



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

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## Taking control

*A&M researchers: Eating disorders fueled by artificial media portrayals*

By Victoria Rivas

► Thin. Thigh Gap. Fit. Tall. Muscular. Stylish.

Eating disorders know no limit to gender, age or ethnicity. Researchers and professionals at Texas A&M are working to learn more about these disorders, to treat students and to better inform the public.

The average American woman weighs 160 pounds — a fact Texas A&M researchers say is rarely reflected in modern media and is instead replaced with impossible or improbable ideas of beauty.

Srividya Ramasubramanian, communication instructor at Texas A&M, knows the disconnect between reality and the media well. She studies how mass media affects the body images of media consumers, and said the media's narrow definition of

beauty can have a damaging effect on women, especially young girls.

"There is a lot of research that shows that media plays an important role in shaping the different ideas of what is an ideal body," Ramasubramanian said. "There is a drive to pursue a thinness, in even girls as young as 9 or 10."

Ramasubramanian said the media reinforces a "very narrow definition of beauty."

"We see that in many, many ways," Ramasubramanian said. "We see that in magazines that show very thin images. If we look at the average American woman, her size is around 160 pounds. But the average model in many of these ads and mediums is much smaller. It's a very constructed idea of what is beauty and that kind of body is impossible to achieve."

Ramasubramanian said **EATING DISORDER ON PG. 4**

*COLUMN: Eating disorders are debilitating, but they can be overcome*



Allison Rubenak  
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I was 19 the first time I felt comfortable sharing a meal with someone who had cooked for me, after I had been ill three years prior. It was a poignant experience, because for someone who struggled with an eating disorder and was able to recount every calorie I ate, a night where my compulsions were averted, was rare.

What I remember, though, is how satisfied I felt, how I wanted to linger at the table and savor the conversation and that moment of freedom.

In the fall of 2009 I spiraled into a dark place of malnourishment, isolation and erratic behavior. The "issue" — the "it" — the disorder that I and anyone who knew me had fumbled to name, had made its ugly debut.

Here's the thing most people know about clinical eating disorders and behaviors leading up to them — little — and people can't necessarily be put at fault. The multidimensional nature of this illness and related behaviors are usually not discussed past the brief reading requirements in

**HEALTH ON PG. 2**

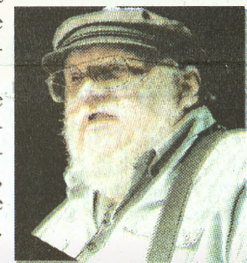
CUSHING

## 'Ice and Fire' creator Martin to deliver old 'Hobbit' Friday

By Lindsey Gawlik

► Winter may be on its way out, but George R.R. Martin is coming to Texas A&M Friday morning.

Martin, author of the "Song of Ice and Fire" book series that inspired the hit show "Game of Thrones," will present the five-millionth volume to the University Libraries.



Martin

Martin, as a gift to the University Libraries' Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Collection, funded the volume, a rare first-edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit."

Texas A&M serves as Martin's official repository. Kevin O'Sullivan, instructional assistant professor and outreach and public services curator for the Cushing Memorial Library, said Martin chose A&M as his repository site after attending AggieCon, the longest-running student science fiction convention.

**MARTIN ON PG. 2**

## Welcome to the wild

### Q&A:

Battalion Life & Arts reporter Bethany Irvine spoke with animal enthusiast and zookeeper Jack Hanna to discuss his upcoming visit to campus Saturday and his experience with animals, conservation and television.

**THE BATTALION: As a child, I watched your television series "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" in the 1990s. How has your audience demographic developed since then?**

HANNA: Well, the audience really hasn't changed, people think it's a children's show but it's just as much for adults as it [is] for children. The main audience is like in their 20s to 50s now. It's still a family show but there are just as many adults watching as kids, the audience is families.

**THE BATTALION: With your live show coming to campus, what are some ways that students can aid in the conservation effort you promote?**

Anybody, whether you are in a dorm or wherever you are, can always help in conservation. You can visit zoology departments, you can visit websites and see if you have an interest in certain types of animals. You have to be careful what you support and make sure that your dollars go to the right places. That's how you can help as well. For example, it might be in Texas or in Ohio, and plastic



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Television personality Jack Hanna will visit campus Saturday.

that might last a hundred years or forever, you know, especially in Texas. Fishing for example — in fishing, you have your line or your hooks and it has caused a lot of big problems with wildlife in Texas because the whole state is on the coast. So some people don't realize that the plastic bags they keep their food in and throw out, the sea turtles think they're "plastic jellyfish" and they can be fatal for sea turtles and other animals. The fishing hook and lines? I've seen animals die that way and it's not a pretty sight, it's a long cruel death.

**HANNA ON PG. 3**

W. BASKETBALL

## Last-second dagger ices Aggies in home finale

By Milkyas Gashaw

► A buzzer-beating Missouri 3-pointer soured Senior Night in Reed Arena Thursday on a night in which A&M's point guard went down with a knee injury.

With five minutes remaining, junior Jordan Jones fell to the floor with a sprained knee. She will receive an MRI Friday, head coach Gary Blair said.

"When she went down, my heart went down with her," Blair said.

After a sluggish start, the No. 12 women's basketball team (22-7, 10-5 SEC) fell in a thriller to the Missouri Tigers (16-12, 6-9 SEC) on a last-second three pointer from Maddie Stock 70-69 in final home game of the year.

Lone freshman starter Khaalia Hillsman was an impact player in the paint all night, grabbing a double-double with 16 points on 4-for-7 shooting and 11 rebounds. Hillsman converted from the charity stripe as well as an 8-for-11 clip. She attributed the slow start to a lack of energy.

"I just think it was our lack of energy," Hillsman said. "Missouri is not a team we could take lightly."

Mizzou came into the game as one of the better 3-point shooting teams in the nation, leading the SEC with 7.4 3-pointers per game. The team struggled from behind the arc initially, shooting 1-for-9 in the first half, but finished the game 6-for-18.

Leading the Tigers was sophomore Jordan Frericks, who finished with 25 points on 10-for-13 shooting to go with 12 rebounds.

For seniors Achiri Ade, Tavarsha Scott-Williams, Allison Chu and Tori Scott, this



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Junior guard Jordan Jones suffered a knee injury Thursday and will receive an MRI.

was a tough way to complete their careers at Reed. The Aggies were on the verge of completing the season without a home loss for the first time since going 16-0 at home in 2006-07.

The Tigers tied the game at 58 with a three from Stock. It was a back-and-forth game until Williams hit a shot with 25 seconds left to tie the game and a pair of cold-blooded free throws from Curtyce Knox put the Aggies appeared to ice the game 69-67 until Stock stole the victory.

A&M concludes the regular season at 1 p.m. Sunday at LSU.