



OPINION:
Moore than
propaganda
Page 7

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Life Sciences debate

Administrators discuss the building's construction

By Lacy Ledford and Erin Price
THE BATTALION

More than 60 distinguished professors, deans and department heads filled a small conference room in Rudder Tower Wednesday afternoon to debate the construction of a new Life Sciences Building set to begin in a few years.

The building, which has been a controversial topic since April, would come with a \$100 million price tag, to be paid from the Permanent University Fund.

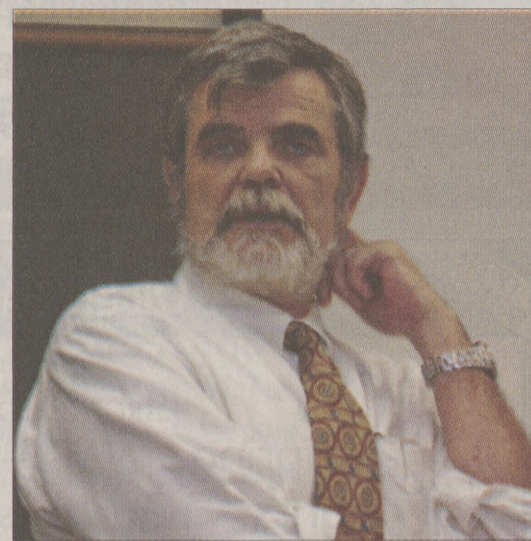
Despite being designated by Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates as the No. 1 construction priority under the campus master plan, several faculty members have a list of grievances with the building's design, including biology professor Mike Manson, who has previously described the

proposed building as a "life sciences mausoleum."

"We as deans wanted to jointly call for an open forum so that faculty and department heads could continue to give their views on the issue," said forum moderator and College of Science Dean Joseph Newton.

Researchers such as Mary Meagher, professor of psychology, and Eva Sevick, professor of chemical engineering, are in favor of the project and argue that an interdisciplinary research facility is essential for A&M to become a top-10 institution.

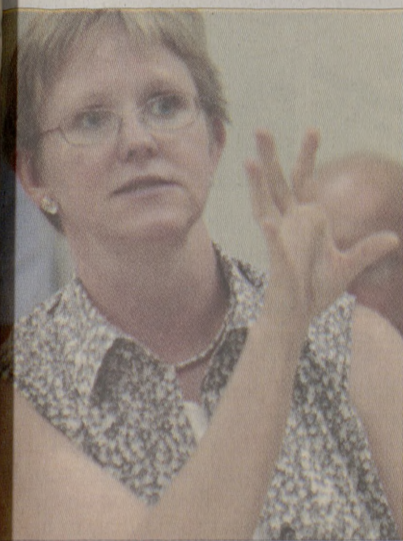
"Better organization and fluidity affords cutting edge research," Meagher said. "Science moves faster



HEATH CRAWFORD • THE BATTALION

Joseph Newton, dean of the College of Science, moderates discussion among faculty and administrators on the logistics of the Life Sciences building.

See Debate on page 2



HEATH CRAWFORD • THE BATTALION

chemical engineering professor Eva Sevick argues the merits of making the Life Sciences building a major recruiting tool.

Picture perfect



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

A&M and Southern Methodist University study abroad students take pictures of the view of the Rhine River from castle atop the Drachenfels Crag in Konigswinter, Germany.

The engineering study abroad group will be in Germany for six weeks taking classes and learning German culture. The program started on Saturday and will continue through Aug. 14.

Trial starts in Cole bombing; six al-Qaida members charged

By Ahmed Al Haj
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN'A, Yemen — A security court charged six alleged al-Qaida members Wednesday with plotting the attack on the USS Cole, opening the first trial in the suicide bombing that killed 17 American sailors. Among the defendants is reputed mastermind Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri.

Police and soldiers cordoned off the security court in San'a, and marksmen watched from rooftops, as five of the defendants were brought in to hear the judge read their indictment. Al-Nashiri, the sixth defendant, is in U.S. custody.

The attack occurred in

October 2000 when two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed on the boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the ship's hull.

The United States announced al-Nashiri's arrest in 2002. He was detained in the United Arab Emirates and transferred to American custody. U.S. officials believe the Saudi-born al-Nashiri is a close associate of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

In addition to the Cole attack, he is suspected of helping direct the deadly 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

A diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in San'a refused to comment on the trial or disclose al-Nashiri's whereabouts. Nor would he say whether the accused would be handed over to the Yemeni authorities. U.S. diplomats attended the hearing.

The United States reportedly pressed Yemen to delay the trial until all facets of the case had been thoroughly investigated. Journalists in San'a often heard the trial was about to begin, and then found it had been postponed.

