

# THE BATTALION

Tuesday, February 17, 2004



Aggielife:  
Meet R.  
DeLuna: the  
face behind  
"Fish."  
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## March for Diversity

**Compelling Interest: A rally and march for diversity**

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Rudder Fountain Plaza**

### SCHEDULE

**3 p.m. Dr. Anderson's remarks**

**3:15 p.m. March begins**

**5 p.m. March ends**

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: DR. HARRIS BERGER

# FCIC sponsors diversity rally

By **Sonia Moghe**  
THE BATTALION

The Faculty Committed to an Inclusive Campus (FCIC) will hold its march for diversity on Wednesday despite Texas A&M Student Government Association withdrawing its support for the march.

"We (the SGA) still support the diversity on campus," said John Mathews, student services chair for the SGA. "Obviously, the conflict is in how to (make the campus more diverse)."

Last Wednesday, the SGA passed the "Support for Diversity Bill" which severed SGA and FCIC ties after the SGA found that the FCIC openly supported using race as a factor in admissions.

"The fact that we withdrew our support (for the rally) was in light of questions that were being raised about our partnership with an

organization that has controversial positions like FCIC does," said Matt Josefy, a senior accounting major and student body president. "We never thought the FCIC was intentionally deceiving us."

Harris M. Berger, associate professor of music and performance studies and FCIC member, said the main purpose of the rally is to draw attention to the large number of people on campus who do support diversity.

Among those who do support diversity is the current administration, said Larry Oliver, a professor of English and member of the FCIC, which has been "more proactive than any other administration."

"I think the (Young Conservatives of Texas' November 2003) affirmative action bake sale did a lot of damage to (A&M's) public image," Oliver said. "We'd like to send a counter-image

so that students, particularly minority students, don't think this University has a hostile attitude." The office of the president is one of more than 30 organizations that agreed to co-sponsor the march.

"Dr. Anderson is speaking at the rally," Oliver said. "It belies the notion that there's a fence between the administration and the FCIC — we're hardly at war with the administration."

Aside from Anderson's remarks, there will be information tables set up by Rudder Fountain Plaza to help provide information on diversity and affirmative action.

Joseph O. Jewell, assistant professor of sociology and a member of the FCIC, said many of his students had strong opinions for or



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## Student dies in Appelt hall

By **Melissa Sullivan**  
THE BATTALION

Christopher Anthony Lawler, a sophomore petroleum engineering major and a resident of Appelt Hall, died Feb. 15.

The University Police Department said it confirmed that the death was self-inflicted, according to a press release distributed by Residence Life Monday.

Emer Schneider, associate director for UPD, said the investigation is ongoing and interviews are still in progress.

Schneider said UPD hopes to have more information in the next few days.

"The Residence Hall Association is deeply saddened by the death of Christopher Lawler," said Chris Mahaffey, president of the Residence Hall Association, in a statement. "The residents of Texas A&M University are our top priority, and throughout this time of mourning, we encourage them to seek solace and counseling. The students' family and friends, as well as the staff and residents of Appelt hall, will continue to be in our thoughts."

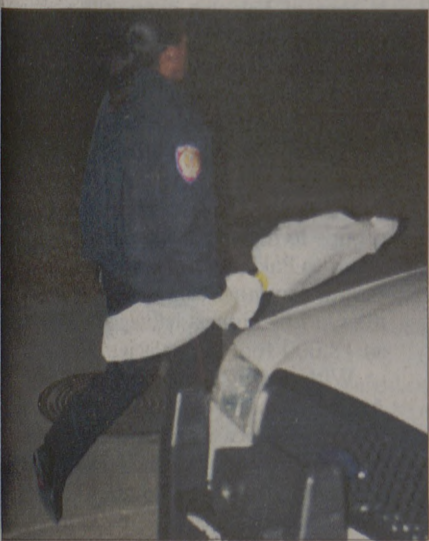
Matt Josefy, student body president and a senior accounting major, said it is sad to lose a fellow student.

"Anytime we lose a member of the Aggie family, it upsets us all," he said.

Wynn Rosser, assistant vice president of student affairs, said counselors were available in the residence hall's television lounge Monday for students and staff who needed to talk.

Student Counseling Services is still available to anyone who wants to talk. To contact call 845-4427. After 4 p.m., the Help Line is available at 845-2700.

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EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

UPD Senior police officer **Sharon McLean** carries the person that killed Christopher Lawler along the sidewalk near the Southside Parking Garage Monday morning.

## Aggie Girl Scouts aids younger troops

By **Natalie Younts**  
THE BATTALION

Nicole McKeon said she has been in Girl Scouts since she was 5 years old when her mom was the troop leader. She is still in Girl Scouts because it has helped her stay away from drugs and defy peer pressure. She said she wants to pass along the same lessons to middle school girl scouts.

"In middle school it's really rough to stay in Girl Scouts just because it's not the cool thing to do," said McKeon, Aggie Girl Scout vice-president and a senior applied math sciences major. "I just wanted to help out with the middle schoolers that are in it now and keep them involved."

