

THE BATTALION

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SPORTS:
A day in the life of Terrence Murphy.
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PAGE DESIGN BY: LAUREN ROUSE

'Nerd shack'



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Lechner residents Paul Hillman, left, a freshman genetics major, and Bryan Griffith, a freshman mechanical engineering major, construct one of the "Nerd Shacks" by Rudder Fountain Monday

evening. Lechner Hall raised enough money to bid on two of the 10 lots available. The fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity lasts 24/7 until the shacks are torn down on Thursday.

Bishop named head yell leader

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

When Ryan Bishop's family friend Ted Duffy was elected head yell leader in 1998, Bishop's interest was sparked and he knew he wanted to attend Texas A&M.



BISHOP

After seeing how the student body interacted with the yell leaders and the excitement of the 30,000 people in the crowd at yell practice, Bishop, a senior yell leader elect and junior business administration major, became interested in the position of yell leader.

"Being a part of A&M was my focus, not really being a yell leader," Bishop said. "I am reminded every day of the opportunity I have and how special it is to serve A&M."

Bishop, who is from Colleyville, Texas, was chosen as head yell leader Monday afternoon by a panel of 16 students and staff. Student panelists included representatives from various organizations including the Residence Hall Association, International Student Association, Student Government Association and Class Councils, said Rusty Thompson, yell leader adviser.

Faculty panelists include representatives from the Department of Student Affairs, the Association of Former Students, the Athletic Department and one former yell leader. Once the panel nominates a candidate, he is approved by Bill Kibler, interim vice president for student affairs.

Head yell leader serves as a liaison between the yell leaders, the staff and student body, Thompson said.

The responsibilities include representing the student body at numerous functions as well as speaking to

former students and prospective students, Thompson said.

"They (yell leaders) spend all summer on the road talking to students, former students, Aggie Mom's clubs, Fish Camps and New Student Conferences," Thompson said.

The position also entails choosing which yell to do, Bishop said.

Houston Haley, senior yell leader elect and a junior business administration major, said Bishop will do a great job.

"It is good to come in with a good group of guys," Haley said. "Either one (Bishop or Paul Terrell) would have served greatly."

Keaton Askew, junior yell leader elect and a sophomore agricultural development major, described Bishop as having a good work ethic.

"I think he's going to do an excellent job," Askew said. "I'm extremely proud of him. He will fulfill his position to its highest."

Patrick Hebert, junior yell leader elect and a sophomore sports management major, said Bishop is a down-to-earth and godly person.

"He will definitely succeed," Hebert said. "He is always getting his job done, and he will continue to do that."

Bishop said his goals as head yell leader are building on last year and making sure that the yell leaders attend as many events as possible.

"This is a tremendous opportunity since we are elected by the student body, and we don't need to take that lightly," Bishop said. "I am excited but it really doesn't change much. I'll still be going to all events and be as active as I can."

Bishop said his favorite part of being a yell leader is getting to be around so many children and former students.

"This is the biggest honor I've ever had," Bishop said. "A&M means so much to me."

Sumpter to revamp journalism

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

Randall S. Sumpter said he wants students who are interested in the journalism field to know that by taking journalism as a minor, they will still receive a good education.

Sumpter, associate professor of journalism at Texas A&M, was recently named the coordinator of the newly formed Journalism Education Program in Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts aimed at creating a journalism minor and certificate program amid

other programs. In creating this new program, Sumpter said he has several responsibilities.

Sumpter said he has to finish the new Journalism Education Program and turn in the proposal for approval by various committees and then appoint an advisory committee of faculty and media professionals.

"I'm also putting together the Journalism as a Profession Program, which is a program that will directly mentor students in producing long-form projects, such as a news series rather than a single report," Sumpter

said. "The students will get help from people who do this on a daily basis, so this is a good situation for journalism students. Lastly, I'll continue to expand current internship programs for journalism students."

The program curriculum will then be presented to the Liberal Arts Curriculum committee, the Liberal Arts Council, the University Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate, Sumpter said.

"These committees will decide

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Aggieland, Battalion receive awards at TIPA

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

The AggieLand Yearbook received top honors Saturday at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association's spring convention in Austin.

Members of The Battalion participated in the convention in a number of events including news writing, photography and graphics.

Sharon Aeschbach received first place for sports feature photo.

Matt Rigney received first and second place honors for opinion page design. Dallas Shipp placed first for a sports column.

The following staffers placed second in the following categories: Rolando Garcia for a news story; Kim Katapodis for an AggieLife headline; True Brown and Dallas Shipp for sports page design.

Third-place honors went to Aeschbach for a news photo and Troy Miller for a sports news story.

Ruben Deluna and John Livas received honorable mention for an illustration and a sports action photo respectively.

During the on-site competition Aeschbach received first place for a news photo, Carrie Pierce received third place in press release writing and Rhiannon Meyers received honorable mention in news writing.

