 2004

These student rules are to govern student conduct and student activities at Texas A&M

Aggie Code of Honor

Revised

Student ID cards

New rule

Student e-mail

New rule

For a complete list of new rules, log on to:

www.thebatt.com

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE : HTTP://STUDENT-RULES.TAMU.EDU

See Rules on page 2