



THE BATTALION

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Yeltsin blocks roads to parliament

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin tried to break the nerve of defiant hard-line lawmakers on Tuesday, surrounding the Russian parliament with thousands of riot police and troops in his biggest show of force yet. Trucks and barbed wire blocked roads leading to the parliament building. Senior Interior Ministry officials barked through loudspeakers, ordering the lawmakers and their supporters to surrender their weapons and leave the building by Wednesday. Police commanders told The Associated

Press they might storm the building if the defenders did not surrender their weapons. First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko said the government wanted the building cleared. "No one needs this hotbed of tension," he said.

Yeltsin's press spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the government had no plans to attack the parliament building.

Yeltsin has ruled out compromise with his opponents. The deployment of more troops Tuesday stepped up the war of nerves with the increasingly demoralized and isolated lawmakers who have been holed up since parliament was dissolved last week.

More than 200 lawmakers already have defected from the hard-line cause and are negotiating job offers with Yeltsin's government, according to a former parliament member.

Yeltsin abolished parliament Sept. 21 and called for new elections in December. He has called for presidential elections in June.

Inside the sprawling parliament complex, known as the White House, dozens of guards and volunteers piled rocks and manned barricades as their leaders shouted orders. Russian Orthodox priests in flowing black robes blessed the defenders with crosses.

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Suicide victim's family files lawsuit against Army

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — The Army is targeted in a lawsuit by the family of a Texas soldier who committed suicide after complaining of sexual harassment.

The family of Spc. Alexis Martinez Colon is seeking \$320 million in the lawsuit filed Sept. 8 in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

"We are claiming compensation for the way she died and for the harassment that led to her death," Denver attorney Doris Besikof told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

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Hutchison wants trial over quickly

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Lawyers for indicted U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said Tuesday they will attempt to get a trial on criminal charges behind her as quickly as possible.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," said John Dowd, Hutchison's Washington, D.C.-based attorney.

Dowd said a speedy trial will help keep the indictments returned against the senator on Monday from being dragged out before voters as she seeks reelection next year to a full, six-year term.

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Hutchison, the first woman senator elected from Texas, is scheduled to make an initial court appearance Oct. 11, when a trial date could be set.

The senator, who would top the GOP ticket next year, faces a January filing deadline for her reelection bid and a March primary.

"I don't think (a delay in the trial) helps, but on the other hand, I have an enormous abiding faith in the citizens of Texas," Dowd said. "I think they have shown their faith once and will do it again."

Hutchison was indicted on charges that she used state employees and equipment for personal and political gain during her 2 1/2-year term as state treasurer, and allegations that she helped destroy documents as part of a cover-up.

If convicted, she faces a maximum of 61 years in prison and \$43,000 in fines.

She denies any wrongdoing and calls the charges "sleazy politics" by vindictive Democrats, namely Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, who led the Treasury probe.

Michael Barron, former deputy
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'They were determined to get rid of me and my staff'

Editor fired over dispute with administration

By Mary Kujawa

THE BATTALION

From The Battalion newsroom to the Washington Bureau of Newsweek magazine, former Battalion editor Thomas DeFrank has lived a life most of us only read about in the newspapers and newsmagazines or watch on the evening news. DeFrank currently is the se-

nior White House correspondent and the deputy bureau chief for the Washington Bureau of Newsweek.

"I have seen a lot of historic things, and it all started in the basement of the Batt Cave when I saw an ad in a magazine that doesn't exist anymore," he said. The magazine was the Moderator, which is no longer published. DeFrank came to Texas A&M

University in the fall of 1963 knowing two things: he wanted to be an Aggie and he wanted to pursue a degree in journalism.

"I just wanted to go to A&M," DeFrank said. "I loved the spirit of A&M."

Just as strong as DeFrank's desire to come to A&M was his desire to be a reporter. DeFrank's roots in journalism can be traced back to his junior high and high school days. He worked on the newspaper in junior high school and was the editor of his high school newspaper. He then worked three years at The Battalion.

"I wanted to be a reporter for as long as I can remember," he said.

In his junior year at A&M, DeFrank became the managing editor of The Battalion. The editor that year was Glenn Dromgoole, who is now the editor of the Abilene Reporter-News.

"The two best years in journalism were the year I covered Vice President Ford before he became president and the year I served as Glenn's managing editor," DeFrank said. "Glenn was and is still the best editor I ever worked for. Glenn was a terrific editor, a

steady presence and a great teacher."

Controversy abounded on the A&M campus in 1965-66 when DeFrank and Dromgoole worked on the newspaper. DeFrank said A&M was in a transition period from a small military school that wanted to be more.

"The administration was caught between the traditionalists and the forces of change that wanted A&M to be a progressive university," he said.

At The Battalion, the forces of old and new often created tension.

"There was conflict all year long over what should and should not be allowed in the paper," DeFrank said. "Stories were often pulled at the press because the publications adviser, who was taking orders from the administration, didn't like them."

J. Earl Rudder, president of A&M, and the editors often found themselves at opposite ends of the struggle.

"Gen. Rudder was not very enlightened on issues of the college press," DeFrank said. "He was very old-fashioned and wanted nothing critical of the University, period. However, I always believed that more than any individual he is responsible for making A&M the great university it is today."

One incident that stands out in DeFrank's mind from that year was an incident concerning Johnny Cash and Bonfire.

