



Campus

CA cable to drop independent Dallas
TV station, disappointing B-CS residents.
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Opinion

MELISSA MEGLIOLA: We have become a society that is self-
protective to the point of destruction. We're scared and
emotionally sterile. Looking the other way doesn't even hurt
much anymore.
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Sports

A&M stuns U.T. in video
game shootout.

THE BATTALION



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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Fire rolls through Egypt, killing 167

DURUNKA, Egypt (AP) — In a
reak chain of events, a fuel train
derailed on a rain-loosened track
and sent "winds of fire" coursing
through this southern town. The
ferno killed at least 167 people
and left thousands homeless.
At least 30 others died
Wednesday as what newspapers
called the heaviest rains in 60 years
pelted normally arid Egypt. Flooding
swept hundreds of miles across the
country, from the Sinai Peninsula in
the north to the ancient temples of
Luxor in the south.
In Durunka, 200 miles south of
Cairo, a train carrying fuel oil derailed
and torrential rains as it headed to a
government oil depot early
Wednesday. Ignited by electric wires,
the burning cargo was carried on flood
waters into the town of 22,000 people.
Many people died as they slept.
"It was like winds of fire coming
down the mountain," said Mohamed
Abdel-Rahman, who managed to
escape with his wife and seven
children before his house was
destroyed. "I thought it was a volcano."

Interest groups hand out voting scorecards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interest
groups running the gamut from the
American Civil Liberties Union to the
Christian Coalition are issuing
congressional voting scorecards to
help voters decide which lever to pull
on Election Day.
The scorecards, which track
specific votes taken during the 103rd
Congress, generally give members of
Congress scores from 0 to 100.
High scores are obviously prized by
lawmakers, who crank out glowing
press releases to tout their credentials
as defenders of the federal purse
strings, supporters of family values or
protectors of the environment.
There won't be any ratings praising
members of Congress for their liberal
track records, however.
In a year when the word liberal is
anathema to the re-election hopes of
many Democratic incumbents, one
venerable liberal scorecard will remain
on the sidelines until after Election Day.

Boy runs away from HIV positive mother

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A woman
who has tested positive for the virus
that causes AIDS was briefly reunited
with her 12-year-old son, but the boy
ran away only a few hours later,
officials say.
An appeals court had ruled
earlier this week that Cosima Midha
had custody of her son, Leopold,
and could take him with her when
she returns to France.
The boy had been the object of a
controversial custody battle that
centered on the woman testing
positive for HIV.
San Antonio police talked with the
boy's father, Deepak Midha,
Wednesday night in an attempt to find
the boy. The father told authorities that
the boy had not contacted him since he
fled from a hotel where he had been
staying with his mother while waiting
for a flight to France today.

Godzilla celebrates 40th birthday in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — After 40 long,
hard years on the job, your average
mutant reptile might be thinking
about retirement.
Not Godzilla.
At a 40th gala birthday party thrown
in his honor Thursday by Toho Co., the
studio that unleashed Godzilla on the
world, the giant fire-belching lizard left
no ambiguity about his plans.
"Hey, I'm young for a monster!"
he said, beating his chest. "Don't
worry, I'll be stomping my way
through a lot more films."
Some 500 fans were selected
from a pool of almost 6,000
applicants to take part in the
festivities at Toho's No. 9 Studio,
where most of the 21 Godzilla films
were made, including the newest
one, "Godzilla vs. Space-Godzilla,"
set for release in Japan Dec. 10.

