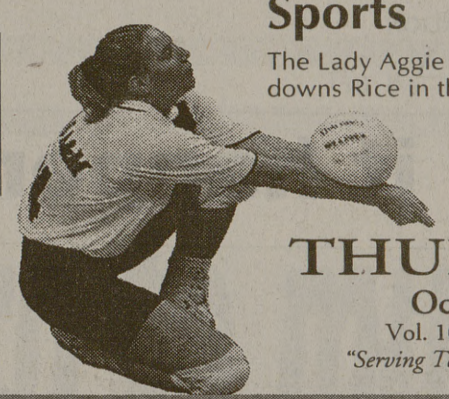


Members of the Texas A&M Tae Kwon Do Club have performed well in competitions this year.

LYNN BOOHER: They make a dangerous assumption in claiming that lower IQ scores cause poverty, crime and other social problems.

The Lady Aggie volleyball team downs Rice in three games.

THE BATTALION



THURSDAY

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Israel, Jordan sign peace treaty

WADI ARABA, Israel-Jordan Border (AP) — The guns of Jordan and Israel, once trained on each other across this scorching desert, fired a salute Wednesday as the two nations pledged to end 46 years of war and make the peace last forever. Leaders from both sides and President Clinton cited the desert as a symbol of the once-arid relations between the two neighbors that now can flourish. "Our generation and the next, we are the ones who will transform this barren place into a fertile oasis," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel told 5,000 guests.

"The time has now come not only to dream of a better future but to realize it," the 72-year-old former general said, standing on a onetime minefield cleared and asphalted for the occasion.

King Hussein of Jordan said the treaty was not "simply a peace of paper ratified by those responsible."

Losses for flood could reach \$700 million

HOUSTON (AP) — Insured losses from deadly flooding across Southeast Texas could reach \$700 million, the state's insurance commissioner said Wednesday in providing the first damage estimate of the disaster.

There have been 23,000 claims submitted to private and federal insurers for damage to homes, vehicles and property, but that number may climb to 35,000, said J. Robert Hunter, commissioner of the Texas Department of Insurance.

The total doesn't include still-undetermined uninsured losses, and Hunter cautioned that the tally was only an estimate based on an expected average of \$20,000 per claim.

Flooding spawned by three days of heavy rains last week killed 20 people, forced some 14,000 people from their homes and wrecked homes, cars and property in 35 counties that have been declared federal disaster areas.

Number of early voters increases

AUSTIN (AP) — Early participation in early voting is higher than four years ago. But the state's chief elections officer says it's too soon to say whether that will translate into big ballot numbers on Nov. 8.

Secretary of State Ron Kirk's office reported Wednesday that in the state's 15 most populous counties, 168,576 people had cast ballots in person since early voting began Oct. 19.

That is a substantial increase over the 72,487 ballots cast at the same point in the election four years ago, said Mark Bell, a spokesman for the office.

"As someone who is a firm believer in citizen participation, I'd like to tell you this is an indicator — but I just think it's too early to know," Kirk told the Austin American-Statesman.

"I'm at least hopeful that this is an indication that we will have a turnout that is at least a few blips more than we've had in past governor's elections," Kirk said.

Pet store owner under fire about rabid kitten

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A death threat, the likelihood of being forced out of business and the possibility of lawsuits are the price pet store owner Tim Jandebour is paying for selling a kitten that later died of rabies.

Hundreds of people who played with kittens in his store may have to get rabies shots, though no cases of the deadly disease in humans have been reported.

"You want to know the truth, I think I'm out of business," said Jandebour, owner of the Concord Aquarium and Pet Store for four years. "My wife and I are scared."

Most pet stores take precautions to protect themselves and their customers.

Today's BATT

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An Aggie legend collapses

Rain, ground shift topple '94 Bonfire

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students will begin rebuilding the Aggie Bonfire today, after the nearly completed Aggie Bonfire was knocked down Wednesday afternoon when the stack of logs began to shift due to the rain-soaked ground.

The redpots decided during a meeting Wednesday night with Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, to totally rebuild Bonfire from scratch.

Earlier Wednesday, some students suggested that Bonfire not be rebuilt, but rather burned "Old Army Style" like the original Bonfire which was an unorganized heap of trash and lumber. However, Bonfire officials opted to rebuild the stack before it burns next Thursday as originally scheduled.

A new centerpole, which was

donated by the city of Bryan, was delivered late Wednesday night, and a construction science expert will help the redpots install it.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs, said the redpots and students working on Bonfire noticed the stack leaning at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The redpots halted construction and moved people away from the stack.

The University Police Department, safety and health officials, engineering and construction experts came to the Bonfire site to assist the redpots. Police roped off the perimeter to keep the crowds of curious onlookers from getting too close to the stack.

"We had a tremendous amount of assistance without having to ask for it," Southerland said.

A special tractor was brought in Wednesday night to finish knocking down and clearing away the logs, which will be used to build the new stack.

