

THE BATTALION



vol. 112, issue 18, 10 pages

www.thebatt.com

tuesday, september 20, 2005

page by Emily Ward

Inside:

NEWS AGGIELIFE SPORTS OPINION



STAND UP FOR FREEDOM

American Civil Liberties Union is sponsoring a yearlong campaign to educate the public on the USA PATRIOT Act, racial justice and censorship.

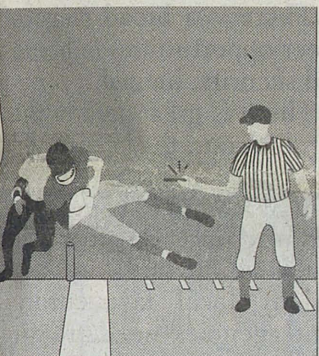
PAGE 3



WHAT'S NEW, PUSSYCAT?

Girl power has a new voice with cabaret influenced singers.

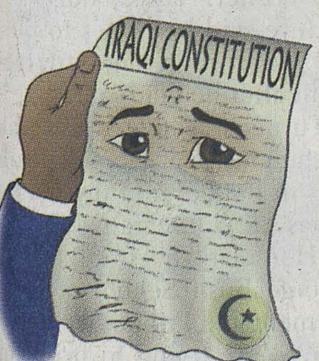
PAGE 4



INSTANT SUCCESS?

Big 12 Conference tries to find a way to standardize play calling in the conference using an experimental instant replay model.

PAGE 5



TYRANT LAW

Adam Kemp says Iraq's new constitution is no better than the previous dictatorship.

PAGE 9

Radio

Tune in at 1:57 p.m. on 90.9 FM KAMU to hear former congressman Jim Turner speak about homeland security.

Today's Forecast

low 73° high 99° sunny
SOURCE: The Associated Press

On campus

Try talking like a pirate because it is International Talk Like A Pirate Week. For more calendar events see www.thebatt.com.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Former Rep.: Students are future of homeland security

By Matthew Watkins
THE BATTALION



Evan O'Connell - THE BATTALION

Former congressman **Jim Turner** hands his business card to senior political science major **Rand Heye** in the George Bush Presidential Library Monday night. Turner delivered a speech on homeland security and the changes the United

States must make to combat extreme Islamic fundamentalists. Turner says that the cost of action is far less than the cost of inaction and that "we can do better, and we must do better" with regards to U.S. border security.

The United States needs political courage from its leaders and patriotism from the current generation of students in order to continue to fight the war on terrorism, said former Rep. Jim Turner on Monday evening.

Turner, who spoke at the George Bush Presidential Library, said there were numerous threats to the United States' homeland security, especially the threat of terrorism brought on by radical Islamic fundamentalism. Turner said the U.S. government should make a greater investment in preventing terrorism.

"National counterterrorism efforts have not kept up with the rhetoric of its leaders," he said.

During his time in Congress between 1996 and 2004, Turner served on the terrorism panel of the Armed Forces Committee and was the senior minority leader of the Committee on Homeland

Security and of the House Armed Services Committee.

Turner listed many areas in which national security is lacking, including protecting the nation's seaports, protecting the border between the United States and Mexico, guarding chemical plants and equipping major cities with the training and resources necessary for preventing terrorist attacks.

"Local law enforcement officials still do not carry out any significant efforts to be on the lookout for terrorist activities during the course of their daily operations," Turner said. "If we are going to find out if there is a terrorist cell in this country, it is most likely that they

are going to be found out by a local law enforcement official."

Turner said there have been many opportunities for Congress to appropriate funding in order to remedy the problems, but that

STUDENT IMPACT

Training center for emergency response coming to A&M
PAGE 2

See Turner on page 2

KARE brings on-campus groups together for relief

By Victoria White
THE BATTALION

While many Texas A&M University students were enjoying the weekend's football festivities, a group of A&M students spent the weekend contributing to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts through fund raising and campus mentoring programs.

Kristin McClenny, junior international studies major and Katrina Aggie Relief Effort (KARE) executive, said KARE collected \$11,976 in bills and checks at First Yell on Friday and the football game on Saturday. The Yell Leaders donated \$3,000 at First Yell, and KARE will be collecting money at the next two home football games, McClenny said.

"We're collecting at the football games four hours prior to kickoff, so we'll be out there from 2 (p.m.) until about 6:30 (p.m. Saturday)," she said. "We try to avoid a goal because anything we can raise is well worth it."

Doug Martin, senior political science major and executive director of KARE, said 20 to 25 people

volunteered with KARE at First Yell on Friday night, and that 30 to 35 people volunteered during the football game Saturday.

