



Astronaut seeks return to space

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

Astronaut Peggy Whitson spoke in front of a crowd of 150 people on Thursday evening at the George Bush Presidential Library. To commemorate the Bush Library Issues Forum's "Year of the Woman," Dr. Peggy Whitson spoke about women in aviation and space. She also spoke about her experiences living on the International Space Station for six months.

"Astronaut is one of the rarest titles in all of humanity," said Douglas Menarchik, library director. "It is one of the most blessed titles in history, and we are fortunate to have (Whitson) here."

Whitson is one of seven women in the world who has walked in space. She was a member of the Expedition-5 crew that launched on June 5, 2002. Whitson returned to Earth Dec. 7, 2002 — logging almost 185 days in space.

For six months, Whitson lived in the International Space Station with two Russian cosmonauts. They performed experiments on pulmonary functions, such as lung capacity, and effects of zero gravity on the cardiovascular system. Also, Whitson grew soy beans in space while her father was growing them on Earth simultaneously. The three astronauts were so happy to see green life in space that Whitson had to hide the soy beans from one of the cosmonauts so he wouldn't eat them, Whitson said.

"The (cosmonauts) cut me a lot of slack even

though they have many prejudices against women," Whitson said. "I was an American woman and they said, 'She's smart. She can do this.' I became good friends with them during that time, and we still interact today on a very personal and regular basis."

Whitson had the opportunity to go on a space walk during her time on the space station. Held only by a mechanical arm, she was 40 feet away from anything.

"It was the most incredible sensation," Whitson said. "It was dark and then the sun came up. I will always remember seeing the station light up (at sunrise)."

Whitson said she didn't get tired of her two

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Astronaut **Peggy Whitson** (right) answers questions about space flight Friday night at the George Bush Presidential Library.

Giddy 'up cowgirl



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Catalena Cowgirls, **Jessica** from Houston (right) and **Jennifer J.** from Conroe, wait with their horses before their performance this weekend at the opening of the 33rd Annual Bryan Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association Rodeo at the Brazos

County Rodeo Arena on Tabor Road. Hundreds were entertained by bullriders, bucking broncos and rodeo clowns during the rodeo, sponsored by the Bryan Breakfast Lions Club.

Controversy escalates over offensive T-shirts

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

When Aggie Democrats former president Nick Anthis went to New York Sub to investigate rumors about an offensive T-shirt being sold there, he had no idea what to think.

"It was much worse than I expected," Anthis said. "They were very rude and unapologetic about it."

The controversy centers around a T-shirt the restaurant is selling for \$9. It features an image of an elephant mounting a donkey on the breast pocket with the phrase "F#@k John Kerry" on the back.

"The front of the shirt insinuates rape when taken in context with the back of the shirt," Anthis said. "The owner claimed it wasn't, but that's what I saw. New York Sub has hurt the community by alienating (Democrats). It's inexcusable."

Senior construction science major Seth Stewart started working at New York Sub in September. He said Anthis' allegations are groundless.

"That's ridiculous, for someone to even say that. Nothing is funny about rape. At all," Stewart said.

New York Sub owner Austin Harkness said the idea for the shirt started with some employees who wanted to display their political affiliation at work. He said the original designs weren't up to the official dress code because the curse word on the back wasn't blanked out.

"We have liberal employees who are invited to make up any pro-Kerry or anti-Bush shirt as long as it's up to dress code," Harkness said.

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New version of LoveGate spreads through networks

By Lacy Ledford
THE BATTALION

New versions of the 2003 LoveGate Worm have been discovered. LoveGate, which spreads through e-mail and network sharing, also contains a backdoor program that enables hackers to access infected computers and replace application files with copies of the worm.

Computing Information Services Help Desk student worker Justin Carter said students may avoid getting such worms by not reading e-mail from unknown senders.

"They should also use a Windows firewall and keep virus protection software on their computer," Carter said.

Another worm prevention measure switching Internet browsers.

Blocker Computer Lab associate Jonathan Phillips said, "A lot of worms are written with Internet Explorer in mind. Using a different browser like Mozilla or Netscape can reduce your chances of getting a worm."

