



Chilifest beefing up security this year

By Michael Player
THE BATTALION

Chilifest 2004, the largest outdoor music event in Texas, is expected to be larger than ever this year, and officials say they are beefing up security.

This year, Chilifest will feature live performances on Saturday from George Jones, Sammy Kershaw, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Pat Green and Jason Boland as well as chili tasting contests.

"When you have that many people in a relatively small place, there are definitely going to be some issues," said Constable Dennis Gaas of Burleson County.

Gaas said that this year, his office will be receiving assistance from more law enforcement agencies compared to previous years.

"Most concerns we have are the typical problems that arise from crowds and alcohol," Gaas said. "Fortunately we have never had a serious problem, but we continue to stay prepared and have even had briefings on terrorism."

The most serious offenses that occur at Chilifest are thefts and possession of narcotics, Gaas said.

"There will be plenty of peace officers and several EMT tent stations in and around the area at Chilifest," said Sgt. Dale Stroud of the Burleson County Sheriff's office. "There will be 47 officers from the Department of Public

CHILIFEST 2004

Chilifest will be held April 2 - 3 in Snook, Texas.

Advance tickets: **\$30**
At the gate: **\$35**

Nine buses will run from the old Wal-Mart parking lot on Texas Avenue in Bryan beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday.

There will be 47 officers from the Department of Public Safety to emphasize crime prevention.

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SOURCE: CHILIFEST.ORG

Safety at Chilifest this year, so the emphasis is on crime prevention through police presence."

To help with traffic this year, Bay Area Recreational Flyers Club (BARF) will assist DPS with traffic. Club members will be piloting powered chutes and communicating with police via radio.

"This is a volunteer effort by the club," said

See Chilifest on page 2

SBP round table turnout low

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Student turnout was low Monday as five of the six candidates for student body president gathered for a round table discussion sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho.

The round table discussion gave students a chance to get a closer and more personal view of the student body president candidates, said Tyam Bozeman, president of Sigma Gamma Rho and a senior manufacturing engineering and technologies major.

"We feel it is important to get the students a chance to get a feel for the candidates firsthand and have them ask questions

about issues they are concerned about," Bozeman said.

Student body president candidates Will McAdams, Mark McCaig, Jack Hildebrand, Narietha Carter and Steve Dutton, a representative for Andy Herreth, were in attendance at the discussion in Rudder Monday evening. Royd Hernandez was not present.

Bozeman asked each candidate what he considered to be the biggest problem at Texas A&M and how each expected to solve it.

Dutton, a senior political science major and spokesman for Herreth, said keeping traditions at A&M alive may not be a problem at this moment, but it is something that needs to be

focused on so that it will not be a problem in the future.

"We need to do whatever we can to keep our traditions alive and build them stronger; traditions is what makes us special," Dutton said.

McAdams said that as a student leader, he has watched the decline of attendance at athletic events, Silver Taps, Muster and other traditional events at A&M and that we need to focus on student involvement in these things.

"Lack of attendance is an indicator that we are making ourselves generic, we need to remain a unique university, we

See SBP on page 2

Survey says



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Senior civil engineering major Chris Mahaffey levels a survey reflector on the civil engineering lawn Monday afternoon for his civil engineering survey class. The reflector is being set up

for a process called electronic distance measuring. It will reflect a beam of light back to another surveyor which will calculate the distance between the surveyor and the reflector.

Women 'bringing home the bacon' at earlier ages

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

A recent study released by Andrew J. Rettenmaier and Thomas R. Saving found that women are now earning degrees at younger ages than men.

Rettenmaier and Saving are employed by the Texas A&M Private Enterprise Research Center PERC, a University-based public policy think tank, and recently completed a study of women in universities and the work force entitled "Bringing Home the Bacon." This study was published in the PERC February newsletter.

"Women are accumulating more human capital than in the past," Rettenmaier said. "They are going to

school in higher and higher rates relative to men."

There are more women college students than men college students, and this is a general trend among universities, Saving said.

The research center anticipates the investments women make in school will result in higher income, Rettenmaier said.

Rettenmaier and Saving's research states that "as women's educational investments have risen relative to men's, their entry wages have risen substantially."

Women now earn 93 percent of the median of men's wages, Rettenmaier said. The study stated that in 1975, women's wages were only 76 percent of men's.

"Women before were less

educated and spent less continuous time in the labor force," Saving said.