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Smith hearing produces letter as evidence

Questioning focuses on entertainment practices while negotiating contracts

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

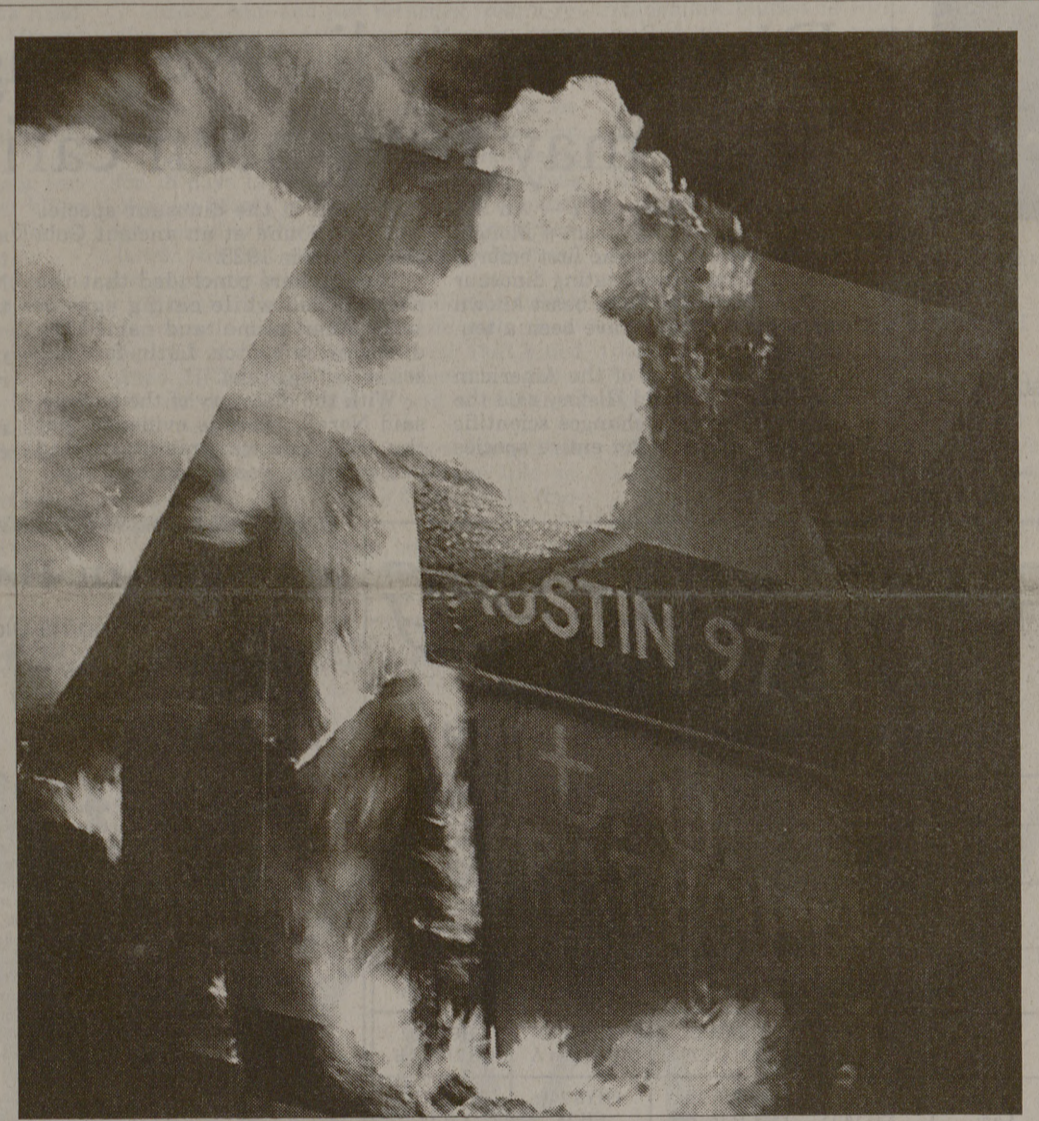
The contents of a letter written by
Robert Smith to a vice president for Barnes
and Noble Bookstores, Inc. could prove to
be key evidence in the trial against Smith,
a former A&M vice president.
Smith is accused of soliciting trips to
New York for himself and his wife while
negotiating contracts with Barnes and
Noble.
The letter was given to FBI special
agent Joe Carmike June 24 by Barnes
and Noble executives while he was investi-
gating allegations of misconduct by the
A&M administration.
The court will determine next week if

