

THE BATTALION

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NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. troops search for Haitian gunmen

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — U.S. Special Forces teams are tracking two small bands of anti-government gunmen through southwestern Haiti, but weeks of searching turned up only 64 weapons and one man.

The hunt by the Green Berets attests to continued instability in the countryside more than a month after U.S. troops landed in Haiti to oversee a transition from military dictatorship to democratic rule under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Aristide, who was returned to power Oct. 15, was expected to announce shortly his selection of businessman and longtime supporter Smark Michel as prime minister. The choice was a gesture to Haiti's business community, which remains nervous about the populist policies Aristide pursued in seven months as elected president before being overthrown by the military in 1991.

The manhunt in the Les Cayes area near the southwestern tip is probably just a snapshot of troubles across much of rural Haiti.

U.S. budget deficit falls to \$203 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. budget deficit fell to \$203 billion in the just-completed fiscal year, the Clinton administration announced Monday, crediting "very disciplined" Democratic management for achieving the largest two-year deficit reduction in history.

"The bottom line is getting stronger every day," Clinton said in a speech to business leaders in Cleveland. "For the first time in 20 years, the deficit has gone down two years in a row."

While President Clinton and his economic team sought to capitalize on the accomplishment, Republicans were brandishing a secret White House memo they claimed laid bare the administration's fiscal hypocrisy.

Clean up of oil spill reaches \$3.5 million

HOUSTON (AP) — The cost of purging the flooded San Jacinto River of an oily mess from punctured pipelines reached \$3.5 million Monday, the Coast Guard said.

But the cleanup from the rupturing of at least four pipelines in the river east of Houston was ahead of schedule and the Coast Guard said it hoped the operation could be finished by midweek.

"I feel pretty confident that by Wednesday we will have gotten the bulk of the oil up or at least 95 percent," Coast Guard Capt. Richard Ford, coordinator of the spill recovery, said.

Ford credited evaporation and burning of the crude oil, diesel fuel and gasoline that had been flowing into the river since last Thursday for eliminating much of the estimated 200,000 gallons of petroleum products that had leaked into the waterway.

Julia succumbs to stroke complications

NEW YORK (AP) — Raul Julia, the darkly handsome actor who starred with equal aplomb as Othello on stage and lusty Gomez Addams in the movies' "The Addams Family," died Monday of complications from a stroke. He was 54.

The Puerto Rican-born star died at the North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, on Long Island, where he had been admitted last week. He will be given a state funeral in Puerto Rico.

He played a tormented South American political prisoner befriended by a gay man — William Hurt, in his Oscar-winning performance — in the 1985 movie "Kiss of the Spider Woman." He played opposite Anjelica Huston as the libidinous Gomez in "The Addams Family" 1991 and its 1993 sequel "Addams Family Values."

Housing vacancy review inconclusive

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Officials from the Department of Students Affairs have found no unusual reasons for the increase in residence hall vacancies this year.

Chareny Rydl, associate director of residence life, said the department hoped to find a reason why so many students canceled their housing reservations, leaving 636 vacancies in Corps of Cadets and non-Corps residence halls.

"We were hoping there would be a trend in the reasons that people canceled," she said, "but we didn't find any."

Ron Sasse, director of student affairs, said an investigation showed that while cancellations and no-shows were higher this year than in the past, they occurred for the same reasons.

"It was the same stuff," he said, "just more of it."

Rydl said students who canceled their reservations did so later than usual.

"We were on target with cancellations until mid-July," Rydl said.

Late summer cancellations, no-shows may be reason for housing surplus

She said no one knows why these students waited so late to cancel their housing reservations.

"We don't know if this is an unusual year or if it is the beginning of a pattern," she said. "All we can do is speculate."

She said the rent increase approved in July by the Board of Regents may have been a reason that some students canceled their housing.

Some students may have waited later to decide where to live or which university to attend, Rydl said.

"Students are shopping around more," she said. "They are looking for better deals and comparing different institutions."

Rydl said that the penalty of losing their housing deposit did not deter these students from canceling in July and August.

The Department of Student Affairs has formed a task force to look into

ways to keep students from canceling their reservations.

"We are going to look at what happened this year and see how we can keep it from happening again," Rydl said.

The task force will consider requiring students to put up a larger deposit to reserve a space on campus. The current deposit is \$200.

They will also consider imposing stiffer penalties for those who cancel their reservations.

The task force may propose that the housing office notify students of their hall and roommate assignments earlier so that students who are not happy with their assignment can cancel sooner.

Rydl said that many of the proposals will not be implemented before next fall because those applications have already been printed and sent out.

The housing office accepts a certain number of applications for housing based on trends from past years, she said.

After that number of students have accepted housing, the remainder are sent letters saying that there is no more on-campus housing available.

Since so many students waited until July and August to cancel their reservations, Rydl said, by the time the housing office could notify the students who had been turned away, they had found housing off-campus.

Rydl said that since the housing office uses numbers from the previous year to decide how many applications to accept, more will probably be accepted next year.

Sasse said they will have to be careful not to overcompensate, though.

"Our challenge is to not overreact to this," he said. "We're going to be careful."

He said the target, like in past years, will be to have a few extra assignments available to take the place of students who cancel their reservation late, or do not show up to move in.

MSC Council, student groups discuss ways to make A&M diverse

By Amanda Fowle
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Monday, the Memorial Student Center Council and other student organization leaders agreed their organizations and the University need to be more diverse.

