



## Night on the town

### The 21st Annual National Night Out: promoting neighborhood spirit and relationships

By Lacy Ledford  
THE BATTALION

The 21st Annual National Night Out, a program designed to raise crime and drug prevention awareness and generate participation in community anti-crime programs, is scheduled for Tuesday.

National Night Out is an opportunity for community residents and neighbors to get to know one another so that they can feel more comfortable calling the police if they see any kind of criminal activity occurring within their neighborhood,"

said Bryan Police Department Public Information Officer Walt Melnyk.

National Night Out has traditionally included events to strengthen neighborhood spirit and partnerships between communities and police.

Melnyk said block parties are a way community members celebrate the event.

"We are asking that each block party be registered with the police department," Melnyk said. "Once they're registered, we can send police officers to them to give out crime prevention information and provide parents with child identification kits," Melnyk said.

Sheriff department crime prevention coordinator Louis Koronka said that after dark, community members are encouraged to "turn their lights on against crime."

"A satellite measures the light density over all the United States, and it is later announced which area had the most participation, judging by which was the most lit," Koronka said. "Texas has won the state National Night Out award four years in a row, based on the participation of communities."

University Police Department Sgt. Alan Baron said it is important for Texas A&M students to participate in National Night Out because the envi-

ronment at A&M is not one that a college student would typically associate with crime.

"This attitude tends to make students let their guards down, presenting an opportunity for crime to take place," Baron said.

Baron said the biggest problem at A&M is theft. Cars, backpacks, books, wallets, laptops and bicycles are commonly stolen.

"Police officers rely so much on community members to report crime, but a lot of it goes unnoticed if it isn't reported," Baron said.

Melnyk said students are some of the most

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## Issues forum to discuss history of photography

By Suzy Green  
THE BATTALION

Lynne Vallone, a Texas A&M English professor, will discuss the development of photography in 19th century England at the Bush Library Museum Issues Forum at 7 p.m. Thursday.

"When we look at these images, we are seeing the past in the present," Vallone said. "These photographs are a way to touch the past."

Vallone's speech will focus on two amateur photographers,

Margaret Cameron and Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, also known as Lewis Carroll, author of the "Alice" books.

"They were amateurs, just as we all are," Vallone said. "They were widely respected, but they were not professionals."

Laura Appling, a senior health major, will lead a photography class at the art school in Houston and

mous for their portraits of women and children, Vallone said.

"I will have slides to look at during the speech, so we'll be looking at the same images that Dodgson and Cameron looked through their lenses at," Vallone said.

Vallone has also written a cultural biography on the girlhood of Queen Victoria, consulted on a film, written an article for TV Guide and given seminars at the Children's Literature International Summer School at the University of Surrey.

Vallone is now serving as an editor for the first Norton Anthology of Children's Literature, a six-year project that will be out in December 2004.

"Hopefully it will bring more attention in the academic community to children's literature," Vallone said.

Vallone has received a University faculty fellowship research grant and a College of Liberal Arts teaching award from the Association of Former Students.

Vallone's speech is part of the Bush Museum's Year of the Woman, said Brian Blake, the museum's director of public relations.

"We had several events and exhibits related to women, so we wanted to put this together and make a coherent theme," Blake said.

The Issues Forum brings in experts year-round to speak on a variety of topics, Blake said.

"We often look to the rich diversity of the faculty and staff at A&M for speakers," Blake said.

**"One thing I learned about appreciating amateur photography is that ... what's important is where you are and the image you capture."**

— Laura Appling  
senior health major

and anyone can take a good picture without spending a lot of money.

"One thing I learned about appreciating amateur photography is that it's not who you are, what you have or how much money you spend on a camera," Appling said. "What's important is where you are and the image you capture."

Vallone has an avid interest in children's culture, and her study of Dodgson as an author led her to learn more about photography in this time period, she said.

Dodgson and Cameron are fa-

## Explosion causes fire, injures four

By Brian D. Cain  
THE BATTALION

An on-campus apartment fire caused by an explosion injured four residents Saturday night.

The fire occurred in the married student housing apartments near Hensel Drive.

