

THE BATTALION

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Journalists

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and encouraged young journalists to start freelance reporting as undergraduates.

"You don't have to wait until you have a degree to be published by a paper. What newspapers want is clear writing and a good story, regardless of the age of the writer or if he or she is still in college," South said.

The Dean of Student Life and the Master of Ceremonies for the event, Dave Parrot, concluded the conference.

"One of the goals of the News Makers and News Breakers conference was to increase greater understanding between student journalists and student leaders. I believe we've succeeded in that goal," Parrot said.

Budget

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had the opportunity to sit down with him, and he's a man of integrity. He's going to be great to work with," he said.

A resolution welcoming Bresciani to the University was passed unanimously without debate.

The Senate also passed the Constituency Report Removal Bill, which was intended to simplify the Senate by-laws and improve constituency relations.

The Senate passed the Open Forum Bill with one dissenting vote. The bill intends to extend the practice of allotting time at the beginning of meetings for constituents to speak to the 57th session.

Renfrow said the bill represented the Senate's commitment to be a voice for students.

"The bill allows students to directly engage their student representation," he said.

Kerry

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Some Republicans do not support the veterans' decision to back Sen. John Kerry, said Jonathan Glueck, a freshman ag development major.

"I think that they (the Veterans for Kerry) need to look at Kerry's voting record and Kerry's military voting record," Glueck said. "He voted against a military reappropriations bill. He doesn't have the ideals that the country needs at this time."

Suicide

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a good suicide prevention program.

Hope said that despite the success of the HelpLine, SCS implemented a new program in the past year, the Question-Persuade-Refer (QPR) program, to further aid in suicide prevention. Hope said SCS implemented the program before the first suicide happened in February.

"We initiated QPR already before the suicides started occurring," Hope said. "We thought we needed to do more than just the HelpLine. What we needed to do was to get everyone involved. We had already initiated the QPR program, and then (the suicides) started happening, and we (thought), good thing we got a start on this."

Hope said the QPR program is a national program that trains people on suicide prevention. The 90-minute program teaches how to look for signs of suicidal thoughts, how to talk and question those with suicidal thoughts and where to refer them afterward. Those who complete the program are called 'gatekeepers.'

"The QPR program is so in line with Aggies caring about Aggies," Hope said. "If someone can give 90 minutes of their time, we can teach them what to watch for, what to say, what to ask and what to do."

Hope said the QPR program would be beneficial in preventing suicides at A&M.

"QPR ... takes the number of eyes and ears out there to help prevent suicide, and multiplies them five-, 10-, 20-fold and that's what we need to help keep A&M's suicide rate low," Hope said.

Dr. Betty Milburn, associate director of Counseling and psychologist, said that by increasing

the number of gatekeepers on campus, she hopes earlier intervention can be made.

"Often there's a sense of isolation (among those who commit suicide)," Milburn said. "Their safety net is not that big. But with more people that are aware of what might be some signs and having the tools to speak with the person in a non-judgmental, non-threatening, very compassionate way, the safety net widens."

Hope said QPR has already gotten positive feedback from students, faculty and staff and is in its third week of activity at A&M.

Kevin Jackson, director of Student Activities, was one of the first people to become a gatekeeper.

"We work with students all the time, and I felt like it was the kind of training that would help us do our jobs better," Jackson said. "We did find (the QPR program) very beneficial, and we really thought it was helpful."

Jackson compared the QPR program to CPR training on a psychological level and said the QPR program helped him to identify warning signs of suicide, to ask the right questions and to refer suicidal students to the right resources.

"I would recommend every individual go through QPR training," Jackson said. "The more people who go through QPR training, the better our community will be at helping someone in a psychological crisis."

Hope encouraged students, faculty and staff to request QPR training by filling out a form on the SCS Web site.



San Antonio professor carves niche in terrorism law

By T.A. Badger
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Four years after he retired as an Army career officer, law professor Jeffrey Addicott is on active duty in the war on terror.

Addicott, director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary's University, has made himself a go-to guy for TV news shows on legal issues that keep popping up in Iraq, Afghanistan and even at home.

Should accused terrorists be tried openly or before military tribunals? What if those accused are American citizens?

Can a president, in his role as commander in chief, authorize torture of prisoners during wartime?

Could the United States have legally assassinated Saddam Hussein?

Addicott, former legal adviser to the Army Special Forces, hasn't hesitated to weigh in on these questions.

"It's a brand-new area of the law, and we're really forging out on our own," he said. "Most law schools wouldn't touch this with a 10-foot pole — they don't really have the background in national security law to deal with these kinds of issues."

John Norton Moore, who heads the Center for National Security Law at the University of Virginia, said the 6-month-old terrorism law center in San Antonio fills a void shaped by the Sept. 11 attacks.

He also praised Addicott as the right choice, citing a 1980s program Addicott devised for the Peruvian military, then in the midst of a protracted fight against the Shining Path guerrillas.

"In my judgment, it was one of the most effective programs on rule of law and humanitarian training ever run by the U.S. government," said Moore, who earlier had Addicott as a law student. "It really turned around the very bad practices of the Peruvian government."

Addicott, 50, said his back-

ground as a soldier gives him a different worldview from most others on law faculties.

"My premise is that we're at war as a nation," he said. "This not an academic exercise and I don't care about trying to be neutral. I want us to win, but I want us to do it under the rule of law."

Earlier this month Addicott was on MSNBC to discuss the case of Army Capt. Rogelio Maynulet, charged with murder in the shooting of a badly wounded Iraqi insurgent at point-blank range.

Maynulet contends it was a mercy killing, but Addicott dismissed that defense. The American military, he said, has to be held to the highest standards of conduct.

"This is how we got into trouble at Abu Ghraib," he told MSNBC host Dan Abrams, referring to the Baghdad prison where U.S. soldiers abused Iraqi prisoners. "This guy committed murder. ... There's no doubt he has to be convicted for this."

Many Texas college students taking remedial classes

HOUSTON — Nearly two-thirds of high school seniors enrolled at Houston-area community colleges aren't prepared for college and are taking remedial classes.

Records at the Houston Community College System and the North Harris Montgomery College District show that 6,552 recently graduated students from 16 school districts are taking high school-level courses.

"It's sinful to allow a student to show up at a community college and tell them they'll have to spend the year learning what they should have learned in high school," Gene Bottoms, senior vice president of the

Southern Regional Education Board, said in Sunday's editions of the Houston Chronicle. "It's a problem everywhere."

The problem is not limited to school districts with high poverty levels, such as Houston and Aldine. Students from wealthier districts such as Spring Branch and Katy are also taking remedial classes.

A Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board report this spring found that half of the state's 2001 high school graduates needed remedial help in college. The percentages ranged from 62 percent in the Houston Independent School District to about 25 percent

in the Katy Independent School District.

"We recognize the need to do a better job of preparing students for college and we are working hard to do that," said Terry Abbott, a Houston school district spokesman.

State education officials and local school districts say they are toughening graduation requirements to make sure students are ready for post-secondary schooling. This year's freshman class of Texas high school students is the first that must take Algebra II to graduate, which typically is a third-year math class.

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