

THE BATTALION



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NEWS BRIEFS

Chinese leader disappears, believed ill

BEIJING (AP) — If the leader of any major nation dropped off the face of the Earth, it would be highly suspicious. Except in China. Detailed health reports on China's leaders are not news. So the virtual disappearance of senior leader Deng Xiaoping, not seen in public since January, is just another challenge in the heart of China-watching. The official press offered this clue Wednesday: a report on the second printing of two volumes of Deng's selected works that said Deng himself had approved various revisions of his earlier writings. Deng, 90, has been variously rumored this fall to be suffering from cancer, Parkinson's disease, in a coma. In other words, in no condition to approving lengthy manuscripts. The unusual presence of police equipped with riot gear, bulletproof vests and tear gas launchers at several points throughout the city recently suggests that whatever Deng's health, the Chinese leadership has begun bracing for the end.

Work in Haiti far from over for democracy

VERRETTES, Haiti (AP) — Helia Dulcinet found a handwritten note on the ground outside her door a few days ago warning her to behave or else. The note told Dulcinet, a pro-democracy activist, not to seek too many changes in the government, army and other institutions ruling Verrettes, a town of 5,000 people about a three-hour drive north of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The message, scrawled in pen on a scrap of paper, was similar to other threats received by backers of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the exiled president who returned to Haiti on Oct. 15 with the help of thousands of U.S. soldiers. A climate of fear persists in many rural parts of Haiti, despite the presence of the U.S. forces whose mission it was to restore democracy. Haitians afraid of reprisals by military-backed thugs are still in hiding.

Jury selection goes on for Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson is no "Jekyll and Hyde" personality, his attorneys told potential jurors Wednesday, while a prosecutor implored panelists to resist Simpson's famous image and ignore the "odd-ball theories" about other killers. The comments set the stage for preemptory challenges, which allow either side to excuse up to 20 prospective jurors without stating a cause. "There's been a question here of whether ... he's far different off camera than on camera," defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. said. "You understand there is no evidence that O.J. Simpson is a Jekyll and Hyde personality." Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark also discussed the image of the actor and former football star. "This is not a popular case for the prosecution to bring," she said.

No tax increase, state budget leaders say

AUSTIN (AP) — State budget leaders said Wednesday they face a \$1-billion-dollar budget shortfall in the upcoming legislative session, but they can get by without a tax increase. "There's going to be a lot of gnashing and gnashing of the teeth. There always is. But I think this discipline is important. We simply must contain our growth and live within our means," said state Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Montford, D-Lubbock. Montford estimated that the gap between projected spending growth needed in major budget areas and new money available will be about \$2.7 billion for the 1996-97 budget period.

Trial of former VP continues

By Michele Brinkmann
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Despite repeated delays Wednesday, the trial of former Texas A&M vice president Robert Smith will continue today in a Brazos County court. Prosecution and defense attorneys argued for four hours whether evidence regarding incidents that occurred prior to the time Smith is accused of soliciting gifts should be admitted. Despite objections from Smith's attorney, senior judge Oliver Kitzman decided to allow the evidence. Smith is accused of using his public office for personal gain while negotiating a contract with Barnes and Noble Bookstores, Inc. Smith took his wife Pat with him on several trips to New York during negotiations with Barnes and Noble. Smith made the trips between

1990 and 1993. The indictment, however, charges Smith with soliciting gifts in 1993. Smith's attorney Dick DeGuerin, who has represented Kay Bailey Hutchison and David Koresh, argued the trips before 1993 should not be discussed in the trial. If Kitzman would have ruled against the prosecution, Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said his case would have been severely restricted. "The judge decided if comments made prior to 1993 should be allowed," Turner said. "The judge needed to decide if these comments would help the jury make a decision or if it would be unfair evidence to the defense. He decided it was more important to hear it." Turner would not speculate about how long the trial will last or any specifics about the case but did acknowledge the

case is confusing. "It's a complex case," Turner said, "so are the rules of the law." In his opening statement, Turner told the jury he will prove that Smith invited his wife to New York at the expense of Barnes and Noble Bookstores, Inc. "Mrs. Smith was not involved in the business," Turner said. "Barnes and Noble didn't invite his wife, Robert Smith invited her." DeGuerin told the jury that Smith was given permission by the Board of Regents to negotiate the contract with Barnes and Noble because the company was "better across the board for Texas A&M University." He said Barnes and Noble paid for Smith and his wife while they were in New York because the company was repaying Texas A&M for the time Barnes and Noble officials visited Texas A&M.

"When Barnes and Noble came down here we rolled out the maroon carpet for them," DeGuerin said. "We showed our Texas hospitality." "It was a return of hospitality," he said. "Yes, Smith and his wife went to New York and there was nothing wrong with it. Robert Smith believed lawfully because the law provides food, transportation and entertainment can be accepted." "That is what this is about," he said. "Robert Smith is no more guilty of soliciting gifts from Barnes and Noble than you or I are." The jury heard a 30-minute testimony by Patrick Maloney, vice president for store operations for Barnes and Noble stores in the western portion of the United States. If convicted, Smith could face up to one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

A&M flags shanghaied from MSC

By Amanda Fowle
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What was supposed to be a prank could turn out to be a costly mistake for four University of Texas students who stole 13 flags from the Memorial Student Center late Saturday. A group of students calling themselves "The Rustlers" who claimed to have stolen Reveille VI four days before the Cotton Bowl last year are facing sanctions from the University of Texas and possible criminal theft charges. Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said that because of the value of the flags and bronze poles that were stolen, the

