

### Cookin', Old Army style



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Jim Woodfin, Class of '88, slices steak for the Houston A&M Club as part of the 6th annual Parent's Weekend Bevo Burn held Saturday at The Grove.

## Branch Davidians gather to remember dead members, siege

The Associated Press

WACO — Several Branch Davidians who survived the siege and fire that destroyed their rural compound nearly a year ago gathered with supporters and strangers Sunday to remember those who died and sell their side of the standoff.

About a hundred yards from the site that was once a sprawling rural compound, people hawked videos, T-shirts, hats, books and other items as speakers blamed the federal government for the deaths of religious leader David Koresh and dozens of his followers.

"They murdered those people. The government came in here and burned them to death," said a crying John Borgman, a Denton County resident who came to the Davidians' "Day of Information."

Borgman — who didn't know about the group until the siege began on Feb. 28, 1993 — and about 200 other people attended the one-day outdoor event near Waco.

Booths, tables, refreshment stands and a stage were erected near the remains of Mount Carmel, which was once the Davidians' home.

After a 51-day standoff between the Davidians and FBI agents, the compound was devoured by an inferno last April 19. Koresh and 78 followers died that day.

The government has said the Davidians set the fire and that those who died chose to remain inside the burning compound. But the survivors have repeatedly and adamantly denied such claims.

Several members of the group, including at least two who escaped the burning complex, were on hand Sunday to tell their story to an overwhelmingly pro-Davidian crowd.

"This is the first time I've been back out at this place since I left on the 19th," said survivor Clive Doyle. "I'm kind of numb. . . . I miss it."

"Basically, we're trying to keep this alive in the minds of America," he said, explaining why the survivors and their supporters held the event. "I don't believe the facts got out."

Survivors have maintained that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms unlawfully attacked the compound last Feb. 28 and that those inside were only trying to protect themselves when they fired back, killing four agents and wounding several others.

ATF officials have said they were attacked when they tried to serve search warrants that day at the compound and arrest Koresh, who preached of the Apocalypse.

"I don't want people to forget what happened here," Doyle said. "The

See Davidians/Page 8

## China's environment wearing down

The Associated Press

CHONGQING, China — When the skies above this hilly metropolis opened that night a few weeks back, down poured a wicked rain, inky black with grime and nearly as acidic as vinegar.

The cloudburst of "black rain" seemed a warning that the heavens could hold no more of the prodigious filth belched forth from the smokestacks scarring the Chongqing region.

It turned once-white buildings dark gray overnight and left the city's 4 million people to wonder what other pollution horrors might yet await them.

"It can only get worse, not better," groans Jiang Zejia, the former president of Chongqing University, built on a bluff overlooking the Jialing River.

"There are a lot of factories along the river. This one's the most poisonous," he adds, pointing to a pharmaceutical plant just below. "You see, it's lower than our windows. If the wind is blowing this way . . ." He left the obvious unsaid.

The fouled environment is exacting a heavy toll on Jiang, who for several years underwent annual penicillin treatment for bronchitis he

believes was brought on by the dirty air.

But the pollution is also threatening the entire nation, where a fragile environment that must sustain more than one-fifth of the Earth's population is falling victim to a pell-mell rush for economic development.

Much of the Chinese landscape has taken on a decidedly Dickensian look as the country goes through its own double-step Industrial Revolution to catch up with the developed world. Factories crowd cities and surrounding countryside, ruining the air, the water and the land.

The government is drafting action plans, fining polluters and scrounging for funds to clean up the environment.

"But the quality of our country's environment still hasn't improved much," the state-run Legal Daily said recently. "The environmental quality is worsening in a lot of places."

Among the problems are toothless anti-pollution laws, inadequate enforcement and a widespread belief that environmental concerns stand in the way of economic development.

That has got to change fast if China is to avoid ecological disaster. The state media, once silent on the topic, in the past year has been filled with frank accounts of the nation's envi-

ronmental mess.

First, look at the air.

Two of the world's seven cities with the worst air pollution are in China: Beijing and Shenyang. Benxi, an industrial center in the north, actually disappeared from satellite view for a period because its skies were so dirty.

