

# THE BATTALION



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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Haitian peace still on hold for Aristide

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Despite the thousands of U.S. soldiers in Haiti, armed thugs still hold sway in some rural areas and many supporters of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide are afraid to go home, aid workers said Sunday. The arrival last month of 16,000 U.S. soldiers on a mission to restore democracy has greatly improved security, especially in Port-au-Prince, where the troops are concentrated. Aristide supporters who were in hiding under military rule now walk the streets of the capital without fear. "It gives the appearance of being very quiet, but there are still pockets of violence and people are still being harassed," said Sister Ellen Flynn of Hospice St. Joseph in Port-au-Prince, which offered shelter to fugitives under military rule.

Aristide returned on Oct. 15, three years after being ousted by a coup. But some of his supporters from rural areas remain in hiding because they fear revenge attacks by members of the old regime, Flynn said.

### Government to offer toll-free AIDS hotline

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government is opening a toll-free telephone number Monday to provide treatment information by telephone or computer to people with AIDS, their families and health care providers.

The HIV-AIDS Treatment Information Service was scheduled to begin taking calls at 9 a.m. EST. The number is 1-800-HIV-0440 and the hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

The service will be staffed by health information specialists who are fluent in English and Spanish. Deaf access is included, and all calls are confidential.

The service's staff will not provide treatment advice. Staffers will, however, provide information on the latest research and treatment options to physicians and patients who call.

### Endorsements favor Hutchison, Richards

DALLAS (AP) — If polls and newspaper endorsements are a sound indication, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison is on an easy road back to Washington while the governor's race remains too close to call.

Gov. Ann Richards has won the majority of endorsements from Texas newspapers, but Republican George W. Bush boasts a strong showing, capturing support by the state's two largest newspapers.

Polls over the past few months have shown Hutchison, a Republican, with a strong lead over Democratic challenger Richard Fisher, a millionaire Dallas businessman. The Richards-Bush race, the polls indicate, is a virtual dead heat with any leads being smaller than the margins of error.

Hutchison's spokesman, David Beckwith, called her sweep of editorial board support unprecedented, especially for a Republican in Texas.

### Houston professor to resurrect cemeteries

HOUSTON (AP) — All the Halloween hobboblins have been exorcised in Burdette Keeland's vision of a resurrected American cemetery.

No more ghastly gray rows of somber tombstones. No more creaky, rusting gates or weeping willows swaying in the wind.

Instead, the spritely 68-year-old Houston architecture professor proposes engraved sculptures, picnic benches and rows of pink and purple crepe myrtles.

Keeland says he's not trying to subvert Halloween, but rather add life to the mythical home of wailing ghouls, flesh-eating zombies, black cats and werewolves howling at the moon.

"I think it's because of Hollywood. They make it spooky, and at night if you come in here there are really going to be spooks. It ain't going to happen," Keeland said last week while walking at Houston's Glenwood Cemetery.

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# White House shooting leads to suspect

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Colorado man with a criminal past will be arraigned today on felony property damage and firearms violations following his frightening White House shooting spree. The possibility of additional charges, including attempted assassination, was left open.

On Sunday, the day after the unsettling attack, yellow police tape stretched across the White House lawn and FBI agents armed with laser equipment conducted an inch-by-inch search for bullets around the pockmarked mansion.

The gunman, 26-year-old Francisco Martin Duran of Colorado Springs, remained silent at D.C.'s central cellblock, his motives a mystery, his demeanor described by the Secret Service as "completely flat." Duran was released from a military prison in September 1993 after serving 2 1/2 years for felony assault, the Army reported.

## Colorado man, former soldier faces firearms violations, felony charges

Described as unshaken by the tumult, President Clinton rested up during the day after his grueling Middle East tour and held to his plan to attend an evening gala at Ford's Theatre, where President Lincoln was felled by an assassin's bullet 129 years ago.

Press secretary Dee Dee Myers said Clinton would proceed with business as usual, confident that the Secret Service can protect him and his family, but she added, "Generally, the number of weapons on the streets of this country is disconcerting to the president."

Duran, scheduled to be formally arraigned before a U.S. Magistrate on Mon-

day, was charged early Sunday with willfully damaging federal property and possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. The first charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine, the latter 10 years and \$5,000.

The Secret Service held out the possibility that additional charges could be filed.

"I would not eliminate assassination statutes," said Special Agent Carl Meyer. Authorities searched Duran's home and car to try to determine his intent.

Several officials disputed a published report it was a "semi-suicide" note, although the senior official said it could help determine a motive.

# 'Bonfire II' bringing students together

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

Old couches, barbecue pits and tents dot Bonfire site making the polo fields look something more like a make-shift colony than the traditional site.

But then again, this year's Bonfire is anything but traditional.

Hundreds of students, former students, and community members have begun "rebuilding the hell outta Bonfire" after the first stack of logs was dismantled Wednesday when it began to lean. And after four days, "Bonfire II" is almost complete - a testament to the volunteer effort that went into the monumental feat.

Part of the reason the new stack has gone up so quickly is due to the many students who have never worked on building Bonfire before have answered the redpots' plea for the student body to help build Bonfire in one week.

