

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Hortense hits Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Hortense lashed Puerto Rico with punishing winds and torrents of rain Tuesday, killing seven people as it snapped trees and power lines, swelled rivers and collapsed hillsides, sweeping away homes.

Eleven people were spotted floating in their home down the raging Guamani Canal. Maritime police pursued the house in a boat, trying to rescue the occupants.

Police said the death toll could rise once they reach areas cut off by the storm, which passed directly over southwest Puerto Rico before dawn Tuesday.

Later Tuesday, Hortense skirted along the northeastern coast of the Dominican Republic, which hasn't been hit by a hurricane in nearly 20 years.

The entire north coast of the Dominican Republic was under a hurricane warning, as were the Turks and Caicos islands and the southeastern Bahamas.

Tourists were ordered off beaches and evacuated from oceanside resorts. Authorities at eastern Punta Cana airport

canceled 14 flights after clocking 90 mph wind gusts around noon.

There was a 10 percent chance of the hurricane striking West Palm Beach, Fla., the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

In Puerto Rico, victims included a 2-year-old boy killed in a mudslide in the southwest and two 8- and 13-year-old sisters swept away by flood waters in the southeast. The girls' bodies were found under a bridge. Four family members were still missing.

A 75-year-old man was carried away by floods in the east-central part of the island and a woman was found dead — presumably of a heart attack — inside her car in the west-central farming town of Lares. Two unidentified adults drowned in eastern Humacao.

Hortense cut water and electricity to most of Puerto Rico's 3.6 million people. The water supply could be contaminated by rivers overflowing into reservoirs, Scott Stripling of the U.S. National Weather Service in San Juan said.

Hundreds of cars were stranded on

highways, which ran like rivers with chest-high water in San Juan, the capital.

Tow truck drivers charged \$60 to dive into waters filthy with debris and sewage, hook up stalled vehicles and move them to higher ground.

Freebirds plans to use old A&M bricks

By ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

Give an environment-friendly entrepreneur a little rubble and he can create quite a monster.

Pierre Dubé, the owner of the Freebirds World Burrito, said plans are under way to build a new Freebirds restaurant using rubble from DeWare Field House and Law and Puryear residence halls.

The new Freebirds will be to the left of The Beauty Warehouse in the H.E.B. shopping center on Texas Avenue in College Station. The restaurant is expected to open at the end of December.

Dubé said the style will be similar to the Northgate restaurant. Using the rubble will add to the restaurant's unique atmosphere and help preserve the environment.

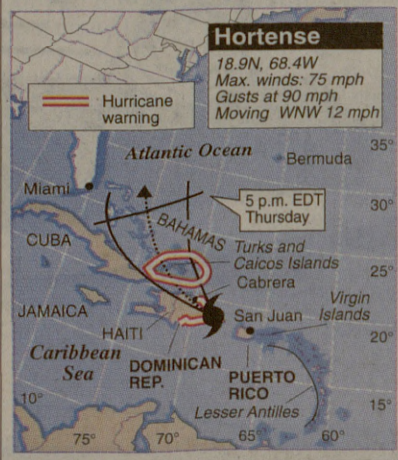
"[I thought,] why don't we do an environmentally positive project," Dubé said. "I want to recreate the cool attitude and atmosphere we have [on Northgate]."

Dubé said he wants to help the environment by reducing, recycling and reusing construction materials.

Dubé hired Laurie Smith Design out of Austin to construct the new store because he liked the company's ideas. Customers can still enjoy some of the same decor from

See FREEBIRDS, Page 16

Hurricane Hortense



The hurricane killed seven people as it passed over the island Tuesday morning.

12th Mania to sweep B-CS

By CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES
THE BATTALION

A group of Bryan-College Station and Texas A&M officials Tuesday kicked off a campaign to promote Big 12 letters both in and outside the community.

The "12th Mania" campaign celebrates A&M's entrance into the conference. The campaign is designed to give the Brazos Valley community an understanding of the benefits of A&M's new role in a major athletic conference.

Red Cashion, chair of the campaign's organizing committee and long-time NFL referee, said 12th Mania also will

welcome fans from other Big 12 teams and greet them with a friendly "Howdy."

Cashion, also an area insurance executive, said the excitement generated by the campaign will enhance the entire school and business community as well as A&M's Athletic Department.

B-CS merchants will sell various items such as flags, banners, T-shirts, stickers and balloons designed to identify A&M with the Big 12.

Organizers touted the long-term benefits of 12th Mania such as an increased revenue for the Bryan-College Station area from the masses of people who will visit the community.

"Hopefully, people will come here to support their teams and enjoy the great spirit of Aggieland, and then spend a little money," Cashion said.