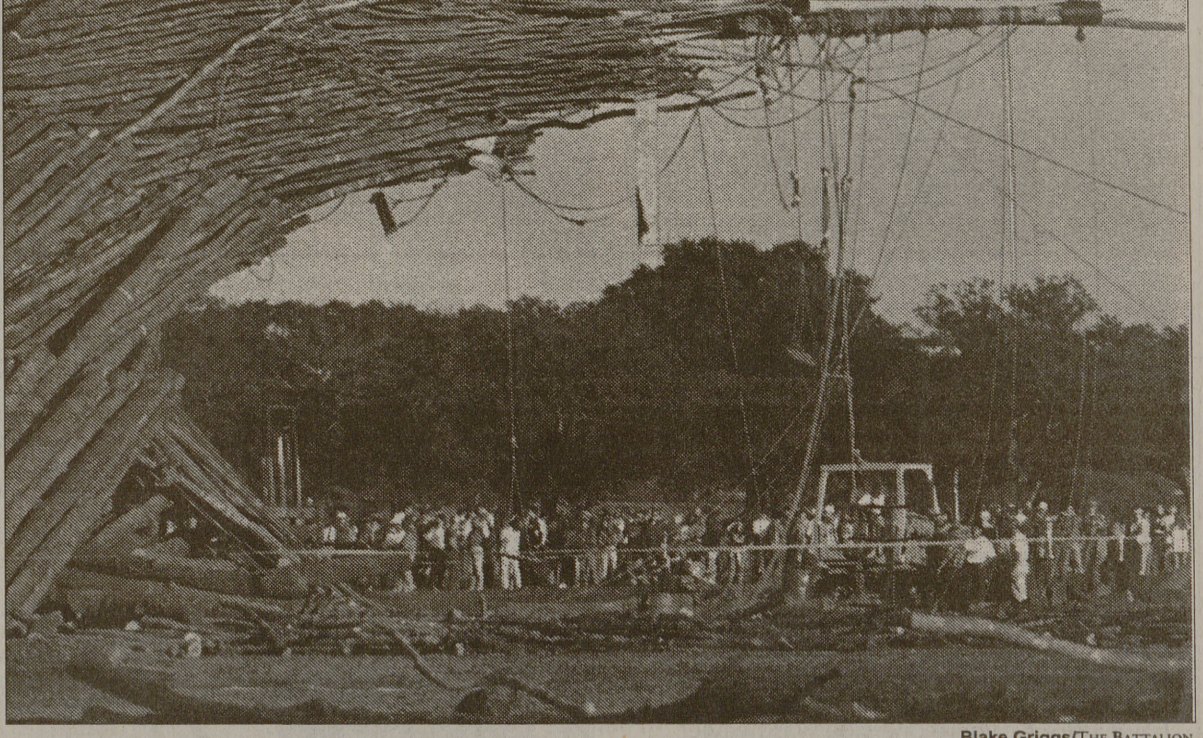
"It was obvious that the stack needed to come down," Kibler said.

After two hours of trying to pull the logs down, the redpots were able to pull down the stack with a cable attached to a tractor.

"It was extremely well-built because it took four times to get it down," Southerland said.

John Barr, head stack redpot, said Bonfire officials began taking the necessary safety precautions after the decision to rebuild the stack was made.

"Redpots will be doing all of the work until we are sure it is safe enough for the student body to



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

The redpots and A&M officials meet to decide what the fate of the 1994 Bonfire will be. The redpots will try to rebuild it by Thursday.

A&M officials, students pledge support in rebuilding Bonfire

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Even though Bonfire came crashing down Wednesday, many Texas A&M students still have high hopes that the structure can be rebuilt by next Thursday.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs said that, if it is going to be rebuilt, more people will need to chip in to help rebuild Bonfire.

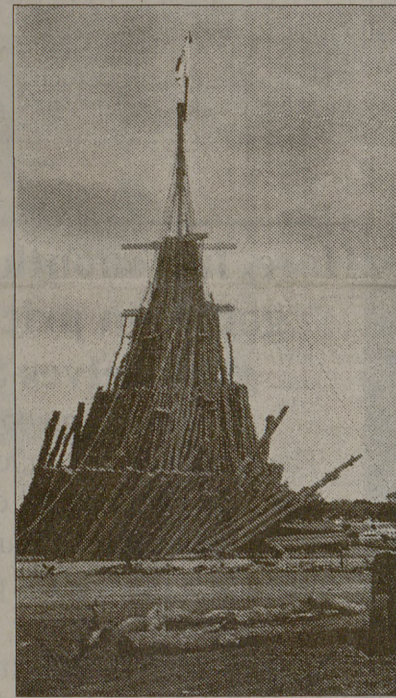
"This kind of occurrence makes an opportunity

for more work, and more people are needed to chip in," he said.

