

# The Battalion

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## Koresh leads cultists to fiery suicide



KYLE BURNETT/The Battalion

The cult compound at Mt. Carmel before it was destroyed by fire Monday. The blaze, set by Branch Davidians at 12:06 CST, spread rapidly and consumed the entire compound within the hour. See related stories on page four and five.

### THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO — Doomsday cult leader David Koresh's apocalyptic prediction for his followers came true Monday when a raging fire destroyed the compound where he had held federal agents at bay for 51 days.

The fiery end to the standoff surprised the FBI, which said Koresh had repeatedly promised there would be no mass suicide.

"I can't tell you the shock and the horror that all of us felt when we saw those flames coming out," FBI special agent Bob Ricks said late Monday. "We thought, 'Oh my God, they are killing themselves.'"

"We can only assume that there was a massive loss of life,"

Ricks said. "It was truly an inferno of flames. It would be very surprising if any of the names not read survived," he said after reading a list of nine people that did not include Koresh. The youngest survivor was 16 years old, Ricks said.

The FBI previously had said two of the women in the compound were pregnant, one of whom was due to deliver in May. They apparently were not among the survivors.

Only preliminary efforts had been made to identify any bodies Monday, FBI spokesman John Collingwood said in Washington.

"We have sent some forensic experts and our disaster team out to help identify victims," he said. "I doubt if anything will happen

tonight until daylight tomorrow."

More than nine hours after the blaze started, water still was being poured on the rubble, which was illuminated by one powerful spotlight.

Four of the survivors were hospitalized with burns and broken bones; five others were in custody in the McLennan County Jail where they were being held as material witnesses, said sheriff's Lt. Johnny Mynar.

Bonnie Haldeman, Koresh's mother, blamed the FBI for the tragic end.

"I don't know what David did," Haldeman said by telephone. "I can't answer for the people in there or for what they did. I don't know what they were thinking. I just know it's a tragic

situation that shouldn't have happened from the very beginning."

"There were law-abiding, God-fearing people in there. They didn't hurt anybody. It's ridiculous. They're gonna' pay," Haldeman said in a quivering voice.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Laureen Chernow said the Texas Rangers will investigate the compound site in conjunction with federal agencies.

She said she wasn't able to discuss details of what they might be looking for.

Twenty-one children left the compound early in the standoff, and child welfare officials began Monday notifying some of the 11

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## University groups raise Earth Day awareness

By CHERYL HELLER

The Battalion

The Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) of Student Government and the Texas Environmental Action Coalition are sponsoring an Earth Day Extravaganza at Texas A&M beginning today.

The event, which will continue through Thursday, is being held to raise awareness of the serious problems facing the environment and to celebrate the progress that has been made since the first Earth Day 23 years ago, said EIC member Carrie Thompson.

"We need to raise environmental awareness and activity at Texas A&M," she said. "Hopefully, this event will get people interested."

The Extravaganza kicks off today at 11:30 a.m. with an opening ceremony at the Rudder Fountain area. Student Body President Steve Beller will speak about environmental progress at Texas A&M, and Kathleen Krueger, wife of U.S. Sen. Bob Krueger, will also deliver a speech.

The yell leaders and Reveille will be at the ceremony, and the band Id will perform.

Information tables and game booths sponsored by 15 campus organizations will be in the area throughout the three days.

Four speakers will discuss various issues at the MSC Flagroom on Thursday. H. K. Pitts from the Big Cats Society will speak at 11 a.m. Texas A&M Energy Manager Charles Darnell will follow at noon. Dr. R. Douglass Slack, professor of wildlife and fisheries sciences, will discuss endangered species at 12:30 p.m., and Dr. John Huckabee from the Jesse Jones Nature Center in Houston will speak at 1 p.m. Various bands will perform throughout the day.

## A New York shine



ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

Joseph Davis from New York shines senior boots on Monday after he lost a bet to an Aggie graduate. The bet involved the outcome of the A&M-Texas game last November. Davis was

required to shine five pairs of boots, but he shined 16 pairs instead. Part of the agreement is that Davis would be paid \$20 for each pair of boots he shined past the required five.

