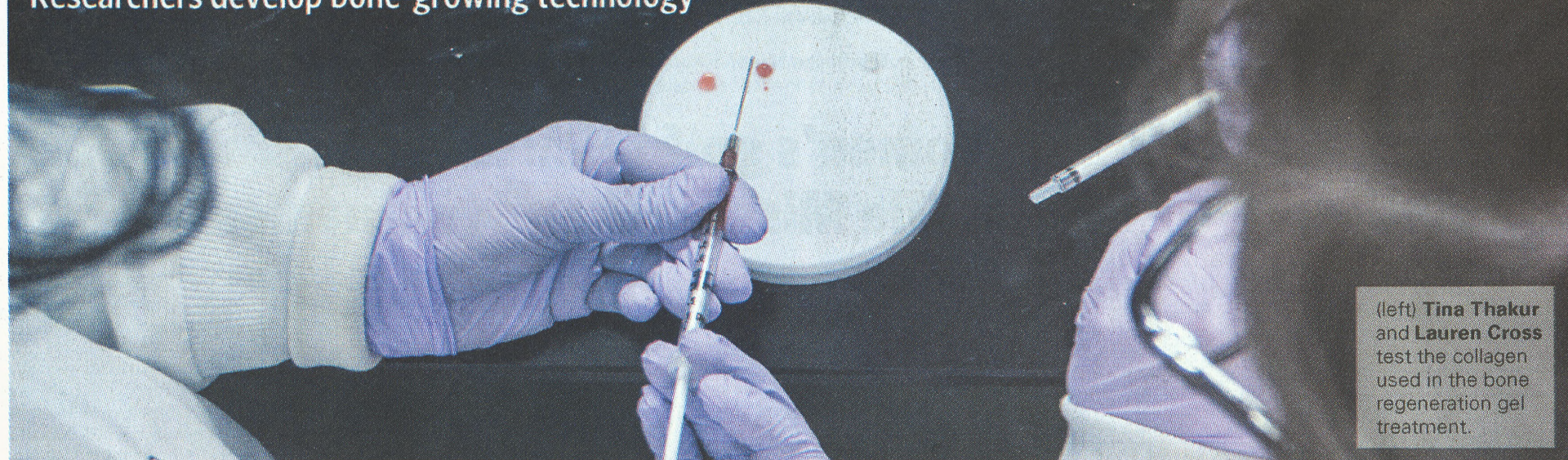


BROKEN AND REGROWN

Researchers develop bone-growing technology



(left) Tina Thakur and Lauren Cross test the collagen used in the bone regeneration gel treatment.

Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

By Zach Grinovich

A new technology that uses nanocomposite hydrogels to effectively regrow bones may one day change the way serious bone breaks and health issues are treated.

Texas A&M researchers have developed a gel that induces bone regeneration when injected near a large bone injury. While the research is still in testing

phases, those involved say it could one day change the way doctors treat serious bone injuries in both the civilian and military world.

"The bone is an amazing organ," said Akhilesh Gaharwar, biomedical engineering professor and project leader. "It can regenerate itself if it has a small defect. However, if the defect is bigger than two or three centimeters, the bone will not be able to heal itself."

Large bone defects and fractures are difficult to treat. Bone grafts are currently the best way to treat large defects and fractures. Bone is taken from a bone bank, or, often, from the patient's own body, and is placed at the site of the defect. This approach, however, is a complex procedure that can result in patient complications — drawbacks that Gaharwar said make it far from optimal. Bone treatments and their success are

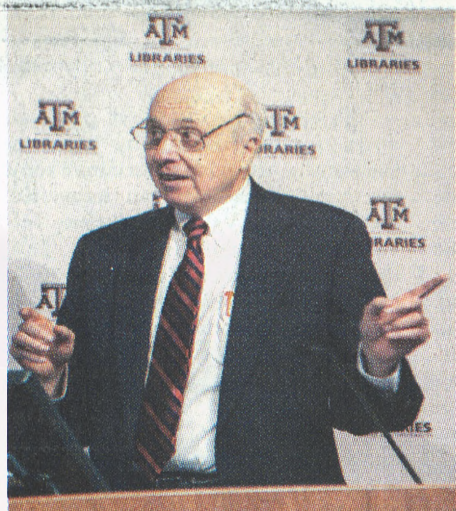
made more serious in the world today as the U.S. population ages and bone problems become the most common medical issues, said Jake Carrow, a doctoral student in Gaharwar's lab.

