

weekend's rains set a record for rainfall in a 24-hour period with 3.3 inches.

ELIZABETH PRESTON: Political correctness is not insane, trite or annoying. It is an important movement that brings forward many voices that have been hiding in shame for years.

The Lady Aggie basketball team tips off the season with their first practice Saturday.

THE BATTALION



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NEWS BRIEFS

S. translator meets accidental death

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A Miami man working as a translator for the international police force in Haiti was electrocuted Sunday, the accidental death in the international effort to restore Haiti's elected government.
In the National Palace, meanwhile, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was choosing a new prime minister.
His top candidate, interim Foreign Minister Claudette Werleigh, was vetoed because of her leftist bent. Aristide was leaning toward a prominent businessman to replace caretaker Prime Minister Robert Prival, a source close to the government said.
The only previous deaths since UN-led forces arrived in Haiti on Oct. 19 have been three American policemen who took their own lives.

Children with elevated lead levels overlooked

DALLAS (AP) — The number of children in two south Dallas neighborhoods with elevated levels of lead in their blood is almost twice that of other parts of the city where officials are focusing their help, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday.
City officials have no plans to help the south Dallas neighborhoods, and that decision could keep the areas from a share of federal grants to be announced this week, the newspaper said.
Dallas is seeking a \$6 million grant to pay for lead poisoning programs. The money would go toward a few selected neighborhoods of east, south and west Dallas, city officials say.
However, state tests of thousands of Dallas children suggest the two south Dallas neighborhoods left out of the anti-lead effort may have much worse lead problems.

Woman befriends new mother, kidnaps baby

FORT WORTH (AP) — Police are searching Sunday for a baby girl whose mother was suspected of being abducted by a woman who had befriended the child's mother.
Four-month-old Ysenia Romero was taken from her crib late Friday after her 2-year-old brother slept nearby, police said.
The suspect was known to the family only as "Alicia," despite having befriended the family repeatedly for months, said police Lt. Greg Bradley.
"They know nothing else about her," Bradley said. "It sounds hard to believe, but stranger things occur. This is a person who is very calculating."
The suspect introduced herself to Gabriella Sanchez, 21, at Fort Worth's John Peter Smith Hospital about the time Ysenia was born and befriended her frequently, Bradley said.
"She said she was looking for her mother, who was having a baby. That was pretense, I believe," Bradley said.

Scientists advise FDA to approve eye laser

GAITHERSBURG, Md. (AP) — A panel of outside scientists advised the Food and Drug Administration last week to approve the nation's first laser to correct nearsightedness, provided the maker can meet strict safety criteria.
Summit Technology Inc. must show the FDA that at least 75 percent of patients treated with this laser will have good enough vision to abandon their glasses or contact lenses and that only a tiny number could have their vision worsened because of the procedure.
The 13-1 vote by the panel came after 12 1/2 hours of often-testy debate. At one point, the panel came to a single vote of completely rejecting the OmniMed laser. Several panel members expressed concern that the laser was already outmoded in the 40 countries that now permit the type of surgery.
The FDA is not obliged to accept recommendations of its outside advisers, but it customarily does.

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Israel to hunt Hamas, embraces peace

Peace treaty with Jordan approved; Rabin gives green light to hunt Tel Aviv bombers

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is approaching peace with a palm branch in one hand and a gun in the other.
Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave security forces the green light to hunt down and kill military leaders of the Muslim movement waging a war of terror against Israelis, officials said Sunday.

But the policy, a response to public anger at the bombing of a Tel Aviv bus, is matched by official approval of a peace treaty with Jordan and renewal of talks with Palestinians on self-rule.
Security officials reported to the Cabinet on Sunday that they had rounded up dozens of activists from the fundamentalist Muslim group Hamas since the

bus attack last Wednesday. Hamas took responsibility for the bombing, which claimed its 22nd victim on Sunday when a 61-year-old woman died of her wounds.
Fearing reprisals for the bombing, about 30 Hamas activists in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip and the Israeli-occupied West Bank are spending nights in hiding, a Palestinian source said.

Cabinet ministers spoke of new steps against Hamas, although they would not confirm Rabin's decision to order the killing of Hamas military leaders, which received banner newspaper headlines.
Economics Minister Shimon Shetret said security forces had identified "dozens" of activists involved in the kidnap-murder of an Israeli soldier by Hamas last week. "We will find them and no one will go unpunished," he told reporters.
Police sources told The Associ-

ated Press on Sunday that the soldier, Sgt. Nachshon Waxman, a dual American-Israeli citizen, was severely beaten by his captors but not otherwise tortured before his death.
Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel was in "a long war" and had decided on "special treatment in dealing with the Hamas that in the end will stop them."
The military has long had a list of most-wanted activists it is authorized to kill on sight,
See **Israel**/Page 3

Election officials use convenient polling to boost voter turnout

UNDATED (AP) — If you're an old-fashioned type who thinks voting is something you do on Election Day, think again.
By the time polls open Nov. 8, up to one-third of all Texas voters will have cast their ballots — at flea markets, stores and in church parking lots.
In California, an estimated one in five voters will vote before Election Day, without ever setting foot in a polling place.
And in two Washington counties, nobody will go to the polls on Election Day. Island and Ferry counties are running their elections entirely by mail.
Hoping to boost America's chronically low voter turnout, election officials and legislators are getting creative, trying to make voting more convenient with programs such as early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, retail voting and mail-in voting.
"Convenience sells, no matter what business you're in," said Art Hyland, auditor in Island County, which mailed ballots Friday to every registered voter.