Band member Chris Hansen, Class of '97, said Bonfire has not always been as structured as it is now, and some students see this set-back as a return to Old Army days.

"It was going to fall down anyway," he said. "In 'Old Army days,' it wasn't this organized anyway. It was just scraps of wood piled up."

See Bonfire Reaction/Page 2



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

One of the Bonfire workers tries to pull down the stack Wednesday afternoon.

Lighting resolution passed

Safety concerns spark Student Senate measure to monitor lighting

By Melissa Jacobs
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate adopted a resolution Wednesday night to improve faulty and inadequate exterior lighting on campus.

The resolution recommends the implementation of a new bar code labeling system for exterior campus lights.

Ryan Shopp, senator for the College of Engineering and university committees chair, said the new system will be very efficient.

"There will be a bar code on each exterior light and when the University Police Department is patrolling and sees a light that is out, they can scan it, download it into a computer, and the information will be sent to the Physical Plant," he said. "The key word is efficient."

J.D. Cole, security awareness committee representative, said eventually there will be a computerized map of campus showing all the exterior lights and when one is faulty, it will light up on the map.

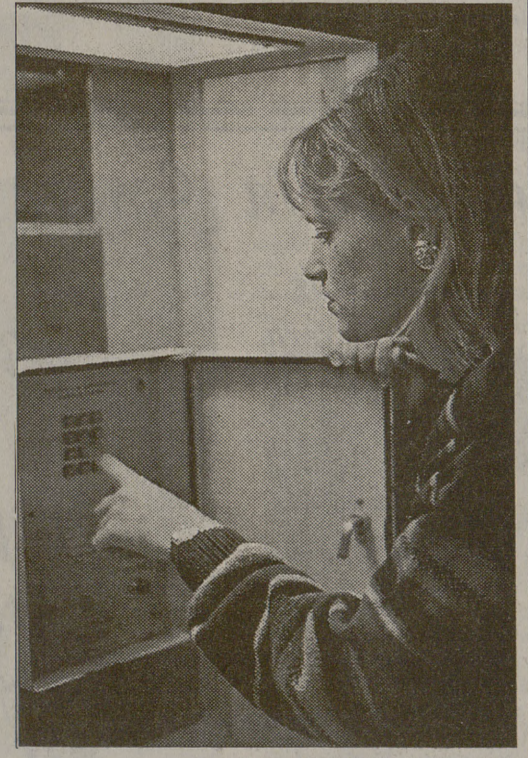
Cole said currently whenever someone reports that a light is out, they call UPD. "UPD then has to go find the location and call the Physical Plant to report it," he said.

Shopp said this is something the students really care about.

"In Legett Hall the residents posted signs saying to call people about the lighting in that area," he said. "It bothers me that people are worried about walking across campus where Aggie spirit should run wild."

Cole said credit for the improvements goes to the administration.

"The great thing about this is the adminis-



Amy Morgan/Special to The Battalion

Junior Jill Morgan calls home from a campus phone near the Alumni Center.

tration is aware of this problem and trying to do something about it," he said.

He said installation of the bar codes on main campus was supposed to take one month.

"We were told that at the end of September, so it should be done soon," Cole said. "We weren't given an exact time-line for the overall system."

See Lighting/Page 10

Flood damage in B-CS to cost Texas thousands

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

Last week's extensive rain and flooding resulted in thousands of dollars in building and road damage in Bryan-College Station.

Denise Fischer, public information officer for the Bryan district of the Texas Department of Transportation, said several roads were severely damaged.

"However, when you consider that we manage roadways for 10 counties, over 3,000 miles of roads, we did pretty well considering the rains," Fischer said.

A section of Farm-to-Market Road 2154 which is one mile south of Milligan had a drainage pipe washed out, creating a hole over 10 feet deep and 30 feet wide, she said. Repairs will take several months, Fischer said.

"Brazos, Grimes, and Washington counties were three of the hardest hit," Fischer said. "Walker County also had a lot of damage. The other six got away mostly unscathed, however."

Roy Ross, assistant emergency management coordinator for the City of Bryan, said over 35 residents experienced water damage to their homes in Bryan.

See Flooding/Page 6

GMAT's addition of writing portion necessary, official says

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) now includes a writing portion in order to measure MBA students' potential communication skills.

Frederic McHale, director of the GMAT, said the new portion is a needed addition.

"It measures the students' ability to convey complex ideas through writing," McHale said.

He said several business school deans had requested a writing portion. The Graduate Management Admissions Council then did a survey of

schools using the GMAT, he said. Of the 80 percent who responded, 90 percent favored the addition of a writing portion, McHale said.

The writing assessment consists of two 30-minute essays, McHale said. One essay, Analysis of an Issue, requires the student to discuss the complexities of a given issue and take a position on the issue. With the second essay, Analysis of an Argument, a student must critique an argument and its different sides, he said.

The multiple choice section of the GMAT was shortened to accommodate for the new writing section,

See GMAT/Page 6