

## Music notes



ALEJANDRA MARTINEZ • THE BATTALION

Violin players **Estela Sheshi** and **Anabel Ramirez** rehearse for their Friday night performance in Rudder Auditorium. The orchestra, which is based

out of the University of Houston, performed as a part of the Texas Music Festival which will continue all month.

## Students

Continued from page 1

Aggies help with the event was a great way to show guests the Aggie Spirit.

"Helping with this event brought an incredibly positive light to the school," Diem said. "I believe that the people who attended will take back a positive impression from Texas A&M."

Jill Dubose, a senior wildlife and fisheries science major and a member of the Sigma Alpha sorority, said the sorority contributed to the 41@80 event by helping with the luggage of those who arrived on the train.

"We were in charge of the dignitaries' luggage and we had to separate it, but it was worth the work to be there," Dubose said.

Many Aggies also watched the events on Sunday from the public viewing section that was set up outside the landing zone for the skydive.

Brad Stephens, a fifth year senior animal science major, said the event was a positive experience and was a rare opportunity to witness.

"It was a very motivating event," Stephens said. "My fear of getting old is greater than my fear of death, and seeing an 80-year-old man jump out of an airplane was inspiring."

Stephens said he believed the 41@80 event was great for Texas A&M and the College Station community because it brought national attention to a little known town.

"This event brought national recognition to Texas A&M and College Station, and I am proud to be a part of it," Stephens said.

Nancy Cannon, a senior agriculture development major, said the event was a great community event.

"It was great to see the community come together and support the various charities and President Bush," Cannon said.

Cannon said she had never watched anyone skydive in person before, let alone seen anything like the show put on by (U.S. Army Parachute Team) the Golden Knights, Brit Hume, Chuck Norris and President Bush.

"I have never seen anyone do jumps like that in person," said Cannon. "It was a once in a lifetime experience."

## Birthday

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enceed the affair, several entertainers performed and prominent sports figures made appearances. Each told the crowd of his or her admiration for the Bush family and some told anecdotes of times spent with Bush.

Comedian Dennis Miller made light of the ballpark venue when he told one person in the crowd that he was paying particular attention to her.

"You might not know it, but I'm making eye contact with you in the light blue on the second row," Miller said.

The stage was set up near the pitcher's mound on the field with celebrities seated in risers on each side of the stage.

Spectators were seated in the stands.

President George W. Bush made light of his father's upcoming parachute jump at Texas A&M when he discussed why so many people were in attendance at the birthday party.

Bush said, "Some of you are here to see an 80-year-old dude, who tomorrow will strap on a helmet, zip up a flight suit and jump out of a perfectly good airless space vehicle while yelling at Father Time, 'Take this you old man!'"

"Some of you are here because you thought the Astros were at home tonight," Bush said jokingly, before moving to a more serious note. "We are here because of our deep and pure love for our Dad."

Professional golfer Greg "The Shark" Norman was par-

ticularly impressed with Bush's decision to jump.

"I'm not going to lie to you," Norman said. "You've got some cojones to jump out of that airplane tomorrow."

Junior animal sciences major Jennifer Sampson attended the celebration because she volunteered for the Bush parachute jump at A&M.

"It was amazing," Sampson said. "I had no idea that President Bush would be there with all those celebrities. My favorite performer was Randy Travis and I was pleased to find out that he's Bush's favorite performer as well," Sampson said.

The event, sponsored by the Bush Endowment, raised \$55.2 million dollars to benefit the Bush Library Foundation, the Points of Light Foundation and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Texas A&M researchers carefully study mammoth bones

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Researchers at Texas A&M University are still studying the tusks and other parts of two mammoths found seven months ago buried in a sand pit near Clute. But they are doing so very carefully.

Silicone oil is being tested as the best way to preserve the brittle, delicate bones and artifacts found in November when a backhoe operator, Joe Kimble, came across a tusk as he worked in a sand pit.

The oil conservation method was developed by A&M anthropology professor Wayne Smith, who said it is a smart substance that preserves everything in its path, but differentiates dirt from the tusk or bone.

Artifacts preserved with silicone oil could have a life

of up to 250 years, compared with 70 years with traditional methods, The Facts, Brazoria County's daily newspaper, reported Sunday.

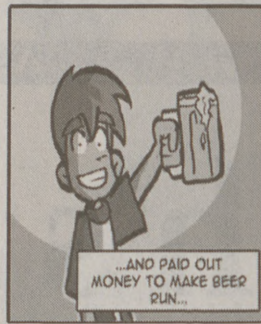
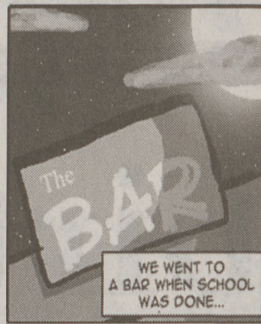
A&M scientists have been testing the conservation method on the tusk of one mammoth nicknamed Joe, after the backhoe operator.

Success with the silicone oil will determine how researchers work to preserve an ancient wooden bowl also found at the site, located about 57 miles south of Houston.

Scientists have yet to perform any tests on the bowl since it has been soaking in a bath of ethanol and water for the last three months to retain its shape, Smith said.

The A&M scientists have estimated the mammoth bones are about 38,000 years old, based on testing of nearby wood, while they believe the bowl might be about 3,800 years old.