However, if your computer does become infected with a worm, A&M provides software to assist students in removing it from their computers.

"You can go to any open access lab and buy a TAMU scan and remove disk," Phillips said.

Carter said the scan and remove disk protects against almost every virus, although it may not be updated to the most recent versions.

"We also advise students to download Stinger anti-virus tools," Carter said.

Interim Associate Provost for Information Technology Pierce Cantrell recommends performing Microsoft Windows updates to detect critical threats.

In response to past problems with infected computers, A&M personnel have taken preventative measures to protect computers

I GOT WORMS!

Several new versions of the "LoveGate" computer worm have been discovered. Students should take these steps to keep their computers worm and virus-free.

Do not read e-mails from unknown senders

Use a Windows firewall and virus protection software

Change browser to Mozilla or Netscape

If infected, Texas A&M provides software to assist students in removing worms



SOURCE: JONATHAN PHILLIPS, BLOCKER COMPUTER LAB

from similar encounters.

"In residence halls last fall, a lot of students brought in brand new computers that weren't security patched, hooked them up to the network, and the computers got infected within about thirty seconds," Cantrell said.

To combat this, boxes that contain signatures for certain types of viruses were installed in front of each residence hall. The signatures can be continually updated to prepare for new worms and viruses.

"If a signature for one of these infections

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A&M professor earns 'Rip Rapp' award

By Joanna M. Jemison
THE BATTALION

Avid archaeologist and Texas A&M anthropology professor Dr. Michael Waters received a nod from the Geological Society of America. The organization awarded Waters with the "Rip Rapp Archaeological Geology Award" which recognizes Waters' outstanding continued contribution to the interdisciplinary field of archaeological geology.

The award is named for archaeological geology pioneer George "Rip" Rapp. Rapp was the primary individual responsible for bringing the Archaeological Geology Division to the GSA.

Waters is also the associate director for the Center for the Study of the First Americans and author of the avidly used geoarchaeology text "The Principles of Geo-



WATERS

archaeology: A North American Perspective," which he wrote in 1992. Waters has traveled across the globe to participate in several archaeological field projects in Yemen, Jamaica, Russia and Mexico.

For the layman, Waters describes the field of geoarchaeology as the field for applying geosciences and archaeological research questions. Waters' research involves investigating late prehistoric archaeological sites and relating them to the changes in landscape to discover the origins of the first Americans.

After receiving his doctorate in geosciences from the University of Arizona, Waters received several endowments from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society to fund his research in geoarchaeology, the field in which he is known for his expertise.

"Because of the accumulated contributions to the

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Palestinians burn office in protest

By Lara Sukhtian
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Militants sacked and burned Palestinian government offices Sunday, the latest sign of growing anger over Yasser Arafat's decision to reach into his old guard and choose a loyalist relative as his new security chief.

A confrontation was brewing between Arafat — reluctant to yield significant power — and Palestinian militants, including some of Arafat's own officers. They are demanding deep reforms and new faces, Palestinian analysts said.

The divide between the two sides centered on the appointment

of Moussa Arafat, Arafat's cousin, as the new head of Palestinian security. Many Palestinians rejected him as a symbol of corruption and cronyism, propelling long-held dissatisfaction into the open.

Dozens of masked gunmen marched through the Nusseirat refugee camp in central Gaza after sundown Sunday, chanting, "No to Moussa Arafat, yes to reform."

In the Rafah refugee camp, gunmen exchanged fire with guards at preventive security headquarters and attempted to break into the complex with a bulldozer. The guards wounded three attackers, but there were no casualties to the security forces, personnel at the building said.

A Palestinian freelance reporter on assignment for Reuters was shot in the leg during the Rafah firefight and was in stable condition at a hospital, a Reuters staffer said.

The internal Palestinian unrest was the most serious in more than a year. In 2003, protests against corruption forced Arafat to promise reforms and appoint a new government, led by Mahmoud Abbas. He resigned after only four months.

The turmoil came as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon planned to withdraw from Gaza next year, intensifying a struggle for power and influence among the various Palestinian factions.