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**FISH**



BY R. DELUNA FCIC  
 Continued from page 1A

against affirmative action, but didn't know what exactly it was. "If (students) support diversity, they should come out (to the event)," Jewell said. "If they're trying to make up their minds, they should come out and learn it's an opportunity to have civilized dialogue."

Josefy said despite the recent legislation, the SGA still supports efforts for increasing diversity on campus. "A lot of people are with us in spirit," Oliver said. "How many will actually get out there and walk is the question."

**NOISE & POLLUTION**



BY JOSH DARWIN

**Girl Scouts**

Continued from page 1A  
 the MSC and has been in Girl Scouts since she was in kindergarten. She said she loves Girl Scouts because it teaches girls about many aspects of life.

**DUNNBOYZ**



by Will Lloyd

**Student**

Continued from page 1A  
 Josefy said with everyone helping each other, the University will get through this. "This will be one of those times we gather together," he said. Sonia Moghe contributed to this story.

**Scholarships**

Continued from page 1A  
 work field before you graduate from school sets up a really good path because you know what you're getting into and if you want to continue on pursuing that major." The program is a win-win situation for A&M and ConocoPhillips, Evans said. The SPIRIT Scholars Program will allow ConocoPhillips to identify students who will be significant players in the integrated energy industry and correspondingly allow students to benefit from the scholarships and experience the corporation provides. Zalski aspires to be one of the few students selected amongst the engineering majors for the program. "I know that I'll make a lot of good connections, and the money would really help if I would get a scholarship from that," she said. "I really need financial aid right now."

**NEWS IN BRIEF**  
**Renewed interest brought to Amber Alert program**

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — By the time an Amber Alert was issued for 11-year-old Carlie Brucia, a full day had passed since the moment she was led away by a dark-haired stranger in an abduction that was videotaped by a security camera. The alert on Feb. 2 caught the public's attention and is being credited with helping lead detectives to a suspect, Joseph P. Smith. But Carlie's body was found several days later, and now the alert system is under scrutiny for the ways it is used and the timing of its implementation. The new attention to the 7-year-old system comes at a time when a national Amber Alert system is in the works and more police agencies are turning to alerts to find missing children. While it is credited with helping rescue more than 120 children from kidnappers since 1996 — including Wednesday's kidnapping of month-old Jesse Peaster, who was found safe just hours he was taken from his home near Lincoln, Mo. — records show the use of the alert system has been haphazard. Some police departments have been quick to issue alerts when a child isn't in danger, while other agencies such as Sarasota have been more conservative in their approach and not issued alerts quickly, even when a child's life was at stake. The Justice Department says time is of the essence in abductions, citing statistics that show three-quarters of the children killed by their kidnappers are slain within the first three hours of their disappearance.

**India, Pakistan begin peace talks to settle disputes**

By Ashok Sharma  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan began historic meetings Monday aimed at preparing the way for a sustained peace dialogue on Kashmir and other disputes that have kept the neighbors at loggerheads for decades. Pakistan is eager to show quick progress during the three days of talks, which also are likely to cover confidence-building measures in the nuclear field to avoid an accident — especially considering admissions of leaks of nuclear technology by the father of Pakistan's nuclear program. India and Pakistan last held formal peace talks in July 2001 in Agra, India. Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee agreed to launch the new dialogue when they met on the sidelines of a South Asian summit in January. Jalil Abbas Jilani, a director-general in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, and Arun Kumar Singh, a joint secretary in India's External Affairs Ministry, shook hands and smiled before the start of the meeting. The sides met for nearly two hours in the morning before breaking for lunch. Singh is leading a four-member Indian team at the talks, the first real test of the two sides' willingness to show flexibility on long-entrenched positions, such as the disputed Kashmir region — the cause of two of the countries' three wars since their 1947 independence. A "line of control" divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, but both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety. More than 65,000 people have been killed in an insurgency that has raged in India-controlled portions of the territory since 1989. In the latest violence, suspected separatist rebels shot and killed a local politician Monday as he stood on a roadside in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, police said. Two police officers nearby raced to the scene and opened fire on the assailants. One officer was killed and the other wounded as the attackers retaliated, and the attackers escaped. Meanwhile, in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, more than 500 people Monday from a political group seeking Kashmir's independence blocked a main street for nearly two hours to protest the Pakistan-India talks. "These negotiations are being held to end the Kashmiris' struggle," said Ghulam Nabi War, a Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front leader. "The two countries are not interested in people of Kashmir. They don't respect their wishes." After coming close to fighting a fourth war in 2002, India and Pakistan have moved to restore transport links and diplomatic ties. Soldiers in November halted cross-border firing in Kashmir. India is also set to embark on its first cricket tour of Pakistan since 1989 — a breakthrough for the two cricket-crazy nations. "Pakistan is approaching these talks sincerely and earnestly. We hope that India would demonstrate matching reciprocity," Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan said Sunday. The two sides are likely to set up expert groups to discuss a dispute over the flow of water to Pakistan from the Wullar barrage in India's Jammu-Kashmir state and fighting at the world's highest battleground in Siachen, an 18,000-foot high glacier. With national elections due in India in April, no major decisions are expected by Vajpayee's government during this round of talks. However, the prime minister is expected to stay in power and pursue the peace process.

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