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## Class of 2006

# A-a-a-a-a-a

## Sophomore Survey begins April 19<sup>th</sup>

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If you are a member of the Class of 2006, watch your *neo* email account for the survey link!

To view results of other surveys, go to:  
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Student Life Studies  
A department in the Division of Student Affairs

### FISH

**BY R. DELUNA**

### NOISE & POLLUTION

**BY JOSH DARWIN**

### DUNNBOYZ

**by Will Lloyd**

### Air

Continued from page 1

ozone in the area.

"Houston is subject to frequent brief periods of air stagnation and recirculation due to the effect of the sea breeze cycle," Nielsen-Gammon said. "These periods allow emitted pollution to build up in a single, concentrated location in the atmosphere."

During the day, the ozone level in Houston soars above the NAAQS and poses a serious threat to the health of people who live there. The government standard for ozone concentration in an area is 120 parts per billion (PPB) air, and on hot summer afternoons, the ozone concentration in Houston can escalate to 200 PPB or 300 PPB, Zhang said. Ozone is a poisonous gas, and is dangerous for humans and animals to breathe.

"There are around five million people in the greater Houston area," Zhang said. "And many of these people could (develop) health problems associated with breathing bad air, such as emphysema and asthma."

At night, the ozone level falls drastically, almost to zero. This occurs because the industrial plants continuously emit nitric oxide throughout the night, which removes the ozone in the air and results in a "hole" of surface ozone over Houston, Zhang said.

Zhang said these results suggest that a decrease in emissions that lead to the formation of ozone is necessary to control the dangerous ozone levels in Houston.

"Houston has some of the worst ozone levels in the country, due to its large population and surrounding industries," Zhang said. "(Houston contains) nearly 50 percent of the nation's petroleum refining capability."

Zhang said regular control of the emissions from these refineries and plants would help the ozone levels stay lower and would improve the quality of the air in Houston.

"Reduction needs to be made for emissions from industry, such as power plants, refineries, and petrochemical plants," Zhang said. "Alternative energy sources and a more efficient means of transportation are also needed."

Nielsen-Gammon agrees

that the high ozone levels in Houston are a substantial concern and that there needs to be more control of emissions that lead to the formation of ozone to make the air safer for people to breathe.

"The problem is so severe that reductions in pollution will have to come from all segments of society," Nielsen-Gammon said. "For example, speed limits are already low in the Houston area (and) industry will be responsible for cutting a larger fraction of their emissions than will most other pollution sources."

Nick Shaver, a sophomore aerospace engineering major, lives in downtown Houston and is concerned about the high ozone levels in the area.

"I think the government has a responsibility to try to control the harmful emissions in order to make a safer environment," Shaver said. "As I see it, the problem can only get worse, and I don't want future generations to have health problems because power plants would rather be cost efficient than environmentally safe."

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# THE BATTALION

Elizabeth N. Webb, Editor in Chief

THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and Texas A&M University, Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX 77840. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 014 Reed McDonald Building, phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: [news@thebattalion.net](mailto:news@thebattalion.net); Web site: <http://www.thebattalion.net>

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a copy of The Battalion. First copy free, additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year or \$120 for a two-year subscription. For advertising rates, call 845-2696 or spring semester, \$17.50 for the summer or \$10 a month. To charge by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express, call 845-2611.