



THE BATTALION

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1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Thursday, September 30, 1993

The Battalion turns 100

By Mark Evans

THE BATTALION

The Battalion, Texas' longest continuous college publication, celebrates a century of service to Texas A&M University on Friday.

To mark the newspaper's 100th anniversary, more than 150 current and former staff members will take part in a weekend of activities to pay tribute to one of Texas A&M's oldest traditions.

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Working with the journalism department, the editor of the newspaper, Chris Whitley, sent out 500 letters last month inviting former staff members to return to campus to relive old memories and see how far The Battalion has progressed through the years.

"We wanted to come up with a fitting tribute to the hundreds of people who have given up their time, their energies, and sometimes

even their grades to make the paper what it is today: a newspaper that we can all take pride in," he said.

The editors and the journalism department began planning for the anniversary last spring. They decided to invite former staffers to the campus for the weekend to give them the opportunity to meet the current staff and to see how the University has changed, Whitley said.

Dr. Charles Self, head of the journalism department, said he has high hopes for this weekend.

"I think it's a particularly poignant reunion for people who have worked for the student newspaper because they go through so much together, those late nights," he said.

"It's also very meaningful because it gives the University and the journalism department the chance to express how much we value the contributions of these students over the years. It is every bit as significant a contribution as the contributions that the faculty and the staff make."

Robert Wegener, student publications manager, said that as far as he knows, this weekend is the first time that anyone has

tried to organize a reunion for former Battalion staff members.

The reunion weekend will consist of a weekly staff meeting for former and current staff members on Friday, a seminar on media in the 21st century Saturday afternoon, and a century banquet Saturday evening.

The department has received a lot of responses from former staff members who are looking forward to returning to campus, Wegener said.

Self said the anniversary is a testament to the importance of student journalism in the university community.

"It says good things about A&M and good things about The Battalion and their relationship, even though the relationship sometimes has its rough moments and hits potholes," he said.

Whitley said a 100th anniversary marks a milestone for any newspaper, but especially for The Battalion.

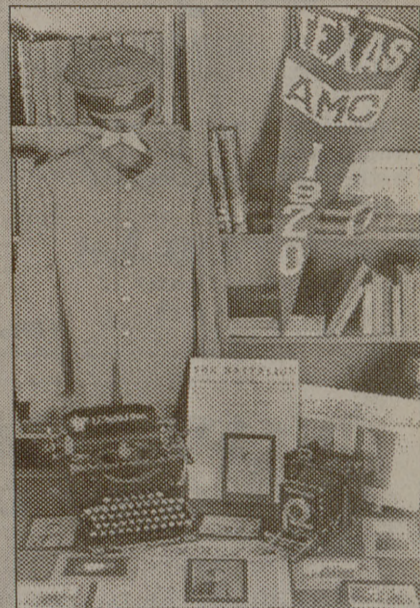
"Time is the ultimate test," he said. "Fortunately, we've passed that test. It proves that as long as the people of Texas A&M have a need for information, there will always be a need for The Battalion."