Judge Najib al-Qaderi said the court would publish a statement in local newspapers summoning al-Nashiri to appear. Yemeni officials have said they have asked

See Trial on page 2

University researchers question scientific theory

By Andrew Burleson
THE BATTALION

Researchers from Texas A&M and the University of Oregon disproved a theory Monday that RNA is the only mechanism used by organisms to block potentially harmful information released from DNA in cells.

This research could lead to a cure for cancer or other genetic diseases, said Rodolfo Aramayo, an associate professor of biology and genetics at A&M. Scientists previously proved plants with mutated RNA failed to block extraneous DNA, which can have harmful effects. However, A&M scientists were excited to find that even when they mutated the RNA in a certain fungus, the extraneous DNA was still blocked.

Pratt said the majority of DNA is repetitive information and organisms try to control the number of repetitions because they can cause chromosomes to rearrange, which has been linked to cancer.

"A lot of human disease is the result of chromosomal abnormality. We hope to be able to understand or even prevent these malfunctions," Aramayo said.

The discoveries at A&M are on the forefront of research in the field and, while there is still much left to be discovered, he is hopeful that the discoveries made

DISCOVERY!

Researchers from Texas A&M and the University of Oregon disproved a theory that RNA is the only mechanism used to block harmful DNA information in cells.

- Cells that carry harmful DNA information often cause mutations and abnormalities
- Most human diseases result from chromosomal abnormalities
- This research could lead to a cure for cancer and other genetic diseases

WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: RODOLFO ARAMAYO, PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

in the lab can help lay the foundation for future research leading to gene therapy, Aramayo said.

The research is being conducted as a partnership between Aramayo's lab at A&M and Eric Selker's lab at the University of Oregon, and is funded by the National Institute of Health. The two labs have been collaborating for the past four years.

Junior biochemistry major Rachel Redler said, "It's exciting to see A&M doing research like this. It's amazing to me how

See Theory on page 2

Benz named psychology dept. head

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

Michael Benz has been named the new head of Texas A&M's Department of Educational Psychology. Benz came from the University of Oregon, where he was the director of the school's Department of Special Education. Benz, who arrived at A&M on July 1, specializes in school-to-work transitions and employment opportunities for young adults with disabilities.

"I thought this was a really good career opportunity at A&M," Benz said. "The people here are outstanding and the enormously talented faculty was part of the attraction. I was at Oregon for 24 years, and I'm very excited to be here."

Benz grew up the son of a military man. He honed his writing skills as a high school social studies teacher in

the 1970s. He said that moving here from Oregon isn't too much of a shock.

"I lived in Amarillo as a child; my dad was in the military so I lived all over the country," Benz said. "I've found that there isn't a place that doesn't have its own kind of beauty. Bryan, College Station, the Brazos Valley — they have their own kind of beauty. I love the oak trees and the great big cumulus clouds around here."

Benz said the draw of being an educator is in the impact one has on students.

"There are a lot of really important things in this country going on in terms of occupations," Benz said. "But if you want to make a difference and shape the future, education is the way to go."

The search for a new department head started two years ago. Interim Department Head Victor Wilson said

See Benz on page 2

Movers Wanted!

August 22 is Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day. The Department of Residence Life wants to make a welcome impression on incoming students and their parents.

- Form teams of volunteers to help students and parents move in
- Reduce unloading time to keep traffic moving
- Minimize move-in inconveniences

Deadline for volunteer applications is August 2. Volunteer applications are available online at <http://reslife.famu.edu>

ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: DEPT. OF RESIDENCE LIFE

Volunteers needed for Move-In Assistance Day

By Joanna M. Jemison
THE BATTALION

Moving into on-campus residence halls may be a pain, but the Department of Residence Life is trying to ease the burden on students and their parents by coordinating a campuswide volunteer force. A&M has designated Aug. 22 as Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day and volunteers are needed for the special welcome effort.

Residence Life is accepting applications for move-in day. Volunteers will be provided with free parking and will receive a Residence Hall Move-In Day T-shirt. An orientation session is small required for volunteers who participate.

According to a memo sent out campuswide, the object of the volunteer effort is to reduce unloading time at the designated unloading zones, keep traffic moving and minimize inconveniences that parents and students may encounter while moving into residence halls. Overall, Residence Life is trying to leave a welcome impression on incoming students and make the residence hall move-in process more pleasant.

"I think that move-in assistance is vital to freshmen living on campus because it gives a first impression of Aggies helping Aggies," said Lindsay Adams, a junior general studies major and former Krueger Hall resident. "There were people that helped

with moving in before, but I don't think there were enough," Adams said.

Adams said moving in could be improved by having more strong guys to move mini-fridges and furniture for "damselfs in distress."

The Department of Residence Life is encouraging faculty, staff and especially student organizations to volunteer. The deadline to turn in applications to volunteer is Aug. 2. Applications can be downloaded at <http://reslife.tamu.edu>.

If you have questions regarding Residence Hall Move-In Assistance Day, call the Department of Residence Life at 845-3158 or e-mail housing@tamu.edu.