College Station dispatchers received a call at 9:20 p.m. reporting that there was an explosion that caused multiple injuries on University property, said Battalion Fire Chief Thomas Goehl.

According to a press release from the College Station Fire Department, units from the department arrived on the scene at 9:27 p.m. and discovered that a second-floor apartment was fully engulfed in fire and that there were people outside of the structure who had sustained burns.

"Four people were taken to St. Joseph hospital for burns," Goehl said.

Fire Department officials reported that the fire was fully contained within 15 minutes of their arrival on the scene.

Investigator's from the state fire marshall's office and College Station fire investigators were at the site all day today, but they have not yet released their findings," Goehl said.

The names and conditions of the residents are still unknown.

## Chocola't



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From left to right: Acelyn, 8, Summer, 5 and Ike Neff, 4, play with the chocolate lab they adopted from the Brazos County Animal Shelter Friday. Approved applicants

wearing their pajamas received a 50 percent discount on the cost of adoption from the shelter, which receives about 9,000 animals a year.

## New power line is the answer for blackouts

By Joanna M. Jemison  
THE BATTALION

It was the last minute for those who waited until April 15, 2003, to file their tax returns. Many galloped to the post office only to find that there was no power; it was back to the days of rubber stamps and postage that must be licked first.

Texas A&M students can probably remember the April 2003 area-wide blackout that left Brazos County residents without power for many hours. This blackout was caused by a faulty relay in a Bryan Texas Utilities substation. Because of this piece of equipment, the system shut down when, in reality, the relay itself was flawed, not the system.

Because of the notoriety of energy transmission problems as large as or larger than this, a solution has become an immediate priority for administrators.

Currently, A&M is powered by a single 138,000 volt line. A plan to bring an additional high-voltage commercial line to campus has been in the works for a few years, said Vice President of Administration Charles A. Sippial.

Although Sippial said that there are no more blackouts now than there were nine years ago when he came to A&M, the new line is necessary to prevent future failures like the one experienced in April 2003.

"When the existing line goes down, we have practically no commercial power to the campus," Sippial said.

Bryan Texas Utilities and A&M have worked out a contract for the installation and maintenance of the new 138,000 volt line. Dan

### ZAPI!

A new high-voltage line should make area-wide blackouts a thing of the past on campus.

- Total cost for the University is \$5 million
- The underground line: 2.8 miles long
- The overhead line: about 2.5 miles long
- BTU will fund the underground line and total cost for the overhead line
- There will be a north and south line

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SOURCE: DAN WILKERSON, BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

Wilkerson, a BTU official, said A&M will pay for the construction of the channels in which the high-voltage line will be set.

BTU will fund the 2.8 miles of underground line and the total cost for the approximately 2.5 miles of overhead lines, Wilkerson said. BTU will also pay for the continued maintenance

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## Golf tourney to raise money for scholarship

By Lacy Ledford  
THE BATTALION

The Seventh Annual Division of Administration Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held Saturday at the Texas A&M golf course. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m., with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

Vice President for Administration Office Associate Lisa Foster said anyone can play in the tournament.

"The tournament is held to raise money for Division of Administration scholarships, which are available to provide assistance to an A&M employee or an employee's dependent child," Foster said.

Employees who are enrolled in six undergraduate credit hours are qualified for the scholarship. Employee dependents

must be enrolled in nine credit hours.

Vice President of Administration Charles Sippial said the Scholarship Golf Tournament is an event that shows the Aggie spirit.

"This is something we do to give back to those that do so much for us," Sippial said.

Sippial said one of the great things about working at A&M is that qualified employees are encouraged to take advantage of the educational opportunities as well.

"You can't put a price on the value of education," Sippial said.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. They are for one academic year and provide \$500 per semester.

Sippial said students should feel good to

know that some of their tuition indirectly funds scholarships such as this.

"There are many success stories of students who have received this scholarship," Sippial said. "One of our recipients went on to graduate and became a captain in the United States Air Force. She is now serving in Iraq."

Executive Assistant to the Vice President Polli Satterwhite said there have been some individuals who have received the scholarship twice.

"If a student's grades still meet the qualifications, they can continue to apply," Satterwhite said.

Two-year scholarship recipient Nicole Gilbert said the scholarship made it easier

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