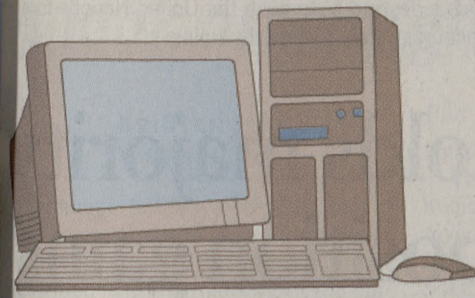




**OPINION:**  
Kerry is unfit  
to be president  
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## S BIG MOTHER WATCHING?

Parents of A&M students are now able to access student records through <http://myrecord.tamu.edu>.



Students must set up a password for parents to view any information

Once activated, parents will have access to grades, class schedules, enrollment status and financial services

The University cannot provide passwords for parents

WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: ASSOC. REGISTRAR SU-ZAN HARPER

## Parents may access 'myrecord'

By Andrew Burleson  
THE BATTALION

As of June 10, parents are able to access their children's records through [myrecord.tamu.edu](http://myrecord.tamu.edu). Using a login password created by their student, parents will have access to a student's grades, class schedule and enrollment status, and as well as to financial services such as AggieE-pay.

The new service may only be activated by students. To grant parental access to their information, students may log in to [myrecord.tamu.edu](http://myrecord.tamu.edu) and set a parental password. Parents must ask their student for the password to use the service, and the

University cannot provide it. Associate Registrar Su-Zan Harper says the decision to implement this system was the result of discussions between various University departments.

"We stopped mailing grades several years ago to save money," Harper said. "We decided that this would be the best way to provide information to the parents."

Harper said the system complies with the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act of 1974, which allows parents access to their child's records if the student is claimed as a

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## Nice ride



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior civil engineering student **Tyson Duncan** drives a water ski boat, pulling his cousin, senior agricultural management systems major **Reed Kainer**, while skiing at Lake Bryan on Friday evening. **Duncan** and **Kainer** are avid water skiers and wake boarders who frequent Lake Bryan every week. They are also members of the water ski team from El Campo, Texas.

## Physical Plant's efforts reduce energy costs

By Lacy Ledford  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Physical Plant began its ongoing building commissioning program in 1996. The result of subsequent years of effort has been saving millions of dollars in energy costs and improved building comfort.

Director for Facilities Lee Swick said the primary benefit derived from recommissioning buildings is energy savings.

"With today's cost of energy production, we can avoid thousands of dollars each year per building in energy costs when the building's air conditioning and heating systems begin working properly," he said.

There are also secondary benefits from the recommissioning efforts.

"Everybody benefits," Swick said. "The building's tenants get better indoor air quality, maintenance receives fewer service calls and energy costs are reduced for the University."

The commissioning teams take the functionality of the buildings into consideration before making improvements.

Physical Plant Energy Manager Homer Bruner said certain research projects may be negatively affected by variations in temperature.

"Some research is not repeatable if the temperature does not remain at a constant level," Bruner said. "We are very sensitive to that and move

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## Research fellow says public is uninformed

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

Despite advancements in the areas of bioethics and stem cell research, the public remains uninformed about the bioethical stem cell debate, according to a thesis by undergraduate research fellow Logan Boatman.

Boatman said those who do not actively seek out information about bioethics and adult stem cell research will be oblivious to what issues face them.

"I'd say the media has only given a very basic view of the scientific and moral issues at large. It doesn't really go into any depth," Boatman said.

Stem cells are unspecified "master cells" that the body can use to regenerate organs. Since they can be harvested from only embryos, the bioethics debate centers on whether those embryos are alike, said Wendy Covert, an '03 Aggie graduate who holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

Boatman, a senior history major from McKinney, Texas, said he was trying to find a middle ground between his major and his future.

"I have a personal interest in this. I'm a history major, and I'm going to med school so I wanted to combine those two interests," Boatman said. "Stem cells are a pretty heavy-hitting issue in science today."

Boatman analyzed four major media outlets and how they portrayed the debate on stem cell research. In his study of The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time Magazine and Newsweek, he found their coverage leaving much to be desired.

"They haven't missed it entirely; it's more of an error of omission," Boatman said. "I'd like to see more attention paid to what's going on in science. Your typical article will merely rehash the whole debate without telling you anything new."

