



## Texas A&M to head homeland security center

By Melissa Sullivan  
THE BATTALION

The Department of Homeland Security has chosen Texas A&M to lead one of two partnerships for the National Center for Foreign Animal Zoonotic Disease Defense.

A&M, along with The University of Texas Medical Branch, the University of California at Davis and the University of Southern California, will be the four primary partners for the new center. The group of universities will have \$18 million allocated to it over the next few years. The amount

each institution receives will be based on research elements and those people conducting the research, and there is not a set amount for each school, said Neville Clarke, head of the center.

"The money will be distributed to the scientists," he said.

Research at the center will concentrate on threats posed by diseases passed from animals to humans and foreign animal diseases. Rift Valley Fever, foot-and-mouth disease and avian influenza are some examples, Clarke said.

Clarke said he wants to use the research on the diseases as a tool to look at the overall problems

with homeland security so that they can do more than study developments.

"We have to work to cover all different kinds of threats and break the big picture," Clarke said.

"We will be experienced and equipped to do that," Clarke said.

Clarke said students will play a crucial role in the center by being in the labs and traveling.

"Three major parts of the centers mandate deal with education, and we have proposed to do a couple of things including increasing opportunities for undergraduates to get exposure to what we are doing," Clarke said.

Clarke said the center is interested in expand-

ing the graduate training program to create the next generation of scientists who will be involved in the training for a new set of people to be emergency responders.

"To have a more informed general public in Texas is an important part of the game plan," he said.

Clarke said A&M's selection into the partnership is rewarding and it encompasses an opportunity and responsibility for the part of homeland security that affects the health and safety of livestock across the United States.

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## Enders races to the top

By Michael Player  
THE BATTALION

Few people can say they have won a national racing event.



ENDERS

However, Erica Enders, a sophomore marketing major from Houston, who has been interested in drag racing since she was a child, has just won the 2004 O'Reilly Drag Nationals.

"One day I came to my dad and told him I wanted to race, and that started it all," Enders said.

Enders won the super gas class at the 2004 O'Reilly Drag Nationals held in

Houston last weekend. She is one of only 35 females to ever win a national racing event.

In the final race, Enders competed against a fellow Aggie and childhood friend, Jonathan Johnson, a sophomore architecture major.

"We grew up together, and I don't mind losing to her because I know she is talented," Johnson said.

Enders said there is more to racing than just getting into a car and driving.

"I drive a machine with a 632 cubic engine that turns out 1,280 horse power, so you really have to know what you are doing behind the wheel," Enders said. "I have about 5,000 passes down the track under my belt."

Enders is a graduate of the Hawley Racing School and is licensed to race top-fuel

Funny Cars.

"We, my family and I, put tons of energy into racing, and one day I hope that it will pay off," Enders said. "I like competing, and all the racers out there are like family to us."

Her father, Greg, said he knew things were serious when Erica became a professional racer at age 16.

Erica Enders said family is one of the reasons she has fallen in love with the Aggie spirit.

"I knew very little of Aggieland before I came here," Enders said. "A&M was close and they had a renowned business school. Now that I am here, I feel really blessed to be a part of (the University)."

To add to Enders' surrealistic life, Disney made an original movie about the Enders

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## Schoolhouse rock



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Professor Kevin Patton plays the electric guitar in an informal jazz concert Tuesday evening held in the Academic Building.

The concert featured improvised guitar and bass. Patton is a professor of jazz history, electronic music and guitar.

## New life sciences building may advance leadership

By Aerin Toussaint  
THE BATTALION

The proposed new life sciences research building will be an asset to the campus because of its interdisciplinary focus, said Mary Miller, chair of Campus Master Plan Steering Committee and associate vice president for administration.

A proposal for the building will be brought before the Texas A&M System Board of Regents in July.

A&M President Robert M. Gates said research in life sciences is one of the most important areas of research in the world today, and that a facility dedicated to this research will advance A&M's leadership in this area and prove the quality of education in this field.

"The Council on the Built Environment has designated this facility as having the highest priority on our campus," Gates said.

Interdisciplinary research that involves different scientific and engineering principles is at the cutting edge of discovery, Gates said.

"While many interdisciplinary research projects in this area have been developed by Texas A&M faculty, involving multiple departments at colleges, we have not had the facilities to take advantage of the opportunities offered by such projects," Gates said.

The complex will house teaching and research involving the colleges of agriculture and life sciences, engineering, veterinary medicine and science, Gates said.

The life sciences building is expected to be massive, perhaps as large as 300,000 square feet, and will cost around \$100 million to construct, Gates said.

### EXPANDING THE FIELD

A formal proposal to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents for a new life sciences research building will be ready for approval in July.

