

THE BATTALION

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

UT president to wear ggie maroon tonight

University of Texas Student Association President John Black will be in College Station tonight wearing the maroon and white of Texas A&M.

Brooke Leslie, A&M student body president, said Black will be at the Live Chicken tonight to keep up his end of a bet made between the residents of the rival schools.

Before the A&M-UT game Nov. 5, Black and Leslie bet that the resident of the losing school would have to wear the winning school's colors for one full day.

Leslie said she was planning to wear a 12th Man jersey for Black to wear during his appearance at A&M.

Black said before the game that the bet was made to foster friendship and camaraderie between the two schools.

Group wants excess plutonium destroyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States should take its excess plutonium stockpile and bake it into glass logs to ensure that the fissile material can't be used to make new weapons, a research group said Wednesday.

The government may have as much as 100 tons of plutonium in its inventory either in weapons, waste from weapons plants or from nuclear warheads dismantled at Texas' Pantex facility near Amarillo.

The plutonium, which has a half-life of 24,000 years, can be stored — which poses some risks. Or, it can be permanently disposed of through vitrification or being used to fuel nuclear power reactors.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research contends in a new report that the United States must take steps quickly to vitrify its excess plutonium as a way of encouraging other countries — especially Russia — to do the same.

Judge orders new trial for death row resident

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge has ordered a new trial for a 12-year death row resident convicted of killing a police officer, saying prosecutors and police on the case "became merchants of chaos."

Ricardo Aldape Guerra, 32, was convicted in the July 1982 death of Houston officer James Harris, who was slain after he stopped a car carrying a Mexican citizen and a companion, Roberto Carrasco Flores.

But in a 45-page order highly critical of police and prosecutors, U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt on Tuesday gave the state 30 days to retry Aldape Guerra or release him.

Aldape Guerra has steadfastly maintained the fatal shots were fired by Carrasco, who was killed in a shootout with police. His incarceration has sparked protests on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Government reports small rise in CPI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices rose just 0.1 percent last month, the best inflation performance since spring, the government reported Friday a day after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to dampen inflationary pressures.

Fed critics quickly seized on Wednesday's benign inflation report — energy and clothing prices actually fell — as proof the central bank had needlessly increased the threat of recession by voting the biggest increase in interest rates in 13 years.

"Inflation is not a threat," said Jerry Jasinowski, president of the National Association of Manufacturers and a leading Fed critic. "The Federal Reserve's aggressive increase in interest rates yesterday was unnecessary."

The central bank, making its sixth and largest rate boost this year, raised key rates by three-fourths of a percentage point. Major banks followed immediately, raising their prime lending rate to 8.5 percent, meaning that borrowing costs will go up for millions of Americans.

A&M president selects search committee for V.P.-Provost

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen selected a 23-member committee to help in the nationwide search to find A&M's next executive vice president and provost, the second-ranking administrator and chief academic officer of A&M.

Bowen chose Dr. Patricia Alexander as chairwoman of the committee, which includes faculty, staff and students. Alexander is interim head of the Educational Psychology Department and a former speaker of the Faculty Senate.

Alexander said the search committee is looking

for a person with vision to take the job. "Otherwise they can't lead this University," Alexander said.

Alexander said women and minorities are being encouraged to apply.

"We are being careful about trying to reach out to the University, the System and to the nation to get the best pool of candidates," Alexander said.

Texas A&M University has never had a woman or a minority to hold the provost position.

Bowen said although he will choose a person who meets all of the written criteria, he also wants

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Legett target of Puryear, Law resident take-over

By Amanda Fowle
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Some on-campus residents who will lose their homes this summer when Law and Puryear Halls are destroyed will be moving into Legett Hall if Texas A&M administrators support a decision made by the Residence Hall Association Wednesday night.

The RHA approved a proposal to convert Legett Hall, which currently houses women, into a

hall for men. Law and Puryear residents said there are not equal housing spaces available for men and women on campus now, and that when Law and Puryear are destroyed, there will be an even greater discrepancy.

When these halls are destroyed, 402 spaces for residents will be lost. Legett Hall has 188 spaces.

The Board of Regents decided

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A TIME TO WALK...

A time to Die

By Amy Lee
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The Class of '95 will die today, but seniors are hoping that their death will be a clean and solemn occasion.

After months of trying to return Elephant Walk to the Old Army style of making the tradition a peaceful event, the senior class will begin its walk of memories today at 1:35 p.m., 95 minutes after noon.

"I am hoping that the juniors respect the tradition," Tracy Kennedy, Class of '95 vice president, said. "I hope they let the seniors walk in peace."

Pat Patterson, a member of the Class of '26 who was involved with the first Elephant Walk, will help kick off the event as he talks about how the tradition started almost 70 years ago.

"I don't think that any other school could have this kind of tradition," Cody Burke, Class of '95 president, said. "But at A&M it can. A&M is such a special place. Elephant walk is a time for us to reflect."

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Battalion File Photos

Doctors warn alcohol's health benefits may be overstated

DALLAS (AP) — Doctors have some sobering news for those who think a little alcohol is good for their health: Anything more than a drink a day may be too much of a good thing.

Men who had two to four drinks a week had the lowest rate of death from all causes during an 11-year study, the researchers said Wednesday.

Many studies over the past 20 years have shown that people who drink moderately re-

duce their risk of dying from heart disease by about 40 percent. The evidence has become so convincing that some heart specialists have cautiously recommended moderate drinking for good health.

But while heart disease is the nation's No. 1 killer, it is not the only one. Some fear that alcohol's benefits for the heart could be offset by its other hazards, such as cancer and accidents.

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Affirmative action not to be feared, M.L. King Center director says

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

Certain segments of society are not allowed access to the same opportunities as others in society, the director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change said.

"Affirmative action means it's somebody else's turn now," Gerri Allen said Wednesday night. "The errors of the past have to be corrected. Affirmative action will be over when the power structure looks like America looks."

Allen said people should not be scared of affirmative action, and should not assume affirmative action involves simply hiring any minority.

"The assumption that the minorities and women hired just can't be qualified, but are hired solely on the basis of race or gender, is ridiculous," Allen said. "Industry and commerce want qualified people; they want their companies to thrive."

Anyone who does not receive a promotion, job or scholarship because of affirmative action should simply look for another opportunity, she said.

"Those who feel they have been affected negatively by affirmative action should not just sit and pout and sulk," she said. "They should look for new opportunities."

Allen said students should work for what they

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