## DUNNBOYZ



by Will Lloyd

## Wings

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Norris and Fox News managing editor Brit Hume also made tandem jumps Sunday.

"When President Bush called me last weekend and asked me to jump with him on his 80th birthday, I thought, what a privilege to jump with former President Bush on his birthday and, secondly, to be able to jump with the Golden Knights, the best skydivers in the world!" Norris said. "It was something I've really been looking forward to doing."

Geena Norris, Chuck Norris' wife of six years, said, "I'm glad it's over. This is his fourth jump, but I was very

nervous," Geena Norris said. "But boys will be boys..."

Several dignitaries were on hand to watch Bush, including former Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of Mexico Carlos Salinas and Florida Gov Jeb Bush.

Gorbachev said that Bush invited him to jump as well.

"George told me this would be simple," Gorbachev said. "He told me he had an extra set of parachutes in case I change my mind, but at my age it might kill me."

Gorbachev spoke highly of the friendship he shared with Bush and of Bush's presidential legacy.

"It was a good friendship...it was a real friendship," Gorbachev said. "He (Bush) is

an extremely decent person which is rare in politics. I believe George Bush was the greatest of my counterparts," Gorbachev said.

Jeb Bush said his father's love of life is part of the reason he has so many supporters.

"My dad loves life," Governor Bush said. "I believe we're here celebrating his 85th."

Bush spokesman Tim McGrath, of the Texas Department of Communications, said he was pleased with the day's events.

"We hope that people who attended today's event will have an appreciation for the man (Bush) is. He's one of the great statesmen of the 20th century and he's also a down-to-earth guy," McGrath said.

# Authorities search for abducted American

By Donna Abu-Nasr  
THE BATTALION

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — With the kidnapping of an American and threats to inflict on him the same degrading punishments seen at Iraq's U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison, suspected al-Qaida terrorists appear to have unleashed a new tactic in their violent drive against Saudi Arabia's rulers.

Saudi authorities searched Sunday for Paul M. Johnson, an American who was apparently abducted by militants who also claimed responsibility for gunning down another American in Riyadh, the day before.

It was the third killing of a Westerner in the Saudi capital in a week, part of a stepped up campaign aimed at driving out foreigners and sabotaging the oil sector, key to the Saudi economy and basis of the rule by the kingdom's royal family.

The U.S. Embassy warned that the attacks appeared to follow extensive surveillance of the two Americans slain over the past week. Kenneth Scroggs was shot in the back as he parked in the garage at his home on Saturday. Last Tuesday, Robert Jacobs was also killed in his parking garage.

The killings "involved extensive planning and preparation," a U.S. Embassy warden message said. "Often, this pre-attack surveillance can be detected."

Al-Qaida, led by Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, often rails against Saudi Arabia's rulers for their close links to the United States.

"The Saudis know that this is an enemy that is coming after them. The killing of foreigners ... is a direct attack against the Saudi regime," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on ABC's "This Week."

Powell said Saudi leaders are mobilizing all resources against militants but added, "I think that there is more that they can do."

The Saudis can "build up their forces" and cut off funding for militants, he said on "Fox News Sunday." "There's probably more we can do with respect to intelligence exchange, and we are working at all of these," he said.

Prince Bandar, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, called the attacks on Americans "craven acts of evil."

"Their intention is to shake our will, to frighten away our friends and allies, and to undermine our society," Bandar said.

None of the gunmen have been caught in this

week's fatal shootings of the two Americans on June 6, Irish cameraman Simon Cumbers.

Saudi security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said police stormed a suburban Riyadh house Sunday morning, arresting a man inside and confiscating a computer. It wasn't clear whether he was linked to any of the past week's shootings.

The purported al-Qaida statement, posted Saturday on an Islamic Web site, threatened to treat Johnson, the abducted American, unless U.S. troops treated Iraqi prisoners — a reference to sexual and other abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

It showed Johnson's passport and a Lockheed Martin business card bearing his name. The report said Johnson was born in New Jersey. His son Paul Johnson III said his father moved to Saudi Arabia in 1983 to work for Lockheed Martin.

The al-Qaida statement said Johnson is one of four expatriate Saudis working on developing an Apache attack helicopter system.

"Everybody knows that the al-Qaida are used by the Americans, their Zionist allies, to persecute the apostates to kill Muslims, terrorizing them and displacing them in Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq," said the statement. It said

Qaida would release a videotape later showing Johnson's confessions and its demands.

A car belonging to Johnson was found Saturday near Imam University, security officials said. Saudi press reports said the car was badly damaged and later caught fire. The university is about 12 miles from the neighborhood where Scroggs was shot.

Lockheed Martin issued a statement confirming that Johnson was missing. The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh said it was working with Saudi officials to find the kidnapped American.

Paul Johnson III, of Port. St. John, Fla., said he was trying to get the kidnapers to let his father go.

"He doesn't deserve it. It's not his fault," Johnson said. "It's his job," he said on NBC News Sunday.

He said his father had been nervous about being in Saudi Arabia. "My dad's probably wondering how he got himself into this, how he can get himself out," he said.

The militant attacks against Westerners, government targets and economic interests in Saudi Arabia have surged despite a high-profile campaign against terrorists the government began with suicide bombings last year.

**"Their intention is to shake our will, to frighten away our friends and allies, and to undermine our society."**

— Prince Bandar  
Saudi Ambassador to the  
United States

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**THE BATTALION**

Joshua Hobson, Editor in Chief

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