



Sbisa cited for health violations

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Sbisa Dining Hall received several violations for improper food temperatures and poor hygienic practices during a routine health inspection May 11.

The Brazos County Health Department gave Sbisa Dining Hall a score of 77 out of 100 during the inspection. Sbisa is the largest food service operation in Brazos County.

Food that does not meet temperature requirements is a severe violation and calls for a five-point deduction per occurrence, said Don Plitt, assistant director of Environmental Health Services of the Brazos County Health Department.

"If you make a 90 with two temperature deductions, that's not good," Plitt said.

Sbisa received two temperature deductions during the May 11 inspection.

Sausage, which is supposed to be stored at 41 degrees, was 64 degrees at the time of the inspection. An unplugged cooler had caused the tem-

perature to rise, Plitt said.

Whole boiled eggs, which are supposed to be kept at 140 degrees, were not hot enough at 130 degrees.

Kayla Wade, a senior agricultural journalism major, said she eats at Sbisa often because she has a meal plan and lives in a nearby residence hall.

"Considering that we pay as much money as we do to eat healthy and clean food," Wade said, "that (score) doesn't make me feel very well."

Sbisa also received a four-point deduction for lack of good hygienic practices. A cell phone and an umbrella were found lying on clean dishes in a room in the back of the cafeteria, according to the report.

Cynthia Zawieja, associate director of A&M Food Services, declined to comment Friday.

"I don't feel I can comment because I didn't even see the report, I just heard that that's what their score was," Zawieja said.

Sbisa also received a three-point deduction because fruit flies were found throughout the dining hall, the report states.

Two more three-point deductions resulted

from a hand wash sink in the back of the facility that lacked soap and unclean surfaces of a microwave and ice machines, according to the report.

Plitt said there is a lot of room for error in a facility as large as Sbisa Dining Hall, but that there is no excuse for the scores that were received.

Sbisa also received warnings with no point deductions for outdated cream-of-chicken, an unplugged cooler and an unlabeled Windex container, according to the report.

Joey Belden, a senior economics major, said the health violations did not bother him.

"That (score) is probably about average," he said. "In food service it's hard to keep everything exactly how it's supposed to be."

Plitt said there will not be a follow-up visit because the major violations were immediately corrected but that there will be another routine inspection in the fall, he said.

Wade said she was a student worker for Sbisa from September 2001 to September 2002.

"Sometimes (employees) wouldn't keep stuff

SBISA'S VIOLATIONS
Sbisa Dining Hall was cited for several violations during a May 11 routine health inspection.

- Sausage, cream cheese, boiled eggs and beef tenders stored at improper temperatures
- Cell phone and umbrella left on clean dishes
- Handwash stations were without soap
- Fruit flies found throughout food preparation area
- Unclean surfaces in ice machines and microwave



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clean," she said. "I tried to keep my area as clean as possible."

Sbisa received a 100 in November 2003 and an 86 in April 2003, Plitt said.

Nation pays tribute to veterans with parades, picnics

Bush, Kerry honor soldiers on Memorial Day in Va.

By Pete Yost
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Bush declared Monday that "America is safer" because of its fighting forces while Sen. John Kerry went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in somber but historically asymmetrical Memorial Day tributes.

"Through our history, America has gone to war reluctantly," said Bush, speaking at Arlington National Cemetery after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. "In places like Kabul and Kandahar, in Mosul; and Baghdad, we have seen their decency and their brave spirit," he said.

A charcoal sky and light mist hung over the remembrance as if to underscore the solemnity of Bush's speech, Kerry's visit to the Vietnam monument and a parade along historic Independence Avenue. A smattering of World War II veterans marched with people, in some cases, three generations younger, capping a weekend highlighted by the formal opening Saturday of the National World War II Memorial.

Frances and John Carter, both 82, were separated by an ocean during World War II; he

was a paratrooper and she was a "Rosie the Riveter," one of the thousands of women who went to work at home to support the soldiers abroad.

It was a day when political rhetoric was somewhat muted, eclipsed here by public tributes and the playing of Taps. Bush did take a moment to praise Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld for "your great leadership," however. Rumsfeld has heard calls for his resignation in connection with the prisoner abuse scandal. And Kerry resumed his political campaign in earnest later Monday in Virginia.

Traditional Memorial Day observances including picnics and parades were played out coast to coast — half a world away from U.S. fighting forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. But overseas, the conflict raged.

Two Americans died Monday as U.S. troops clashed with Shiite militiamen in fighting that strained a cease-fire called last week around the holy cities of Kufa and Najaf. And in Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near U.S. coalition headquarters, killing four people and injuring 25. Two other American soldiers died over the weekend in separate attacks, the U.S. military said.

Still, American soldiers took time to remember their slain



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NEW YORK, NY — After the unfurling of a 100-foot American flag on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid on the Hudson River in Pier 86 in Manhattan on Monday during New York City's 17th annual Fleet Week, war veterans stood beside U.S. Navy and Marine Corps soldiers during the playing of Taps. The ceremony honored veterans and active duty personnel comrades during holiday ceremonies across Iraq.

"When we return to our home stations, we must ensure that we never forget those fallen comrades that deployed with us that will not return to their loved ones," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the senior

U.S. military officer here, said during a ceremony at Baghdad's Camp Victory. "They must not have died in vain," said Sanchez, who is due to rotate out of Iraq soon.

A year ago at this time, more than 160 American soldiers had been killed in Iraq. The total

loss of life in the attack by militants in the kingdom's oil industry hub. Bush expressed support for the Saudi government's handling of the shooting rampage and hostage

since has risen to more than 800, and last week the Pentagon reported that the number wounded in action is approaching 4,700.

Bush took time out in the afternoon to call Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and express condolences over the

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Regents allow use of race-based admissions

By Shawn Millender
THE BATTALION

On Friday The Texas A&M Board of Regents voted unanimously to allow four colleges within the A&M University System to begin considering race as a factor in admissions. All four of the A&M University System Health Science Center's programs will implement a new admissions policy for the Fall 2005 semester.

The center is made up of four degree-granting institutions, said Terri Parker, Executive Director of Communications for the Health Science Center. The College of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Rural Public Health are located in College Station, while the Baylor College of Dentistry is located in Dallas.

Attracting qualified minority candidates has been a challenge for the center, said Parker.

Nancy Dickey, Health Science Center President and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs said the center saw a slight increase in underrepresented minorities enrolled for the coming fall.

Past efforts have included summer programs aimed at minorities and first-generation college students as well as financial need-based scholarship plans, Dickey said.

"We have language in our admissions policy addressing underrepresented minorities, but we are not satisfied with the number we have matriculated," Dickey said.

A&M President Dr. Robert Gates, who has made increasing

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Gas prices rising as summer approaches

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

Due to surging gas prices, Erik Platou, president of the Texas A&M Water Ski Team, knew he had to make a tough decision for his club. He knew either way, someone was going to lose.

"I had to make the decision to raise my club's dues by ten percent or lose a whole lot of money," said Platou, a senior business major. "Basically, we're raising dues to account for gas going up, and we're not sure how long this is going to last."

As the cost of gas continues to escalate, students are left to bear the burden. The price of gasoline has made driving to work and school a pricey endeavor.

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WAYS TO SAVE GAS MONEY:

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- Drive the speed limit
- Combine errands to a single trip
- Avoid idling
- Avoid topping off tanks
- Use multigrade, "energy conserving" motor oil

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