With the innovations, however, come concerns that tinkering with democracy's most sacred rite may have unwelcome results, including higher costs, increased risk of fraud, and a loss of community spirit.
Gary King of Olympia, Wash., got a ballot in the mail two weeks before the state's Sept. 20 primary.
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Fish taking a yell leader to water

Junior Yell Leader David Kemp is escorted off of Kyle Field by freshmen members of the Corps for his and the other yell leaders traditional dunking in the Fish Pond.

Carrie Thompson/THE BATTALION

Chronicling A&M Athletics

Cartoon dp gives constant support to Aggie sports

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

Twice a week for seventeen years dp has appeared in the sports pages of The Battalion.
dp, a cartoon character who always looks on Aggie athletics in an unfailingly positive light in the comic strip "dp," is usually accompanied by other stock characters, such as a yell leader, a band member and a Corps freshman.
Donald Powell, director of business services, president of the Texas Aggie Band Association and Class of '56, created dp in 1977 to help support A&M's athletic teams.
"The cartoon is designed to be supportive," Powell said. "It will always be positive."
Col. Ray Toler, director of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, said he thinks Powell is the epitome of an Aggie's Aggie.
"He loves A&M on a professional plane

and on an emotional plane," Toler said. "I have the utmost regard and respect for him. He loves everything near and dear to Aggie traditions."
Powell attends every football game, home and away, and every home basketball game.
He said that traveling to the away football games sometimes makes it difficult to meet his self-imposed 6 p.m. Sunday deadline.
"I've never missed a deadline — ever," Powell said.
"I try to make each cartoon special, but if I'm rushed, the characters will have no feet. That's because if they have feet, the characters must be in proportion."
Powell said he used to draw some cartoons, without expressions, before he left College Station for a game. His daughter would then give the characters smiles or frowns, depending on the outcome of the game, and turn the strip in for him.

"I try to draw the strip as close to the game as I can, either on Saturday or Sunday, so I can reflect on it," Powell said. "That gets hard during basketball season. I've been known to sit in the stands at G. Rollie White and draw cartoons."
Powell said most of the responses he gets to his cartoon are positive.
David Winder, sports editor of The Battalion, said "dp" is a cartoon readers expect to see in the paper.
"dp" is a tradition here," Winder said. "People are used to it. If it weren't in the paper, people would notice and be upset."
Powell said he has only faced one serious controversy in the 17 years the cartoon has run.
He said that in 1978 many A&M supporters were upset with football coach Emory Bellard because of A&M's poor standing in the Southwest Conference.
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dp's creator Donald Powell, A&M's director of business services.

Coast Guard works to clean Houston oil slick

HOUSTON (AP) — The Coast Guard worked against a strong current Sunday to clean up more than a million gallons of oil and gasoline that gushed from pipelines ruptured by floodwaters.
One of the nation's busiest ports could remain closed through the week to nearly all traffic while crews work on the goosy mess.
Flooding that began Oct. 16 has killed at least 19 people. Rushing water from the swollen San Jacinto River is believed responsible for at least four pipeline breaks that sent at least 1.2 million gallons of gasoline and crude oil into the river Thursday, igniting fires.
A blotchy ribbon of black crude, some patches still burning,

floated from the river's mouth through the channel and into the Gulf of Mexico. Oil-recovery ships worked to suck the oil into storage tanks and barges with booms and skimmers.
"I think a week is a good working figure for resolution of the oil spillage. We may be longer in resolving some of the other issues," Coast Guard Capt. Richard Ford said. "It's too early to predict exactly what type of problems we are dealing with and how long it's going to take."
The Houston Ship Channel is open to some barges during daylight. Ford estimated that businesses along the Port of Houston will lose \$1 million each day as oceangoing vessels are kept out.
Oil-collecting ships bobbed Sunday in 6 mph currents that

Flood victims seek Sunday solace

HOUSTON (AP) — Mary Lopez beamed in her beaded-satin wedding dress Sunday, a new gold ring on her left hand as she stood outside the New Day Revival Center.
"I almost didn't get my dress," she said, posing for family photos under a brilliant blue sky. "Because of the flooding, I almost didn't make it to the store to pick it up."
At other churches across 33 Texas counties, those hit hardest by the torrential rain and floods

sought solace as they were joined in pews by volunteers and neighbors, many who gave thanks they were spared the heartache of losing a loved one or a home. Nine-teen were killed in the floods.
Mrs. Lopez says she's one of the more lucky residents in this southeast Houston neighborhood, where floodwater rose to more than 8 feet in some places. Her front yard flooded, but her home did not.
Asked if the rains that pelted Southeast Texas and her neigh-

borhood for three days had anything to do with her decision just four days ago to marry her boyfriend of two years, she just shrugged.
"We were ready," she said.
A few streets over, at South Wesley African Methodist Episcopal, church directories dried on the lawn. Inside, peeling paint about a foot high from the ground marked the flooding's final level. Worshipers returned to their pews with wet knees after kneeling on the soaked front altar.
An unmanned tugboat reported

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