Bonfire seen all over earth via Internet

By Amy Lee
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Aggies around the world have been watching Bonfire '94 go up, down and up again; not on television, but on Internet through the World Wide Web. The Texas A&M Computing Services Center and the Energy Systems Lab set up a video camera in a building adjacent to Bonfire. Every ten minutes the image of Bonfire is sent over to the World Wide Net server. Tonight, when Bonfire starts to burn, the snapshots will speed up to one shot every minute. The technology that is being used is not new to A&M. "The College of Architecture has been using a similar system for some time," Robert Sparks, assistant research scientist for the energy systems lab, said. "No one has used it as an information service. I think that giving information to the public is what is new." The images have been broadcast in cyberspace since Oct. 17. Since then, over 100,000 accesses have been made to the server, said Bill Ambrose, systems analyst for the computing services center. "It's unbelievable how many people have expressed interest," Ambrose said. "Aggies all across America have been sending E-mail messages saying how grateful they are." So many accesses were made to the page where Bonfire is that it had to be moved, Ambrose said. HTTP://terminator.TAMU.edu/bonfire/ is the new address to see the



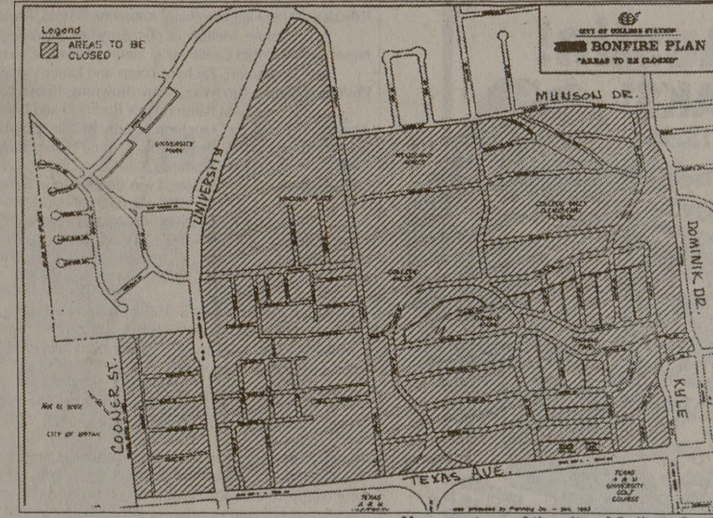
Finishing touches for Bonfire
Sophomore Aggie Band members Greg Holland, Cleve Ford, Pat Williford, Chris Sartor and John Engler constructed the outhouse for this year's Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire.

Rushing one hundred miles for Texas A&M

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Squadron 17 is used to running, but this time they'll be running all the way to Austin. The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets squadron is getting ready to take the football for the A&M-University of Texas game to Austin after Bonfire tonight. Commanding Officer Stephen Phillips, a senior computer engineering major, said the tradition of running the Aggie game football to Austin is designed to raise money for the Brazos Valley Boys and Girls Club. "We are trying to do our part for the community by raising money and showing our spirit for the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire," Phillips said. Each of the 50 members in Squadron 17, also known as Challenger 17, will run two miles at half-mile intervals, beginning at Texas A&M's Fish Lot and ending at the Memorial Stadium in Austin. Phillips said "Run the Ball to t.u." started in 1986 when Corp of Cadets Challenger 7 first ran the Aggie football to Austin. When Challenger 7 and Aggressor 17 merged and became Challenger 17, the new outfit's members decided to continue the tradition. "The Squadron participates in their 'Run the Ball to t.u.' for all the away football games in Austin," Phillips said. "It always brings the outfit closer together before we beat the hell outta t.u." Mark Jones, Squadron 17 public relations sergeant, said that when Bonfire is lit, R.C. Slocum, A&M's head football

Plan ahead, roads scheduled to close early for Bonfire



This map shows the areas to be closed this evening for Bonfire. **By Tracy Smith**
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While Texas A&M students are excited about going to Bonfire Thursday night, getting there should be something stu-

lots will stay full," Williams said. "We hope more people will ride A&M shuttle buses to Bonfire instead of trying to park." Williams said shuttle buses will operate from West campus to the Fish Pond, starting at 6 p.m. and running until around midnight. "The shuttle buses will be out as long as we're needed," Williams said. "We want to keep everyone safe and as away from the traffic as possible." "Bonfire is a time for students to celebrate being Aggies, so we want to make getting there and back as convenient as we can." For those students walking to Bonfire, the College Station Police Department will be at the major intersections to help people get across. Lt. C.R. Smith, of the College Station Police Department, said Bonfire goers would be smart to ride the shuttle buses. "The traffic is going to be terrible, so if people want to get there on time, they should ride one of the buses," Smith said.

"The convenience of being dropped off right in front of Bonfire should also be an incentive." The Brazos Transit also will provide shuttle services for people who want to go to Bonfire. Loise Gossby, lead driver for the Brazos Transit, said that at 6 p.m. buses will provide transportation from Manor East Mall, Sam's Wholesale and K-Mart parking lots. The buses will unload in front of the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center. She said it will cost \$1 for a round trip, and the buses will run until everyone is safely to their cars. Several streets around the site will be closed during all or part of the day to make Bonfire safer and more assessable to students, spectators and emergency vehicles, Williams said. Scheduled closings include: the intersection of University Drive and Bizzell Street, closed starting at 6 p.m.; University Drive entrance to Parking Areas 50 and 51, closed when the lots

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