Aggie Girl Scouts will sell Girl Scout cookies today through Friday at several locations around campus to raise money for the younger Girl Scouts in the Bryan-College Station area.

The Girl Scouts will sell cookies from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center, Zachry and Wehner.

The cookies come in eight varieties and cost \$3 per box.

The Aggie Girl Scouts will keep 40 cents per box and will donate all the profits to the Brownie Girl Scouts of Milam Elementary in Bryan so the girls can afford uniforms and

badges, McKeon said. "They can see on their vest how many badges they've earned, and they're so proud of it," she said.

McKeon said the group's goal is to sell 900 boxes of cookies this week, which would give it \$360 in profits.

Last year, the Aggie Girl Scouts made \$120 from cookie sales, which it donated to the Milam Girl Scouts, McKeon said.

McKeon said the troop in Bryan is an outreach troop, which means that it receives grants from the federal government.

If it makes enough money this year, Aggie Girl Scouts wants to pay for a girl to attend Girl Scout camp, McKeon said.

McKeon said the troop is working to sell more cookies this year so it can help more than one troop.

Onyinyechi Okoro, a sophomore political science major, bought three boxes of cookies at the MSC Monday. She said she looks forward to buying the cookies every year, because it helps the younger children and the money goes to a good cause.

Aggie Girl Scouts member Jillian Jaccar, a sophomore Spanish major, sold cookies at

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## C is for 'cookie'



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Sophomore agriculture engineering major **Jennifer Hundl** sells Girl Scout cookies outside Zachry Engineering building Monday afternoon. **Hundl**, a member of the Aggie Girl Scouts, and her troop will be selling cookies from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Student Center, Wehner and Zachry throughout the week.

# Barbara Bush to speak about White House life

By **Michael Player**  
THE BATTALION

Former first lady Barbara Bush will speak about her book "Reflections: Life after the White House" Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Rudder Theater.

Roman Papadiuk, executive director for the Bush Foundation, said Bush will speak on subjects ranging from the Sept. 11 tragedy to Bush family stories. She will also be reading excerpts from the book.

"(Barbara) Bush will be sharing her feelings

about 9-11, her son's inauguration and humorous vignettes of Bush family experiences," Papadiuk said. "And as a special treat, former President George Bush will be introducing his wife."

Barbara Bush is speaking as part of the Kay and Britt Rice Exhibit Lecture Series.

"The original venue for the lecture was the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center, but due to expressed interest, the location was changed to Rudder Theater," said Warren Finch, director of the Bush Presidential Library.

At the conclusion of Bush's lecture, she will

take questions from the audience, Papadiuk said.

The life of Barbara Bush will be the feature exhibit for the Bush Presidential Library beginning in April, said Patricia Burchfield, curator for the Bush Library.

"This year is 'Year of the Woman' at the George Bush Presidential Library," Burchfield said.

Tickets to the event are free and available at the Memorial Student Center Box Office, KBTX-TV, The Bryan-College Station Eagle and WTAW Radio.

# ConocoPhillips donates \$1 million for engineering student scholarships

By **Joaquin Salcedo**  
THE BATTALION

Brittani Zalenski, a sophomore petroleum engineering major, is paying her spring semester fees with a \$500 departmental scholarship and the money she earned over the summer through an internship.

"The scholarship didn't even cover the costs of my books last semester," Zalenski said. "My books were almost \$1,000 and there was one book — it was \$100 — that we didn't even open."

Students such as Zalenski will

now have the opportunity to receive more money by applying for more scholarships.

ConocoPhillips, the nation's third largest integrated oil company, has donated \$1 million for scholarships and fellowships for Texas A&M engineering students. The company cited its interest in forming a closer relationship with industry leaders and assisting students with financial costs and internship opportunities as the reasons for the donation.

Zalenski chose to challenge the odds and apply for a scholarship.

Larry D. Piper, undergraduate adviser for the Department of Petroleum Engineering, said corporations routinely give money to universities and colleges where they recruit future employees. This is one of the largest gifts given by a corporation to A&M in many years, he said.

The Texas A&M Foundation, a private, non-profit corporation that is in charge of all major monetary gifts to the University, will distribute the million-dollar donation according to the donor's wishes.

"The gift will support student schol-

arships, fellowships and programs in the Look College of Engineering, College of Geosciences and the Mays Business School, and other programs, such as the SPIRIT Scholars Program," said Veronica Evans, communication specialist for the Texas A&M Foundation.

Evans said the SPIRIT Scholars Program is a scholarship program benefiting geosciences, engineering and business students interested in energy business careers. With an initial scholarship award of \$5,000 or \$25,000 per semester, the award is even open to an

increase of \$1,000 following the completion of successful internships with ConocoPhillips.

Included in the SPIRIT Scholars Program are opportunities for students such as Zalenski to participate in leadership and team building activities with CP employees who will act as mentors, Evans said.

"It seems like a good program," Zalenski said. "Speaking from experience, just having the experience in the

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