Saving said women are now spending closer to the same amount of time in the labor force as men.

"As new labor force has more education, the share of women with higher degrees will rise," Rettenmaier said.

Brenda Bethman, director of the Women's Center, said most of what she has read indicates that the earning gap is closing for middle class and highly educated women without families.

Rettenmaier said the reason it is still lower is because women choose degrees, such as education, that don't pay as well as jobs men choose.

See Women on page 2

Editors nominated for Battalion, Aggieland

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

The Media Board announced its nominees for student media editorial positions Thursday.

The Media Board, made up of nine faculty and student members, approved the nominations of Joshua Hobson for summer 2004 Battalion editor in chief, and Kendra Kingsley for fall 2004 Battalion editor in chief. Laura Brenner was named as editor in chief of the Aggieland yearbook.

Hobson, a senior agricultural journalism major has been with The Battalion since May 2002.

"I came in with a small portfolio and applied for a photography position," Hobson said.

"When I got hired I never thought I'd be editor in chief, but after being here day in and day out, this experience has taught me so much. Everyone here really is like a family, I've never dreaded coming to work."

Hobson has ambitious goals for this summer's Battalion.

"One of our photographers is studying abroad this summer and will be sending in weekly photos for a 'Week in Europe' segment that should be very interesting," Hobson said. "I also plan to utilize our equipment to expand coverage of the police beat."

Kingsley will be replacing Hobson in the fall. Kingsley has worked for The Battalion since the spring semester of 2001 as an Aggielife writer.

"When I first started, I was writing two stories a week, which is a lot for a new writer, but I would get really excited when I would see my name printed on the byline," Kingsley said.

Kingsley is a senior journalism major who will graduate in May and return as a graduate student to work as editor in chief.

"I think we've done a really good job with accuracy and in keeping good stories in the paper, but one thing I would like to do is start a campaign to recruit new writers," Kingsley said. "I want to dispel rumors that to write for The Batt you have to be a journalism major. That is just not true. Some of our best writers are not

See Editors on page 2



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Candidates from left to right, Aggieland Editor Laura Brenner, summer Battalion Editor Joshua Hobson and Battalion fall Editor Kendra Kingsley.

A&M, UT students to compete in SPAMARAMA

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

Rivalry between Texas A&M and the University of Texas will be kindled Saturday as teams from both schools attempt to win competitions honoring the American can of canned meat, SPAM.

The 26th annual SPAMARAMA is being held in Austin's Waterloo Park on April 3.

This occasion occurs annually in Austin and attracts between 5,000 and 10,000 people who participate in the day's activities.

A torch-carrying ceremony that starts in New York will kick off the event this year with a can of SPAM that will replace the typical flame and will be carried more than 3,000 miles until it reaches Austin.

"This year, the events include a SPAM Cook-off with both open and professional divisions, SPAM Jam Concert Series and the SPAMALYMPICS which includes the SPAM Call (a hog calling competition), SPAM Toss (meat-based version of an egg toss), Collegiate SPAM Relay and the



first-ever SPAM Burger-Eating Championship presented by the International Federation of Competitive Eating," said Nancy Goldstein of Shea Communications.

Students from both A&M and UT are invited to attend the first ever SPAM relay. Teams of four are being formed for the two colleges to compete in this challenge.

"I think that it is going to be a lot of fun, and I am interested in going and joining the festivities," said sophomore biomedical sciences major Jessica Haynie. "I think that it will be SPAMtastic."

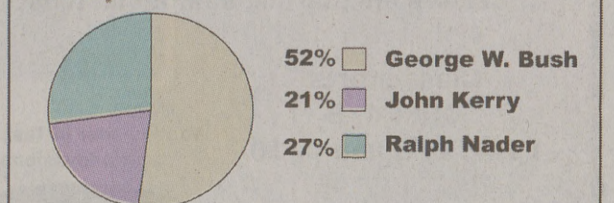
George Shea of Shea Communications said the captain of the UT squad has been competitively "trash talking" A&M, saying that Saturday will be a sad day for College Station.

The teams that are formed have also been invited to compete

See SPAM on page 10

THE BATTALION Online Weekly Poll

This Week's Results:
"If the presidential elections were held today, whom would you vote for?"



Next Week's Poll:
"Which student body president candidate will you vote for?"

Take this poll at: www.thebatt.com