"Aging is a common theme to everyone and longevity of life can lead to more wear and tear on the body," Carrow said. "Being able to regenerate lost

BONE RESEARCH ON PG. 5

LIBRARIES

Cushing unveils gay literature collection



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

Don Kelly speaks at the opening for his gay literature collection Wednesday.

Kelly: 'I'm just a gay man who has loved literature all his life'

By Gracie Mock

To kickstart A&M's GLBT Awareness Week on the 30th anniversary of Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M, a recently acquired collection of gay literature was unveiled at Cushing Library Wednesday.

The new exhibit — "Lives. Liberation. Love." — spotlights portions of the Don Kelly Research Collection of Gay Literature and Culture.

The exhibit's namesake, Kelly, said Wednesday he is not a book dealer or scholar, just someone with a love for literature.

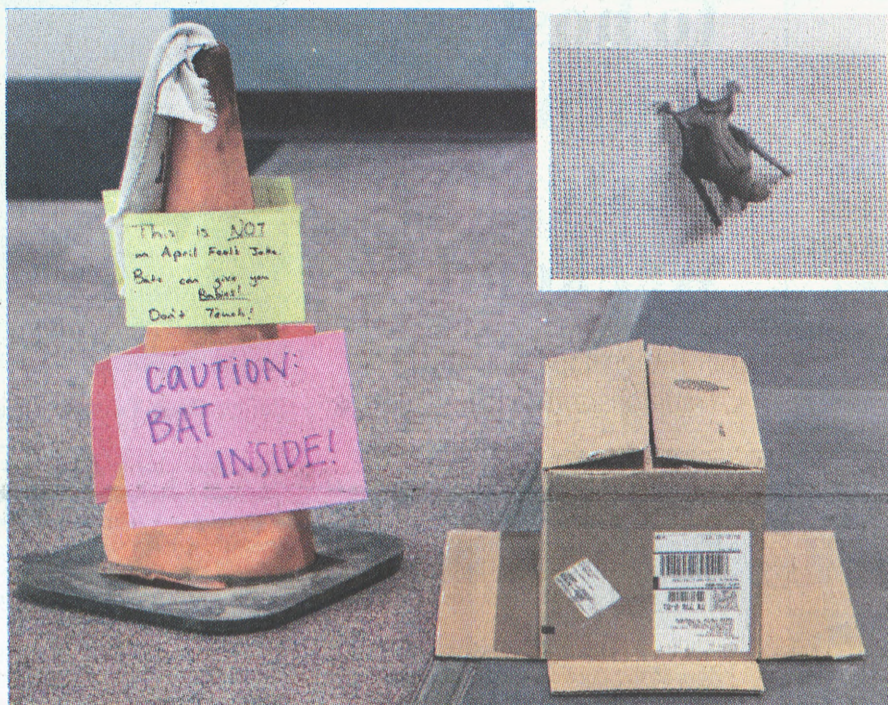
"I'm just a gay man who has loved literature all his life and this has been a passion — one of the reasons because I think it helps me understand the gay condition and it's a reflection of my own life," Kelly said. "I will say that maybe I collected the books, but in some sense, some curious sense, the books have really collected me."

Rebecca Hankins, associate professor and archivist, found the collection. She came across the news online that Kelly and his collection were in Houston in 2012 and contacted him about coming to A&M, but budgeting issues prevented the meeting. In 2014, she again contacted Kelly and the support "snowballed" from there.

The collection will be on display at Cushing Library until May 2016 and boasts more than 8,000 items, many of them first editions, with about 2,000 of them signed by their author. One of the major books in the collection is by a Canadian author named Ian Young, who did a bibliography of all gay male literature — a resource that was used as a template for the collection, Kelly said.

"What started off as a gay book collection became a gay publications collection and has since been expanded to the lesbian

CUSHING ON PG. 5



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

(Top right) A bat rests on a dividing net in the REC. At the stairs near the climbing wall, students are warned to stay away from a captured bat.