KARE collected
\$11,976

in cash and checks
at First Yell on Friday
and the football
game on Saturday.

Martin said KARE is an umbrella effort in conjunction with other organizations, including several fraternities, sororities, the Memorial Student Center and honor societies. All money raised by KARE will be donated to the Bush-Clinton Katrina

Fund, he said, and many avenues for fundraising exist, including a possible charity relief concert.

"No donation is too small," McClenny said. "Pocket change adds up, but we can also use as many volunteers as we can possibly get."

Plans for collecting donations for Katrina victims began the week after the hurricane hit, McClenny said, and KARE is working with AggiesCan — the Athletic Department's fundraiser — to collect canned food items to donate to the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

"We wrote a proposal and sent it to Dr. Gates, and he signed it, and we've just got a lot of support from administration on campus," she said. "We call it a united Aggie effort. We're all Aggies, and we can show what the Aggies are all about — it's an Aggie effort, not just one or two groups trying to pull this off."

Will Hailey, speaker of the Student Senate, said many of the University's colleges and departments have been

See KARE on page 10

Profs put New Orleans into perspective

By Allison Miles
THE BATTALION

As the United States government works to mobilize aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina, several professors at Texas A&M University suggest changes that they say could have minimized damages.

Christina Suthammanont, graduate assistant lecturer for political science, said placing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security caused confusion and may have worsened the situation.

"There were two established organizations with pre-existing structures," Suthammanont said. "After combining them, the structure doesn't have the clear chain of command it once did, no clear line of authority. This can cause confusion."

Suthammanont said the two departments should be recognized for the separate causes they serve.

"We can't view terrorist activity the same way that we view natural disasters," Suthammanont said. "They may look the same, but

See FEMA on page 10

First woman yell leader elected at A&M-Galveston

By Melissa Filbin
THE BATTALION

For the first time in history, Texas A&M University-Galveston has a female yell leader.

Amanda Jean Filkins, known as A.J., said she knew she wanted to be a yell leader since her freshman year. "I know I'm a girl, but I like A&M too much and I wanted to try," Filkins said. "(Friends) told me to go for it."

Filkins, a junior marine biology major, was informed at the beginning of this year she was the junior yell leader for 2005, after the student who won yell leader did not make junior status.

"I was told it was the closest race in history," Filkins said. "Our student life director, Todd

Southerland, told me it was the closest race he's ever seen."

A&M-Galveston yell leaders conduct yell practice for Galveston students on Thursdays before football game weekends. Then, many Galveston students drive to College Station to participate in A&M's yell practice.

Filkins said she was surprised by people's acceptance of her as a yell leader. "I think we're way ahead (in Galveston)," Filkins said. "I think (electing female yell leaders) is not going to happen in College Station for a very long time."

Andrew Raymond, a senior maritime business major, said numerous students at A&M-Galveston oppose the idea of female yell leaders.

"(A.J.)'s a very nice girl. I have nothing against her at all," Raymond said. "I just don't agree with what happened. I just believe in the traditions of A&M, and one of them that I was always aware of was that yell lead-

ers have always been male."

Raymond said the A&M-Galveston campus has been working to prove it has the Aggie spirit, and he feels electing a female yell leader is a step backward.

"It's basically this ongoing battle of saying we're real Aggies," Raymond said. "We go up to the games, but then we have our own yell leaders down here. I still believe we adhere to traditions as top-notch as in College

Station. I guess some people down here got a new viewpoint and decided to run with it. I understand it was bound to happen (in Galveston), but I don't believe it'll ever happen in College Station."

Scott Johnson, student body president for A&M-Galveston, said there is no tradition that says a yell leader has to be male.

"A.J. knows traditions like nobody else," Johnson said. "I

think for her to get (the yell leader position) is a wonderful thing."

Johnson said A&M-Galveston's yell leaders have been working to create a relationship with A&M's yell leaders and that Reveille is most likely going to come down to one of A&M-Galveston's yell practices this year.

"This year is our big push to try and create connections between our two schools," he said.

the battalion asks
"How do you feel about having female yell leaders?"

freshman mechanical engineering major
Lisa Bye



Tradition can change if we vote for it.

sophomore molecular biology major
Lindsay Lundberg



No, we are losing traditions.

senior electrical engineering major
Cameron Sims



If they want to run I don't see a problem.

graduate student in civil engineering
Jyothsana Chandramohan



Women are invited into everything, so why not yell leader?

senior biomedical science major
Elysia Elliot



It's OK if girls want to try.

Battalion Asks by Cameron O'Connell