Another benefit will be that increased attendance at A&M sporting events should pack the University's athletic facilities, Cashion said.

Also, organizers hope 12th Mania will give B-CS residents the opportunity to support A&M in new and exciting ways.

Reba Ragsdale of the 12th Man Foundation said her organization will hold a series of activities throughout the last week of September to involve B-CS residents in the

Aggie traditions such as midnight yell practice.

Ragsdale said the community must band together as a community before it can reach out to visitors.

By strengthening the relationships within the community first, organizers said, the welcoming atmosphere that 12th Mania hopes to establish will be sincere and show the spirit of Aggieland.

Lynn Hickey, Texas A&M associate athletic director, summed up the sentiment behind the 12th Mania campaign when she said, "A&M is the best-kept secret in the country and it's time to share the secret!"

Horses lend helping hooves

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

If you're looking for volunteers with a heart, you cannot find any better than Hots, Hots and Lovey.

The three "volunteers" are used by You've Got To

Have Heart, a Bryan-College Station non-profit organization providing physically handicapped and mentally challenged children and their families with the opportunity to ride horses for recreation.

"Special horses, special riders" is the group's slogan.

Patricia Lombard, the group's president, and Jean Gast, YGTHH vice president, began the group in June because they realized there was a need for this type of program in the community.

YGTHH provides a place for the children and their families to ride.

"I work with the therapy riding program in Bryan," Gast said. "There was a real need. They just didn't have enough spots. This way, the kids get to ride."

Lombard said the idea for the program has been evolving since 1987.

"I'd worked with horses," Lombard said. "I knew they loved to carry kids."

Forty people have signed up for the program since July. This includes parents and siblings of the handicapped.

Families ride once a week for 30 minutes. YGTHH asks

for a \$5 donation per rider, but the fee is waived if a family is unable to pay.

The group has enough horses, but they need more volunteers to accompany the riders.

Volunteers are not required to have any experience with horses to contribute. YGTHH is willing to train volunteers.

In the future, YGTHH would like to build a complete recreational facility for the physically handicapped and mentally challenged. The facility would include campgrounds, a summer camp, permanent housing and horse arenas.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Lombard or Gast at You've Got To Have Heart, P.O. Box 9366, College Station, Texas 77842-9366, or by calling 862-4988.



Rachel Redington, THE BATTALION

Going the distance

Terry Barr, general studies major, rides in the Battfish mobile while he is pushed by Daniel Lehoski, left, civil engineering major, and Andrew Rabuck, right, civil engineering major. Freshmen collect Battalions and then carry the mobile upstairs and deliver the papers under each door.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

year old Blake Kuder rides Hots while Jean Gast and Terry Polasek hold on to the horse and the rider.

Yankee hopes to call South home after graduation

By ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

Southern hospitality has been kind to Yankee Michael Depot as he begins his final year as a cartoonist for The Battalion.

Depot, a senior finance major and Cumberland, R.I., native, is the artist behind the daily cartoon strip "Peeps."

"Peeps" chronicles the adventures of the strip's title character, whose name has also served as Depot's nickname since the eighth grade.

Depot said friends at home shortened his last name to Dep's (pronounced "deeps"). Someone misunderstood the pronunciation and thought they were saying Peeps.

Depot said he came to A&M because he wanted to go to a big school where he could get an education in business. Friends noticed he was always doodling and encouraged him

This is the second of a four-part series on the cartoonists of The Battalion.

to apply for The Battalion in Spring 1996.

"It was something I've always wanted to do," Depot said. "I've always liked to draw and doodled all through school."

During high school, Depot's

cartoons were occasionally printed in The Providence Journal Bulletin.

Depot earned extra money when he was young by constantly entering drawing contests for the kids page of the Bulletin.

"We would have to draw celebrities and your teacher in class," Depot said. "I always entered and won."

Depot said his parents thought he should have a career in design or architecture because of his success with drawing.

"I'd like to do it but I don't think I could make a career out of it (drawing)," Depot said. "The pressure would drive me crazy." Depot said he carries his sketch book around with him everywhere to catch story ideas he may get from the news or his surroundings.

After his May graduation, Depot said he would like to work in the South and possibly have a cartoon strip in a newspaper.

"I like seeing my work in print," Depot said. "You know when you've done one pretty well."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Michael Depot, who draws "Peeps," is a native of Rhode Island.



THE BATTALION TODAY

Miss the Mike

Amateur singers and songwriters flex their basic muscles at Mike Night. Aggiefife, Page 3

Not Forgotten

Football Team has been out of sight, but not out of mind. Sports, Page 11

Controversy

Help with Perot and Clinton will be another term. Opinion, Page 15