John Shipp, Class of '96, said he decided to come help rebuild Bonfire because he wants to help continue the tradition.

"The fact that it has to be done is a big motivator to come out and 'build the hell outta bonfire,'" he said.

Jon Keller, Class of '96, said he had never worked on Bonfire before because he never felt like he was needed.

"We took it for granted that it would get done," he said.

Students who have experience from working on Bonfire in past years are also chipping in to help finish rebuilding it this week.

Drew Isle, a former crew chief and Class of '96, said many upperclassmen are working harder and more hours to rebuild Bonfire than normally would.

"More of the older guys are coming out and working harder than they normally would," he said. "It's a matter of pride to get it finished."

Christi Rohan, Class of '98, worked on Bonfire before it fell and has been working on rebuilding Bonfire even more since then.

She said that all of the extra people working on Bonfire and the people who are working harder are helping rebuild the stack.

"Those who were working hard before are working even harder and those who didn't come out at all are coming out and working," she said.

Students and members of the community are trying to make the students who are out working on Bonfire more comfortable.

Area restaurants have donated food and drinks to the workers.

Scott Bubier, a former crew chief and Class of '94, said many of the residence halls have set up these make-shift colonies around Bonfire site to give the people working on Bonfire a place to take a break.

"Instead of wasting time going home and sleeping," he said, "we have these tents set up for people to rest in."



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Students working on Bonfire II add another log to the stack on Friday night in their efforts to rebuild Bonfire in time for Thursday's burn.

# Smith returns to courtroom for misconduct charges

By Michele Brinkmann  
THE BATTALION

Former Texas A&M Vice President Robert Smith returns to the courtroom today after being reindicted on official misconduct charges Thursday.

A final pre-trial hearing is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. today and jury selection is scheduled to start Tuesday morning in the 361st District Court.

Two Class A misdemeanors counts of soliciting gifts from Barnes and Noble Bookstores Inc. while negotiating a contract with the company were dismissed at an Oct. 18 Brazos County pre-trial hearing.

District Attorney Bill Turner refiled the indictment against Smith that same week.

Smith was indicted in June and pleaded not guilty to the charges in late August.

Judge Oliver Kitzman, who was appointed to hear the case this summer, granted a defense motion in October to dismiss all charges against Smith because of "fundamental defects" in the indictment.

Smith's attorney Dick DeGuerin, of Houston, said Turner missed some essential elements in the indictment.

"It gave no notice in the indictment that the contract was a government contract," DeGuerin said. "There is also no indication that Texas A&M is a government entity."

"Everything the prosecution wants to prove must be stated in the indictment."

Turner said he had no objection to dismissing the charges and refiled the indictment because he wanted no questions about it on the Oct. 31 trial date.

Turner did not change the

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# SFA student government trying to cancel funding for gay, lesbian group

DALLAS (AP) — Student government members at an East Texas university are trying to cancel funding of the school's gay student association, charging that its members could be breaking the state sodomy law.

Stephen F. Austin State University's Student Government Association is scheduled to vote Tuesday on whether to revoke the organizational status of the Gay and Lesbian Student Association.

"The majority of GLSA members ... are gay and in order to be a homosexual, more than likely you have violated 21.06 of the Texas penal code (the sodomy law)," said student senator Bryan Simmons, who has led the effort against the gay group.

Simmons is chairman of an organization review board that this month voted 4-2 in favor of revoking the group's charter. That recommendation goes before the 65-member student government Tuesday.

"We didn't want to have a group on campus that might in some way champion violation of Texas law," Simmons said. "What if (a national pedophile club) wanted to start a campus pedophile club? That's as much against the law as homosexual conduct."

The sodomy law makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, for consenting adults of the same gender to have

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# Colony of bats call Kyle Field home

By Susan Owen  
THE BATTALION

A colony of bachelors is hanging out in the upper reaches of

Kyle Field.

For years, large numbers of Mexican free-tailed bats have made a home in the stadium and other buildings on the Texas A&M campus.

The bats that stay in Kyle Field year-round are males, left behind each winter by the females and most of the other males. These other bats migrate to Mexico and mate there David J. Schmidly, campus dean of Texas A&M at Galveston and the author of "The Bats of Texas," said.

Schmidly said there may be thousands of bats in the Kyle Field bachelor colony.

George Baumgardner, assistant curator of mammals for A&M's Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, said the noise of a football game is not enough to rouse the bats from their roost. The bats come out at dusk to feed on insects, he said.

Billy Pickard, A&M's associate athletic director for facilities, said in Kyle Field, the bats roost in crevices on both sides of the stadium where the ramps connect to the main concourse.

"Bats can stay in a place a quarter inch wide," he said.

They are impossible to see in the narrow cracks, Pickard said.

The bats can make their way into buildings through tiny cracks and expansion joints or up through elevator shafts.

Bats have flown across the stage in Rudder Auditorium during performances, Marc Chaloupka, senior stage manager, said.

"I've seen them flying a couple of feet off the floor, just skimming above the stage," he said. "They're cute."

The last bat sighting in Rudder

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