THE BATTALION 1893-1993

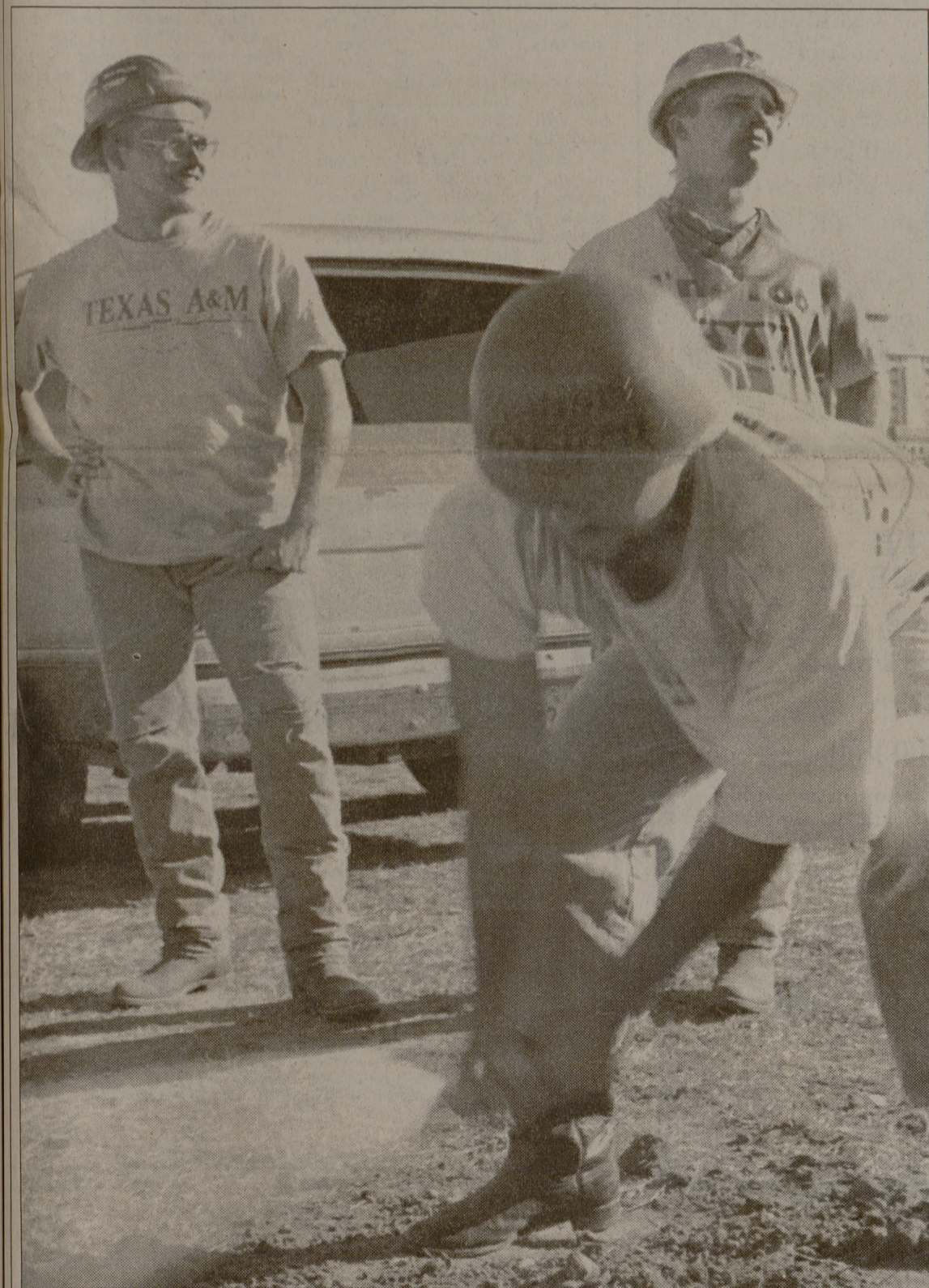
Special Edition

To celebrate The Battalion's 100th anniversary, a special Commemorative Edition accompanies today's regular issue. This 12-page section takes a look back at the histories of The Battalion and Texas A&M.

From the death of Sul Ross to the turbulent 1960s, this edition offers a glimpse of the major events that have affected A&M and how The Battalion reported them.



Only 54 days 'til Bonfire



Mary Macnarius/The Battalion

Brian Gamez, a freshman premed major from Cuero, digs for a speaker wire at Bonfire site. The wire was cut last year during Bonfire and they are trying to find it.

Hutchison's political future uncertain, say local experts

Party chairmen predict effects on 1994 Senate election

By Stephanie Pattillo

THE BATTALION

Whether she is found guilty or acquitted, the political future remains uncertain for Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and the Republican Party in Texas, say Texas A&M political scientists and local party chairmen.

Hutchison, the first female U.S. senator elected from Texas, was indicted Monday on felony and misdemeanor charges of official misconduct and tampering with government records and physical evidence from her 2 1/2 year tenure as state treasurer.

Experts agree that Hutchison's indictment will greatly affect both her political career and the 1994 bid for her Senate seat.

Dr. Charles Wiggins, a political science professor who teaches congressional politics, said the timing of Hutchison's indictment is significant.

"If this is still dangling when she files for office, and if she is convicted after the election, then her seat will be open for a Democratic appointment," Wiggins said.

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, political science professor and former Hutchison opponent in the 1991 race for state treasurer, said Hutchison's indictment just muddles the situation. Hutchison is no longer a sure bet for the Republicans, she said.

"There will be strong Democratic competition because they



U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison has been indicted on felony and misdemeanor charges of official misconduct and tampering with government records.

can't afford to pass up a chance like this," Van Hightower said. "For the Republicans, this is an embarrassing situation. If they find someone to run against her, then they are abandoning her, but if she goes down in flames, they are stuck without a candidate."