the letter can be released to the public
since it is evidence and the trial is still in
progress.
The questioning during Thursday's
hearing centered on Barnes and Noble's
practices of entertaining business clients.
The Barnes and Noble executives said
that although they never invite the
wives of their clients, they do not mind
if they come.
Smith made several trips to New
York, along with former Board of Reg-
ents chairman Ross Margrave, to negoti-
ate A&M's contract with Barnes and
Noble. Smith's wife, Pat, went with him
on some of these trips.
The Smiths and the Margraves were
treated by Barnes and Nobles to Broadway

shows, French dinners, limousine rides and
yacht tours of Manhattan Island.
Barnes and Noble paid for nearly all of
Smith's and Margrave's expenses on the
trips between 1990 and 1993. Barnes
and Noble spent \$37,838.67 on entertain-
ment and accommodations for Smith and
other A&M administrators.
Barnes and Noble spent \$12,610.24 on
the trip the trial is questioning. The
Smiths reimbursed Barnes and Noble for
\$2,441.56 of the money spent on the trip.
Dick DeGuerin, Smith's attorney, said
that much of the money Barnes and Noble
spent on these trips was for festive dinners
and included executives from the company.
DeGuerin said that the alcohol bill
made up a large portion of these bills.
Pat Smith does not drink, DeGuerin
said.
The attorney, who represented Sen.
Kay Bailey Hutchison and David Koresh,
said that Smith's having his wife come on

these trips with him was necessary.
"Pat Smith and Robert Smith are a real
pair," he said. "She is a real asset to him."
DeGuerin said that the trips were not
for pleasure, but for business.
He said that when Barnes and Noble
executives visited Texas A&M, they were
treated well also.
Patrick Maloney, vice president for
Barnes and Noble, said that out of the
more than 100 contracted accounts he
handles, only two, The University of Ok-
lahoma and Texas A&M, have come to
New York to negotiate their contracts.
Barnes and Noble President Alan
Kahn said that Smith was a good negotia-
tor for A&M.
Kahn said that A&M is one of Barnes
and Noble's most important accounts.
The contract gives A&M \$1.5 million or
11 percent of the bookstore's sales annual-
ly.

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Burning Desire

(Above) The t.u. frat house/outhouse burns atop the '94 Bonfire.



(Left) The Redpots march in carrying the torches that will ignite the 1994 Aggie Bonfire.

Photos by Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Administration looks to raise faculty salaries

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's administra-
tion is making higher faculty
and staff salaries its top priority
for the January legislative
session, A&M officials said.
Administrators are afraid
that A&M is losing employees
because their salaries are not
competitive with other univer-
sities, the officials said.
Texas A&M pays its faculty
and staff 92 percent of the av-
erage salary paid to fac-
ulty and staff at oth-
er uni-
versities in
its peer
group, ac-
cording to a summary pro-
duced by the Office of Plan-
ning and Institutional Re-
search.
A&M President Dr. Ray
Bowen said the University has
not been able to increase salaries
because it has not received any
increase in state funding in the
past several years.
"For reasons we cannot con-
trol, we are overcommitted to
other things," Bowen said.
Salaries are determined by
the University president and
chancellor and then approved
by the Board of Regents.
Bowen said that increasing
salaries is a key consideration
for the administration.
"Of all of the issues that are
out there," he said, "this is the
most important."
Dr. Barry Thompson, A&M
System chancellor, said he will
push for increased funding at
the legislative session so that
A&M can offer its faculty and
staff competitive salaries.
"We have a large number of
faculty and staff retiring that we