Trey Lary, MSC president, said the goal of the MSC council is to unite diverse groups of people.

Lary said the MSC has specific committees, like the Black Awareness Committee and the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture, whose purpose is to educate students and give them a better understanding of other cultures.

Beth Yohe, president of University for the Awareness of Cultural Togetherness, said that student organizations need to educate students about other cultures.

"Unity, which comes from everyone respecting other cultures, comes only from education," she said.

Organizations like MSC Town Hall and OPAS often co-sponsor events with minority organizations in order to bring more diverse entertainment to campus.

Lary said that co-sponsoring programs is beneficial to all involved.

"Different groups have different tal-

ents, so this makes co-programming successful," he said.

Tammy Early, MSC vice president for personnel, said it is important for student leaders to understand other cultures.

"All organizations need to have more diversity education," she said. "This way, they don't have to ask the authorities what they can do or what is offensive, but they will know themselves because they are an authority."

Jaime Armendoza, the minority liaison for Student Government, said students should educate themselves about other cultures now because it will be important for them in the future.

"Diversification prepares you for the real world," he said. "We are going to have to deal with other cultures throughout our lives, so it is important to learn how to now."

Armendoza said that student leaders should show their support for diversity so the members of their organizations will also support diversity.

"If groups see that their president is behind making this university more diverse, they will accept diversity as a goal for their organization," he said.

November elections could mean GOP congress for White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two weeks before America votes, the prospects point to GOP congressional gains broad enough to make Bill Clinton dance to a Republican tune if he expects to get much done legislatively the next two years.

Outright Republican control of both houses is even an outside possibility. And the eight largest states could end up in the hands of Republican governors — portending peril for candidate Clinton in 1996.

"I'm more optimistic than I was two weeks ago," says Republican strategist Roger Stone, who advised Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. "I do not

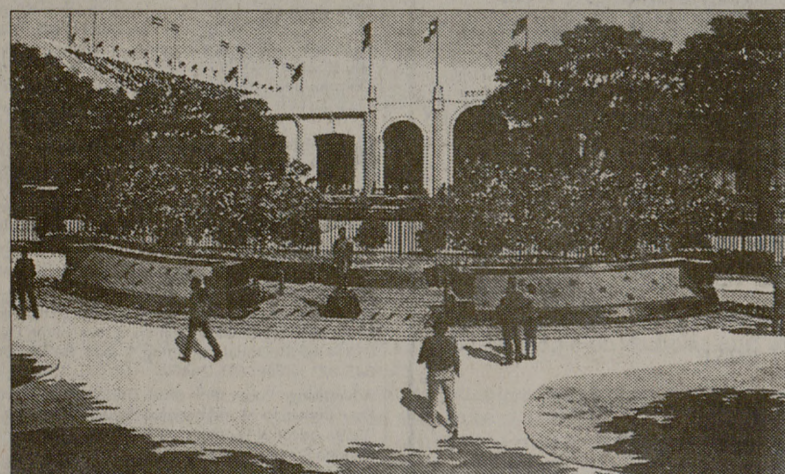
think the momentum is moving the other way."

Democratic pollster Peter Hart is unable to offer his party much hope. He finds a dispirited Democratic voting bloc.

"The groups that are most ready to turn out are Republicans, white fundamentalists and anti-Clinton voters," Hart said. "The groups that are least likely to turn out are pro-Clinton voters, Democrats and African Americans. When you factor in people who have a great deal of interest or quite a bit vs.

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Wall honoring Aggie football to join 12th Man statue



Plans are underway to build a wall, surrounding the 12th Man Statue, honoring the Texas A&M Football Team.

By Michele Brinkmann
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The 12th Man statue will no longer stand alone when a wall honoring the Texas A&M football team joins him this spring creating a 12th Man Plaza.

A granite wall recognizing people who have donated a large amount of money to the athletic program will be built next to the statue.

Frank Shannon, executive director of the 12th Man Foundation, said he thinks the wall is a great idea.

"It gives people an opportunity to be associated with positions on the football team," Shannon said.

The 12th Man Plaza is a joint effort between the 12th Man Foundation and the A&M athletic program. The two are working together on soliciting money from A&M alumni. He said the wall will cost about \$150,000.

Shannon said the money endowed will help fund non-academic expenses of the athletic program such as travel expenses.

Shannon said John David Crow, director of de-

velopment for A&M athletics, came up with the idea to build the wall on A&M's campus.

The wall will recognize the football program, but Shannon said that in the future the wall will include other sports.

Crow said the University is waiting to begin construction until after football season ends.

Shannon said many people have expressed interest in the wall, and he expects more to donate money after construction begins.

Crow said the plaza was designed by architect Mark Goulas of Houston.

The granite being used to build the wall was donated by A&M alumni Vito Cangelosi of Houston.

David Godbey, associate director for engineering and design services, said the final design for the wall is almost complete. A final completion date has not been set.

Shannon said the long-range plan of the University is to build a park near the 12th Man statue where DeWare Fieldhouse is located. The fieldhouse will be torn down and made into a park.



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Trying 'em on for size

Cris Franklin, a freshman chemical engineering major from Hurst, adjust his fish spurs before running down the Quad on Monday afternoon. Franklin made his spurs from bottle caps from Northgate and he is wearing the spurs to build spirit for A&M's game against SMU this Saturday in the San Antonio Alamodome.

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