## AGGIES #1 AGAIN— Baseball team still on top, ranked first in college polls

Despite losing to Baylor in the first game of a doubleheader Saturday, the Texas A&M baseball team held on to its number-one ranking Monday.

The 40-6 Aggies are ranked first in both the Collegiate Baseball and the Baseball America polls, ahead of North Carolina State, Louisiana State, Texas and Wichita State.

The USA Today/Baseball Weekly coaches' poll had not been released at press time.

The Aggies will defend their top ranking today at 7 p.m. when they take on the University of Texas-Arlington at Olsen Field.

See related story on page seven

## Student crashes car into sorority house

Vehicle hits house's support columns; causes \$50,000 in damage, officer says

By GENEEN PIPHER

The Battalion

The Delta Zeta Sorority House at 1501 Olympia Way was rocked early Saturday evening when a Texas A&M junior crashed her car into the front of the house.

Courtney Anne Thompson, 20, drove her black Honda Accord EX around the corner of Dominik and Olympia Way.

According to witnesses, she lost control of the vehicle, and hitting the gas instead of the brakes, she collided with one of the house's two-story support columns and then the house's front wall.

One witness, who wished to remain anonymous, said Thompson took the corner going about 35 or 40 MPH.

"She hit the curb on the right side of the street, sped up the [Delta Zeta's] walkway, hit the left support column and smashed into the brick wall," the witness said. "The column fell onto the hood of her car and rolled off. A moment later, I saw her jump out of her car and start to run down the street."

The College Station Police and Fire Department arrived at the scene within minutes and administered a motor-coordination test on Thompson. After refusing to take a breathalyzer test, she was arrested for driving while intoxicated and taken to jail.

"She was also given a citation for failure to control speed. The results of the blood test will not be available for at least three weeks," said Lieutenant Onslott, an Information Officer with the College Station Police Department.

Although the damage to the house was considerable, Thompson escaped the accident without any major injuries.

"Except for a scrape on the knee, the woman was not hurt. She was very lucky. Actually, I'm amazed that she made it all the way back to town..."

-Officer Kunkel, CSPD

Civil engineers were called in to determine the stability of the house without the second support

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## The Cow Hop to move from Northgate after fifteen years

By HEATHER WINCH

The Battalion

After 15 years of service on Northgate, The Cow Hop restaurant will move its business to the Albertson's Shopping Center this summer.

Co-owner Jim McGuire gave several reasons for deciding to move the restaurant which included:

- University's on-campus franchising.
- Proposed building of a new food court in the Underground on the University's north side.
- Opening of new restaurants and clubs in the community.
- Parking problems along Northgate.
- Drop in overall sales and customers along the strip.

## Economics drives owner to move restaurant to Albertson's Shopping Center later this summer

The owners expect the new restaurant to be open by Aug. 1.

"It's just an economic decision mainly because we have got to compete with what is around in town, and if you don't compete, you are not going to do well," McGuire said. "If I didn't think that we are going to do better there than here I wouldn't move."

Cow Hop manager Charles Hood said talk of a new food court in the Underground, featuring national fast food chains, has hurt Northgate merchants.

"Walk-up business used to be our main source of income, but basically the Univer-

sity is keeping all the money on campus... our walk up trade has shrunken quite a bit," he said. "Everyone here has felt it."

McGuire said the increasing number of businesses in Bryan-College Station has also cut revenue for Cow Hop. Recent club openings and the arrival of more chain restaurants in the area has decreased the number of students that Cow Hop has previously served.

"College Station is not the same town it was 15 years ago when this place was started," McGuire said. "It is not even the same town it was five years ago. With all the new chains moving into town you can't

rely 100 percent anymore on the student trade.

"We've got the same number of students that we had say two or three years ago, but there are a lot more new restaurants in town," he said.

McGuire said parking and towing have also caused problems along Northgate.

"The towing that has been going on over here the past couple of years has hurt the whole area," he said. "Once you chase people away it's difficult to get them to come back. Nobody wants to be looking over their shoulder to see if there is a tow truck around."

The new location, on South College Avenue, will feature pool tables, two dining areas with a TV room, video games, tap beer, a larger menu and increased parking.

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