will need to replace," he said. "I
want to have competitive
salaries so that we can attract
the best and the brightest."
Thompson also is concerned
with retaining current faculty
and staff.
Dr. Bill Perry, dean of facul-
ties, said the University has not
been able to offer substantial
raises for the past few years.
"We have not had enough
money budget-wise to offer
merit increases," he said.
Thompson said that in the
last
state leg-
islative
session,
universi-
ties re-
ceived a
five per-
cent in-
crease in
funding,
but pris-
ons re-
ceived a
150 per-
cent in-
crease.
He said Texas is ranked
ninth out of the ten most popu-
lous states in the amount of
funding it receives.
"My concern is that our
salaries should be competitive
with other state universities."
"Only Georgia rates behind
us in the amount of money
they receive," Thompson said.
Thompson is counting on
the University's receiving in-
creased state funding so that
A&M can increase its salaries.
"Hopefully, we can convince
the legislature to increase our
funding," he said.
Bowen is optimistic that A&M
will receive more state funding.
"We anticipate cooperation on
their part," he said. "We've been
getting mixed signals, though."
A&M submitted a budget in
April, having been asked to as-
sume it would receive no new
funding.
"But we have also heard that
there is a good chance we will re-
ceive new money," Bowen said.

--Dr. Barry Thompson, System Chancellor

Residence hall students reminded about safety precautions, procedures

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

In response to a recent as-
sault and other incidents in
residence halls, A&M officials
are taking the opportunity to
remind students about basic
safety precautions.
Chareny Rydl, associate di-
rector of student affairs for resi-
dence life, sent a letter to all
residence hall students Oct. 24,
outlining basic safety procedures
they should remember to follow.
Rydl said she felt this was
an opportune time to send the
safety letters because students
are more concerned about safety
following several recent
murders off-campus.
"The incidents in the halls

aren't more numerous," Rydl
said. "These are the same type
that have happened in years
past. We just need to reinforce
the safety issue because of what
has gone on this year."
Recently, a student in Dunn
Hall was assaulted, Rydl said.
An unknown person entered
the student's room, and after
binding and gagging the stu-
dent, the assailant hit and
kicked him, she said.
"The door wasn't locked at
the time," Rydl said. "We don't
know if the assailant was a resi-
dent or not; the student did
not see the individual. The vic-
tim was not seriously injured."
The other reported incidents
did not involve assaults, Rydl

said. These involved people be-
ing in the residence halls who
did not belong there. The inci-
dents included strangers enter-
ing students' rooms and suspi-
cious activity in the hallways,
she said.
"The other incidents were
traumatic in a different way,"
Rydl said. "They created a lot of
emotion and concerns. For exam-
ple, people do not like to wake up
and see someone they don't know
standing in their room."
Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, crime
prevention specialist for the Uni-
versity Police Department, said
there are many features that
make today's residence halls safer
than they were in the past.
See Safety, Page 4

Alibi not believed: mother to be charged with sons' double murder

UNION, S.C. (AP) — The
mother who said a carjacker
dumped her on a lonely road and
drove off with her two young sons
in the back seat was arrested
Thursday when the car was
found in a lake with two bodies in
it, police said.
Susan V. Smith, who had
made tearful pleas on national
television for the boys' return,
is in custody and will be
charged with two counts of
murder, Union County Sheriff
Howard Wells said.
The nine-day search for 3-
year-old Michael and 14-
month-old Alex, which
stretched from Georgia to Seat-
tle, ended where it began, in
John D. Long Lake near where
Smith told police a gunman
forced her from the car Oct. 25
and drove away with the boys.

Divers had searched the
lake several times during the
past few days, and police cor-
doned off the area Thursday.
The identities of the bodies
in the burgundy 1990 Mazda
would have to be confirmed
through an autopsy, Wells said,
and Mrs. Smith was scheduled
to be arraigned Friday.
There had been several re-
ports before the news conference
that Mrs. Smith confessed.
Dozens of people crowded
around the outside of the county
courthouse and many gasped as
Wells said she would be charged
with murder. Several sobbed.
"If she didn't want those chil-
dren, she could have given them
to me or any other mother in
Union. We would have taken
them," said Karen Huss, the
mother of two sons, ages 2 and 4.