Air pollution has become the leading cause of respiratory disease in the nation, according to official media.

In Chongqing, a longtime center of heavy industry where climate and geography work together to keep the grime hanging low over the city, one of every three city residents has breathing difficulties.

Data from the Public Health Ministry indicates chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, linked to exposure to fine suspended particles and sulfur dioxide, was responsible for one of every four Chinese deaths in 1988, according to a confidential World Bank report.

The death rate from such disease was 162.6 per 100,000 that year, or more than five times the rate in the United States, the report said.

Much of China's air pollution is from coal, which accounts for nearly three-fourths of the non-renewable energy used in China.

### Suspect

Continued from Page 1

\$250,000 bond.

Moore hasn't been charged with writing the letters, but District Attorney Sandy Gately told the Waco Tribune-Herald that she has information leading her to believe that he did write them.

Copperas Cove police say five rambling, sometime rhyming threatening letters written to high school cheerleaders were reported Nov. 15 through 18. Police say they believe other un-

reported letters also were written.

"It (the letter) said that he knew my father and that he loved me, and he wanted to rape me, and that I was beautiful," Copperas Cove cheerleader Chalei Thiim told the Tribune-Herald.

"I was really afraid and scared, and when I went out at night, I felt like someone was watching me," said Thiim, 17. She says the letter warned that she would be watched.

Thiim says she and the other cheerleaders feel safer with Moore behind bars, but that her hometown of 25,000 has been

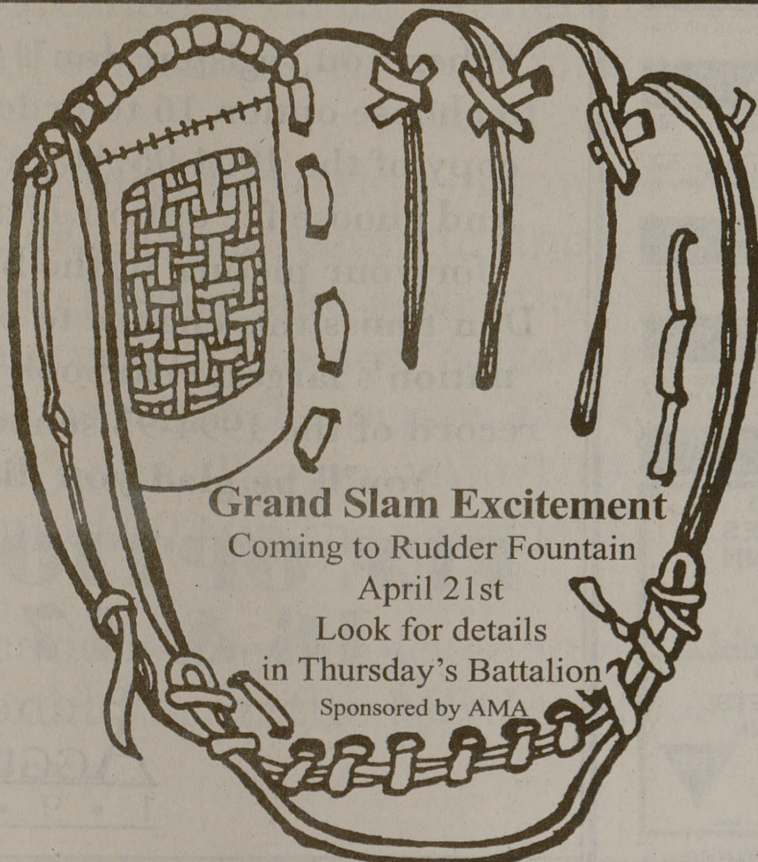
shaken by the recent events.

Despite Moore's confession, the fact that he doesn't have a violent background should mean he won't get the death penalty, Hunt said.

For Gately, the case promises to be a big one.

The last time a capital murder sentence was carried out in the county was in the 1800s, she said. Copperas Cove is about 130 miles southwest of Dallas.

"When the ultimate penalty is death — that's as big as it gets," she said. "At this point we can prove what he did and that's sufficient."



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