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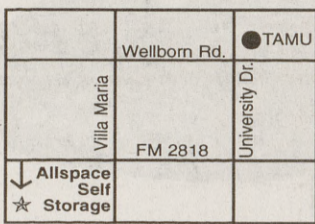
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## news BRIEFS

### Services held for A&M student

Bonnie Clare Richards, a Texas A&M senior education major, died last week from injuries suffered in a car accident at FM 2818 and Welsh Avenue.

Richards, of Wimberley, Texas, was a fourth-generation Aggie. She worked at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan. Services were held for Richards Monday in Wimberley.

### Library 4th floor gets water damaged

The fourth floor of Texas A&M's Sterling C. Evans Library was damaged between the hours of 8 p.m. Tuesday and 6 a.m. Wednesday.

The fourth-floor ceiling, light fixtures and some books were damaged by flooding, the cause of which has not been determined.

Library officials said the damaged area of the fourth floor, which was closed yesterday, should be accessible to students by this afternoon.

### No indictment for Unabomber yet

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — A federal grand jury concluded a one-day session here Wednesday without indicting the Montana backwoods hermit suspected of being the Unabomber.

The panel was not scheduled to meet again until mid-May, according to U.S. Marshal Bill Strizich, who provides security for the grand jury.

## Wasps vs Roaches

A&M may have found perfect extermination

By Michelle Lyons  
THE BATTALION

Researchers in the Texas A&M Urban Entomology Lab are examining a possible method of cockroach extermination — wasps.

The three species of wasps being studied originate in India and are ant-like, measuring 1 mm to 3 mm.

They feed on roach eggs, and research has proven that they significantly lower roach populations in lab settings.

The Anastatus tenipes and the Comperia merceti control the Brown-banded cockroach, and the Aprostocetus hagenowii control American, Smoky Brown and Oriental cockroaches.

The wasps have stingers that they use only when laying their eggs. They do not store poison and do not pose a threat to humans.

Dr. Barry M. Pawson, an assistant research scientist, said there are five species of roaches in Texas. Two species live indoors, and two live outdoors but journey inside in search of food or during bad weather.

Roaches retreat to corners and other hiding places, where they lay their eggs in nests called oothecae.

The tiny wasps come into play because of their ability to smell and search out the oothecae, inside of which they lay their own eggs.

When the wasp eggs hatch,

the wasp larvae feed on the developing roach eggs.

But because the wasps only the eggs, other means must be found to exterminate roaches that have progressed to the nymph or adult stage.

To test the wasps' roach-killing abilities, lab-generated oothecae were hidden in the A&M lab and clusters of wasps were released. The wasps killed 90 percent of the oothecae.

Pawson said experiments being done to determine the number of wasps needed to find 100 percent of the nests.

Dr. Roger Gold, an entomology professor, said a problem with implementation of the wasp-control search will be overcoming people's perceptions of wasps.

Gold said that when wasps are mentioned, most people think of the large, stinging ones that fly outdoors. But the wasps in the lab are tiny — some larger than a flea.

He said that many people are afraid of them. But some people have multiple-chemical sensitivities, also known as environmental illness, and cannot tolerate chemical pesticides.

Gold said these people would experience no side effects from the wasp method of control.

The wasp method would be beneficial in hospital clinics and animal-holding facilities, he said, because these are places where chemicals could do harm.



## Minimum wage hike unveiled

Two increases of 50 cents an hour

WASHINGTON (AP) — Moderate House Republicans broke ranks and joined Democrats calling for an election-year increase in the minimum wage, a vote Sen. Bob Dole and other GOP leaders have tried to prevent.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey said through an aide that he had no plans to schedule the bill for the floor. But with Democrats also clamoring for a vote on a daily basis, other lawmakers and aides in the GOP leadership said the issue was virtually certain to reach the floor of the House, and conceded it may have enough support to pass.

"All of us believe that people who work a 40-hour work week ought to earn a wage they can live on," said Rep. Jack Quinn, R-N.Y., as he and 13 fellow Republicans unveiled their bill Wednesday.

The proposal would provide for two separate increases of 50 cents an hour, one to take effect 90

days after the bill is signed by President Clinton and the second boost a year after that.

But even as Quinn and other Republicans were holding their news conference, Speaker Newt Gingrich and the GOP leadership were backpedaling on the subject.

Gingrich noted during the day that he had supported a 1989 measure that raised the minimum wage and included a sub-minimum training wage for younger workers. Asked whether the issue would come to a vote this year, Gingrich said, "I don't know."

Dole also sidestepped a question, saying "I don't know of any" when asked if a possible compromise was in the works.

The minimum wage was raised to its current level on April 1, 1991, from \$3.80 an hour. Supporters of an increase say that when inflation is taken into account, the minimum wage will be at a 40-year low unless it is raised.

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NEWS OFFICES are in 013 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647  
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The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except on University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.  
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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By David Ha

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