Questions about Hutchison's credibility as a responsible politician are a concern, whether she is found guilty or acquitted. "No one likes to have an indictment on their record," Wiggins said. "It will hurt her a little; the question is whether it will hurt her enough to damage her credibility."

Van Hightower said she thinks if Hutchison comes through innocent, she can survive politically. Hutchison's political strategy is to build the public attitude that she is the victim of a political witch hunt, Van Hightower said.

"If she is not guilty, she will gain credibility," she said. "If she is guilty, then her political career is over."

Hutchison has adamantly denied the charges by Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle, a Democrat, saying that his investigation into her affairs while state treasurer are politically motivated.

Jim James, Brazos County Democratic Party head and local attorney, said Hutchison's accusations against Earle are hurting the Republican Party.

"That charge was absolutely ridiculous," he said. "Earle has prosecuted numerous Democrats and now the Republicans are saying that this is politically charged. I bet there were several Republicans on the grand jury, and to say it's a political thing when there have been weeks of testimony is an insult to the people on the grand jury, and it will not fly."

But Rodger Lewis, Brazos County Republican chairman, said Earle's investigation and indictment of Hutchison is "100 percent political."

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STANDOFF IN RUSSIA

Hard-line rebels willing to negotiate

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The government gave increasingly isolated lawmakers five days to leave the parliament building or face "serious consequences," and the besieged hard-liners reportedly said Wednesday they were willing to negotiate.

The offer marked a possible softening in the hard-liners' defiance. It came as the government kept up a tight cordon of razor-wire, guns and thousands of armed riot police and troops around the building.

In the offer, drafted by parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, the lawmakers offered to start negotiations mediated by Russia's top religious leader, Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II, ITAR-Tass reported.

In a sign of a possible split within the hard-line camp, another top rebel leader, Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, told reporters inside parliament early Wednesday that he would not accept any compromise with the government.

There was no immediate government response. President Boris Yeltsin has previously said he would not compromise with the rebels who have repeatedly tried to sabotage his reforms.

The government didn't spell out what it meant by "serious consequences," but it will be expected to do something if the lawmakers continue to hold out past Monday. Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev offered fresh assurances Wednesday that force would not be used in the showdown, but Yeltsin may ultimately have no other option.

Speakers urge minority involvement in media

Diversity in journalism necessary, Chronicle editor says

By Andrea Taormina

THE BATTALION

Three Hispanic media professionals talking with the Hispanic Journalists Association Wednesday night all had the same message: there needs to be more minorities in the media, especially in management positions.

Fernando Dovalina, an assistant managing editor of the Houston Chronicle, gave three reasons why he thought diversity in the media is a necessity: it is the right thing to do, it's good business and it improves circulation.

"If we fail to cover minorities, we fail to cover part of the community," Dovalina said. "There are still newspapers out there who do not have any minorities working on them."

"If an advertiser who is a minority comes

into the newsroom, he wants to feel comfortable. Circulation goes hand in hand with advertising. Advertisers want to be represented in the paper."

Cyndy Garza, community relations director for KTRK in Houston, said Hispanics have made many advances in the past several years. She said although there are representatives of every minority in television, it is still not enough.

Garza said it was when she got to college that she realized there was a bias against Hispanics. She said, however, that society is making progress.

"The great thing about assimilation and diversity is that society is finally realizing they don't have to be exclusive," she said.

She said another problem in the media is

that minorities are only being assigned to cover minority issues. When asked how to change that, she advised the students to ask for other assignments.

Cruz Ramirez, Spanish program director for KHRN FM radio, encouraged students to aim for owning their own radio stations someday.

"There are 11,300 stations," she said, "and less than 1 percent are owned by Hispanics."

Ramirez said the reason there is not more minority ownership of radio stations is because people do not tell minorities about the opportunities.

All three speakers offered advice on how to break into the media and how to deal with racial stereotyping and bias. They also disputed the idea that whites are losing their jobs to Hispanics.

The program was part of a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a national celebration that kicked off earlier this month.

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SPORTS

•Texas Tech coach Dykes talks about upcoming game

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WEATHER

•Thursday: sunny, high in the low 90s. No rain.

•Forecast for Friday: cloudy, not too hot.

TEXAS LOTTO

•Wednesday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 3, 12, 28, 34, 39, 40