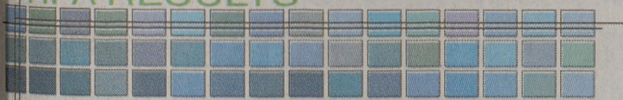
Katapodis said headlines are an important element to any article.

"I feel honored that of all the headline writers in Texas, I'm like the silver medalist," Katapodis said.

This was Pierce's first time competing at the TIPA convention, and she said attending served as a great

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TIPA RESULTS



Last weekend, April 1 through April 3, members of The Battalion traveled to Austin for the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference.

Onsite competition winners were:

- Sharon Aeschbach, News Photo - 1st Place
- Carrie Pierce, Press Release Writing - 3rd Place
- Rhiannon Meyers, News Writing - Honorable Mention

AggieLand Yearbook also won the award for best overall yearbook.

For a complete list of winners, visit www.thebatt.com

ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TIPA

Former student's mother supports alcohol legislation

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

Susan Wagener, a high school counselor of 20 years, said her first experience dealing with alcohol poisoning was with a middle school student. But when her son Michael, Class of 2000, died of alcohol poisoning in August 1999, she made it her goal to spread alcohol poisoning education to students and legislators alike.

Tuesday, Wagener will speak before Texas lawmakers urging them to take into consideration laws banning free alcohol birthday "shots," prohibiting drinks on midnight of someone's 21st birthday, prohibiting the

consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol in one serving, registering kegs and considering a resolution that will not allow alcohol advertising during broadcasts of college sporting events on both radio and television.

"There are other states ... that have some of these laws," Wagener said. "I feel (bars should) serve those that are 21 only at the opening hours rather than at midnight because then they are rushed to drink."

Since the death of her son, Wagener and her husband, Bodie, have contributed to a program that sends 21st birthday cards to

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SIGNS OF ALCOHOL POISONING

Susan Wagener will speak before Texas lawmakers Tuesday to convince them to adopt stricter laws to help prevent young adults from alcohol poisoning.

The following are symptoms of alcohol poisoning:

- Lack of awareness or of surroundings
- Irregular heart rate or pulse
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Unconsciousness or cannot be awakened
- Bluish color on fingernails

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: SUSAN WAGENER

Davies: Life on Earth may come from

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Paul Davies may be able to explain the origins of life on Earth with his theory that life on earth came from Mars.

"If there was life on Mars, continual rain of martian materials on earth could have sparked the creation of life here on Earth," Davies said.

Davies and Robert Shapiro were given the Trotter Prize Monday night at Rudder Theater, where they both presented theories on the origins of life.

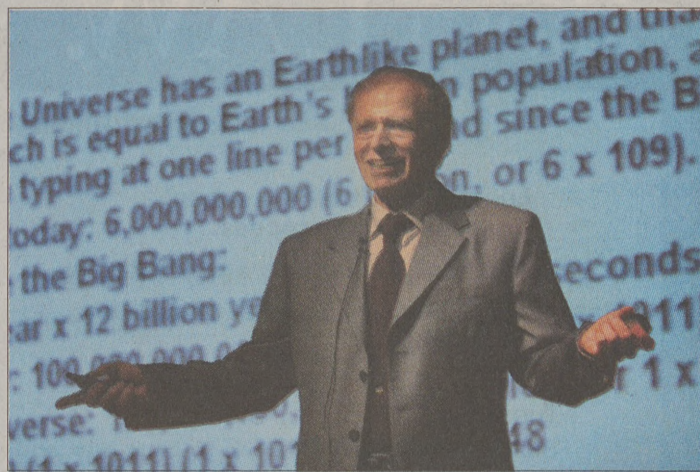
Marlan Scully, a professor of physics at Texas A&M, said he thought the event was "a stimulating exchange of ideas" as he introduced both Trotter Award winners.

Davies is a professor of natural philosophy in the Australian Centre for astrobiology at Macquarie University. He has conducted research in the fields of cosmology, gravitation and quantum field theory and also wrote the book "The Fifth Miracle."

Davies said his research is not concerned with the question of how the origin of life came to Earth, but when and where the origin of life came to Earth.

Davies said life in the deep sea exists around volcanic vents, and organisms exist not only on the surface of the earth but deep within its crust. He said this led him to believe that because recent exploration of Mars proves that water existed there at one time and Olympus Mons — the largest volcano in the solar system — is located on Mars, then it is possible that organisms could or have survived on Mars.

"Volcanoes and water could be evidence of the possibility of life on Mars," Davies said.



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Robert Shapiro, a New York University chemistry professor, speaks at Rudder Theater about the origins of life. The event was hosted by the College of Science and the Dwight Look College of Engineering.

Davies said that with constant bombardment from space 3.5 billion years ago, pieces of martian rock containing organisms could have landed on earth, creating life.

"I understand that this process could work in the other way, rocks with organisms from earth creating life on Mars, and also that

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