In the fall of 1965, Cash was scheduled to perform at Bonfire. However, Cash was arrested in El Paso and charged with smuggling and concealing drugs before his appearance at A&M. Consequently, the administration canceled his concert.

DeFrank said The Battalion editorialized Cash was innocent until proven guilty. "The administration went crazy," he said.

Dromgoole said The Battalion wrote editorials about the situation and DeFrank interviewed Cash's manager.

"That issue really got to the administration and put us at odds for the rest of the year," Dromgoole said.

The situation between the administration and The Battalion didn't improve when DeFrank became editor the next year.

On Sept. 21, 1966, The Battalion printed an unsigned letter in "Sound Off," The Battalion's letters-to-the-editors column. The letter was from a veteran's wife who complained about receiving several letters pleading for a donation to the Aggie Ex Development Fund, even though her husband still was a student and not an Aggie Ex.

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Former Battalion editor **Thomas DeFrank**, currently the senior White House correspondent and the deputy bureau chief for the Washington Bureau of Newsweek, once was fired from The Battalion staff.



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- Monday: The Battalion vs. The Administration
- Tuesday: Cartoonists of The Battalion
- Wednesday: Fired Editor Thomas DeFrank
- Thursday: The Battalion Anniversary Issue

Large freshman Corps class causes overcrowding in dorms

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

Some members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets are learning how to fit three people into a room built for two.

This year, five cadets are over-assigned and must live temporarily with roommates who have already secured their room assignment.

Mando Avila, deputy Corps commander and a senior political science major, said these over-assigned cadets are wait-

ing for someone to quit the Corps or for some adjusting to occur so they can live in a room within their outfit.

Out of the 12 dorms on the Quad, three are currently filled with non-reg females. Avila said it will probably be used as a Corps dorm again next year.

"I guess they didn't anticipate the freshmen class would be so big," he said. "There is no clause that all of the dorms on the Quadrangle are ours."

Lt. Col. Donald Johnson, deputy commandant, said the Corps is using all of the space it has available.

"We could shift and un-triple some of the students, but that would mean some would have to be satellited to another outfit," Johnson said.

Johnson said most cadets would rather share a room with two other cadets instead of switching outfits.

Although there are 54 non-reg freshmen and new students who are over-assigned, Johnson said most of the Corps members who are tripled up are upperclassmen.

"Most outfits chose not to triple the freshmen," Johnson said.

"Upperclassmen will accept the inconvenience of having three in a room in lieu of having the freshmen tripled."

Johnson said it is easier for upperclassmen to handle sharing a room with two other cadets than it is for freshmen.

"For freshmen, there is a big period of adjustment," Johnson said.

Avila agreed that freshmen in the Corps do not need any added pressure.

"Upperclassmen have been here a while and can deal with it better," Avila said.

Avila said the large number of cadets

this year also forced the Corps to place "satellited" junior and senior cadets on the second floor of Dorm 2. "Satellited" cadets live separate from their outfits until a space opens up.

But Avila said most of the displaced cadets will probably end up staying on the second floor of Dorm 2.

"It's not a big problem for the satellited cadets," Avila said.

Avila said it has been a while since the Corps has had to deal with the problem of over-assigned cadets.

"It's a good problem to have, but it's still a problem," he said.

Domino tournament to benefit injured Aggie

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

What started as a small fundraising activity to help out a friend has turned into a major program for Walton Hall and the Residence Hall Association at Texas A&M University.

The Fall '93 Forty-Two Challenge Bones Domino Tournament has been scheduled for mid-October and will benefit the Kyle Kepple Accident Relief Fund.

Bart Mitchell, director of the tournament, said the program started in Walton Hall in the fall of 1992 to help raise money for Kyle Kepple, a former president of Walton who was seriously injured in a car accident.

"Having one of your friends injured in an accident motivates you to want to help him."

— Bart Mitchell, tournament director

"Having one of your friends injured in an accident motivates you to want to help him," said Mitchell.

This fall the RHA and Walton Hall are working with Off-Campus Aggies, the Pan-Hellenic Council, the Corp of Cadets and all dorms on campus in an effort to make the event a University-wide tournament.

Ross said all of the money made in this tournament will go to Kyle Kepple, but future profits will go to

other Aggies who have been injured in accidents.

Mitchell said he and the other organizers are working to make the tournament an event that will be held every semester.

"We want to make it a fund for any Aggie who is in an accident so that person can get assistance for all of the costs," said Mitchell. "Most of the people helping out now don't even know Kyle, they just want to help a fellow Ag."

Chris Thompson, president of the RHA, said the tournament is an excellent opportunity to raise money for the new fund and to let everybody have a good time doing it.

"We're not interested in making a profit for ourselves," said Thompson, "we're interested in contributing to the fund."

Thompson said other programs are being considered by RHA that will benefit the relief fund.

Kepple, who lives in Joshua, Texas, is planning to come back to A&M in the spring and plans to graduate in the spring of 1995.

Although he still has orthopedic problems and will be undergoing

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• Winder: Sports movies you've just got to see

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• Scroggs: No one discriminates because of genetic traits, do they?

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WEATHER

• Wednesday: sunny and warm, high in low 90s, lows in 50s

• Thursday: sunny and warm, high in low 90s, lows in 50s

• Weekend forecast: fair sky, highs in 80s to near 90, lows in 50s