The complex will house teaching and research within the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine and Science

Will cost \$100 million

No tuition or fees will be used to construct the facility

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: A&M PRESIDENT ROBERT M. GATES

The Texas A&M University System was instrumental in helping A&M gain funding for construction of the new facility, said Benton Cocanougher, interim chancellor for the A&M System.

"Interdisciplinary research and teaching in the life sciences has long been a high priority for Texas A&M," Cocanougher said. "I am confident that this facility will be a critical element in the

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## Aggie baseball falls to Texas State

By Kyle Davoust  
THE BATTALION



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Sophomore first baseman Coby Maroulis watches the Aggies' (0-1) defeat against Texas State at Olsen Field Tuesday night.

Pitching was a question mark for the No. 14 Texas A&M baseball team coming in, and pitching was undoubtedly the story coming out Tuesday night, as the Aggies (33-14) dropped a 1-0 game to Texas State University (26-19) at Olsen Field.

On most other nights the Aggie hitters would have cruised behind a pitching staff that allowed only one run on six hits, but not on this night. This time the Aggies ran into a Texas State staff that was led by freshman starter Joey Gonzales.

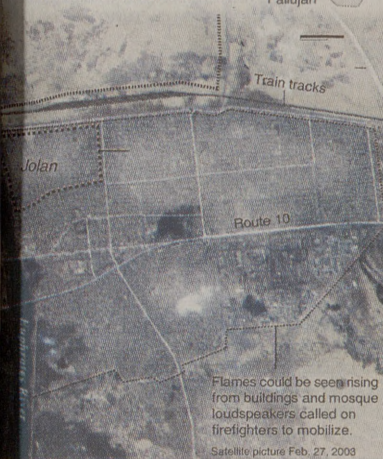
A&M was on the other side of a 1-0 game Friday night against conference foe University of Missouri, but that didn't make the loss any easier to swallow. In fact, this was the first 1-0 loss for the Aggies since 1993, which was coincidentally against Texas State, known then as Southwest Texas State University.

"We obviously pitched real well, which started with our starting pitcher Joey Gonzales," said Texas State coach Ty

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### Cease-fire ends in Fallujah

Multiple explosions shook Fallujah after dark Tuesday and plumes of smoke rose into the sky as fighting erupted for a second straight night. U.S. AC-130 gunships hammered targets in the city. The fighting broke out as a two-day cease-fire came to an end.



Flames could be seen rising from buildings and mosque loudspeakers called on firefighters to mobilize. Satellite picture Feb. 27, 2003.

## U.S. aircraft hammers Fallujah; fighting near Najaf kills scores

By Jayson Keyser  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Multiple explosions shook Fallujah after dark Tuesday, and large plumes of smoke billowed into the sky as fighting erupted for the second straight night. An American AC-130 gunship hammered targets in the city.

Blasts and gunfire went on steadily for more than half an hour in sustained fighting, apparently in the northern Jolan district, a poor neighborhood where Sunni insurgents are concentrated.

Flames could be seen rising from buildings, and mosque loudspeakers in other parts of the city called for firefighters to mobilize.

The fighting erupted as a two-day extension to a cease-fire ended. Earlier in the day, U.S. aircraft dropped leaflets in the city of 200,000 people, calling on insurgents to surrender.

"Surrender, you are surrounded," the leaflets said. "If you are a terrorist, beware, because your last day was yesterday. In order to spare your life end your actions and surrender to coalition forces now. We are coming to arrest you."

Fighting in the same neighborhood on Monday night killed one Marine and eight insurgents, and tank fire destroyed a mosque minaret that U.S. commanders said insurgents were using as sniper's nest.

U.S. troops fought militiamen overnight near Najaf, killing 64 gun-

men and destroying an anti-aircraft gun. An American soldier was killed Tuesday in Baghdad, raising the U.S. death toll for April to 115 — the same number lost during the entire invasion of Iraq last year.

The battle outside Najaf was one of the heaviest with the militia as U.S. troops try to increase the pressure on gunmen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. U.S. troops moved into a base in Najaf that Spanish troops are abandoning, but promised to stay away from the sensitive Shiite shrines at the heart of the southern city.

On Sunday, the U.S. military had announced a two-day extension to the fragile cease-fire in Fallujah to give political efforts a chance — backing

down from threats to launch an all-out assault on the city to root out insurgents. Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt had said there was no ultimatum for a launch of an assault if political efforts are not showing results.

"We don't think deadlines are helpful," Kimmitt said Tuesday.

Earlier Tuesday, Marines were pushing ahead with training for a key part of the political track, the introduction of U.S.-Iraqi patrols into Fallujah.

As the United Nations prepared to discuss the form of a caretaker government due to take power June 30, U.S.-appointed Iraqi leaders complained that the administration won't have real sovereignty as promised by American administrators for months.