Kyle Field bats find new home in REC

Stadium renovations displace 250,000-strong bat population

By Spencer Davis

The A&M Student Recreation Center usually sees attendance dwindle as finals approach. This year, however, the building has some new inhabitants — hundreds of Mexican free-tailed bats.

The bats are part of an indigenous population of 250,000 bats that have inhabited Kyle Field since it was first built 87 years ago. When the university began its \$485

million renovation of the stadium, removing the population was one of its goals.

With warmer temperatures returning, the bats are migrating back from their winter home in Mexico and finding that their access to Kyle Field is blocked — sending them into other campus buildings. James Nash, associate director of facilities for Rec Sports, said while efforts to remove the bats are ongoing, students can expect to still see some around the Rec Center.

"This process will seal areas that bats typically use to enter the facility and allow

BATS ON PG. 6

BASEBALL

Aggies head to Kentucky for SEC 3-game weekend series

By Andre Perrard

As the newly anointed No. 1 team in the country, Texas A&M did not disappoint in its mid-week game against Sam Houston State. Behind a record-setting third inning, the Aggies rocked the Bearcats with 19 runs.

Now they face a stretch of 27 games, 21 of which are against teams who participated in the 2014 NCAA Tournament. The first test begins Thursday night against the Kentucky Wildcats on the road in Lexington.

Kentucky (18-11, 4-5 SEC) comes in facing its second consecutive top-ranked team this weekend, after winning the series at former No. 1 LSU last weekend. The Wildcats boast a 8-3 record at home this season. Ka'ai

BASEBALL ON PG. 3



J.B. Moss and Nick Banks tap helmets Wednesday against Sam Houston.

FACULTY

A&M deals with social security number mishap

Hussey: release result of failure by employees in provost's office

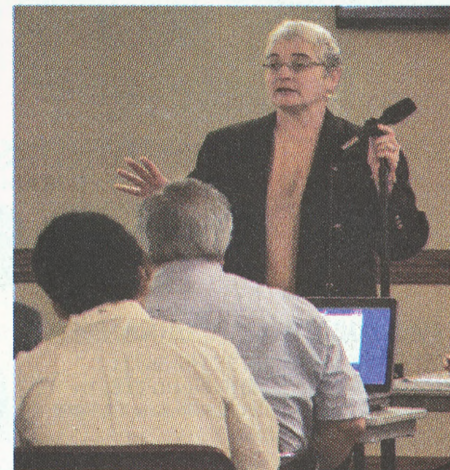
By Lindsey Gawlik

An number of A&M faculty and graduate student social security numbers were accidentally posted to an insecure website in early March — a security misstep that administrators addressed Wednesday in a campus-wide email and at a Vision 2020 forum.

The social security numbers for any A&M faculty member or graduate student who taught classes during the Fall 2014 semester were mistakenly posted online. Administrators say every visitor to the website while the information was displayed is accounted for, and the threat of fraud is low.

Interim President Mark Hussey sent out an email alerting all faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students about the occurrence, and said the incident has since been handled accordingly.

"With regard to the on-line posting of SSNs, we have completed our internal investigation of this incident and concluded that



Tim Loh — THE BATTALION

Provost Karan Watson says the threat level surrounding the posting of social security numbers is low.

this release resulted from the failure of at least two employees in a unit under the provost's office to follow established internal security procedures," Hussey said in the email. "Texas A&M University System Audit will also be conducting an investigation of this incident as well to provide an independent assessment of what internal controls were not followed along with what actions they recommend be taken."

Hussey said those whose social security numbers were posted have all been notified, and he encouraged anyone involved who suspected fraudulent activity in their accounts to immediately call the University Police Department. Letters were sent to those whose information was accidentally released, and a monitoring service was provided to them for the next two years, Hussey said.

Provost Karan Watson also addressed the issue at the start of Wednesday's final Vision 2020 strategic planning forum.

Watson said those whose information was exposed were faculty and graduate students who taught classes at A&M in the fall of 2014.

SOCIAL SECURITY ON PG. 5