Boatman has worked closely during the process with his adviser, Anthony Stranges. Stranges said Boatman has been a pleasure to work with.

"I've had Logan for two classes: a history of science class and history of science seminar," Stranges said. "He's an excellent student; he speaks well, he writes well and his paper was exceptional. He's an exemplary student all around."

Both Boatman and Stranges agree that an educated public is important because it determines the direction policymakers in Washington, D.C., will take.

"It's a sensitive issue. Most of the public is not really well-informed," Stranges said.

"There are so many misconceptions out there about what stem cells can do. It's total misinformation, and in many cases

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## Students earn exchange program scholarship

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M students are among 79 nationwide recipients of the 2004 Baden-Württemberg scholarship. They will travel to Germany next month as part of a reciprocal education exchange program.

Victor Ryan Holmelin, a senior poultry science major from Crosby, Texas, and Diana Yandell, a senior international studies major from Harker Heights, Texas, will spend the 2004-05 academic year at Universität Tübingen south of the city of Stuttgart.

The A&M reciprocal exchange programs provide students the opportunity to spend a year studying overseas. According to its Web site, the program currently has students studying in England, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland and Japan.

Laura Weber, the study abroad adviser for the reciprocal exchange program, started working with Holmelin in October and Yandell in January. She says the application process was very selective.

"We only had one other person win this scholarship last year," Weber said. "These students have a sense of purpose. They know what they're looking for and are able to plan

practically so they can make things happen."

Weber said having a poultry science major in the program isn't atypical.

"We get quite a variety of majors," Weber said. "We've had everything from ag education to business to biochemistry and biophysics."

The scholarship covers tuition for the students and gives them a monthly stipend. All other costs are the recipient's responsibility, Weber said.

Yandell initially learned to speak German as a child growing up in Stuttgart. "It faded when I moved back to the States," she said.

"I took French when I was in high school," Yandell said. "I found that I pick up languages faster than most."

Yandell said she would pay for tuition in Germany the same way she does here.

"My parents have been very generous and supportive," Yandell said. "My only extra costs will be actually getting over there, so I think it'll cost me about \$5,000."

She said participation in this program will be beneficial for her future.

"I hope to gain more understanding of German culture and politics. I hope to gain friends," Yandell said. "I want to live over there eventually. I want to work in an embassy."

## GUTEN TAG AGGIES!

Two A&M students have been awarded Baden-Württemberg Scholarships

- Victor Ryan Holmelin, a poultry science major, and Diana Yandell, an international studies major, will be studying in Germany for the 2004 - 05 academic year

- Only 79 scholarships were granted

- The scholarships help students studying abroad in A&M's reciprocal exchange program

- The program has students studying in England, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland and Japan

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: LAURA WEBER, STUDY ABROAD ADVISOR FOR RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

## Sept. 11 panel nears completion of report

By Hope Yen  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Working in secret, the Sept. 11 commission is finishing a final report that several members believe will be done by week's end and have unanimous support.

The endorsement of all 10 commissioners is important if the findings and recommendations for improvements — most notably in intelligence-gathering — are to avoid charges of partisanship in a presidential election year.

"They are all taking their broader responsibility seriously," said Norm Ornstein, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute. "They know this is not about scoring political points in the heart of a campaign

but about making sure the attacks don't happen again."

A report without any dissenters would be an accomplishment given the charges of partisanship that surfaced during public hearings featuring officials such as national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, Attorney General John Ashcroft and former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke.

As recently as last month, former Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., and several other commissioners on the panel of five Republicans and five Democrats said unanimity might not be possible.

The meetings since then have changed his mind.

"We've had a good personal relationship in our internal deliberations, with no traces of partisanship," Gorton said.

Added Democratic commissioner Jamie Gorelick, a former deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration: "We have a lot of consensus."

The commission was established by Congress in 2002 to investigate government mistakes before the attacks and recommend ways to better protect the country against terrorists. Commissioners and their staff have interviewed more than 1,000 witnesses, including President Bush, and reviewed more than 2 million documents.

The final report is due July 26. The commission hopes to have the report finished this week and wants to release the 500-plus-page document on July 22 to avoid competing with the Democratic National Convention.

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