

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

► **Campus**

Graduate students to discuss careers

Former Texas A&M international students will talk about their careers and leadership roles at an international executive seminar on campus today.

The A&M graduates will be coming from such countries as Mexico, Guatemala and Panama.

The seminar, sponsored by Latin American Programs, is at 2 p.m. in 501 Rudder.

► **State**

UT improves safety, reacts to criticism

AUSTIN (AP) — After criticism from the fire chief and threats of limited city response to chemical fires on campus, University of Texas officials say they will present a plan for improving safety at a chemistry building that caught fire over the weekend.

UT officials agreed to make more than a dozen changes in labs and classrooms to reduce the risk of fires such as the one Saturday at Welch Hall, the fifth there in 2 1/2 years.

"I made it clear that I do not want this process to degenerate into a series of committee meetings," Austin Fire Chief Robin Paulsgrove said after he and his staff met Wednesday with Mark Yudof, UT executive vice president and provost.

"I am satisfied, however, that they do have a sincere commitment to making these changes," the chief said.

No one was injured in Saturday's blaze. But it raised safety questions about what fire officials say is the improper storage of chemicals.

Firefighters combing through the building after the fire said they found two tanks of deadly gases

in a room beneath the fifth floor where the fire started. The gases could have caused a "devastating" loss of life if released into the air, a fire captain said.

Paulsgrove said his insistence on safety improvements at Welch Hall and other facilities sprang from what he called two years of inaction by UT to requests to remedy hazardous conditions on campus.

► **Nation**

Man gets 10 years in IRS bombing plot

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A man who fell into debt to the government got 10 years in prison Thursday for trying to blow up an IRS building.

Ellis Edward Hurst, 53, pleaded guilty in the failed attack, in which a 100-pound bomb of fuel and fertilizer was left in a parking lot at the building in Reno on Dec. 17. The fuse had been lit, but the bomb fizzled.

Hurst's co-defendant, Joseph Martin Bailie, a 41-year-old who had boasted of defying the IRS, was sentenced last week to 36 years.

Hurst, who like Bailie operated machinery at a gravel pit, had borrowed \$23,000 to pay off the government and was trying to repay that and keep up payments on his truck when he lost his job weeks before the bombing attempt.

Scientists debate cancer gene test

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal scientists are still wrestling with how to ethically use an explosion of genetics research, even as a company announced Thursday it soon will sell the most comprehensive genetic test yet to predict breast cancer.

The test is the latest entry in a race to bring to consumers the rapid discoveries of disease-causing genes.

But while the great gene hunt does promise better health care in the future, patients today are struggling with the ramifications of learning they have diseased genes — when there's little they can do about it.

"We're going to have a lot of people potentially faced with information that is puzzling and frightening and no one to explain it to them," said Dr. Francis Collins, chief of the federal Human Genome Project and a critic of selling gene tests before doctors better understand them.

A study published in Friday's edition of the journal *Science* provides what Collins calls proof of genetic discrimination: Some 47 percent of people asked on health insurance applications about genetic diseases were subsequently rejected for coverage.

"This is what genetics is all about right now, this contrast be-

tween rapid and exciting scientific advances that carry enormous promise to alleviate suffering ... and yet the potential for this information to be used in ways that injure people," Collins warned.

The Human Genome Project, the government's massive effort to identify the body's 80,000 to 100,000 genes, is trying to seal that gap, spending \$8 million next year alone to study the ethical and social implications of genetics research.

Scientists already have found genes that, when mutated, can cause everything from cancer to Alzheimer's disease. And some laboratories are quietly offering tests to indicate whether now-healthy Americans could get those killer illnesses decades in the future.

The government has not yet decided whether or how to regulate such tests. A task force funded by Collins' genome program now is writing recommendations that could help decide the question by spring, as well as push for federal legislation to forbid genetic discrimination by insurance companies.

But the market isn't waiting.

On Oct. 30, doctors can begin ordering from Myriad Genetic Laboratories Inc. a \$2,400 test that for the first time promises to detect every known mutation on two genes, called BRCA1 and BRCA2, that can cause inherited breast or ovarian cancer. Previous tests have detected only a handful of mutations.

► **Politics**

Perot rejects Doole's plea to drop race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Ross Perot on Thursday rejected a plea from campaign manager Steve Doole to quit the presidential race and said the move would be "the bitter end."

Perot would not discuss the details of his Wednesday meeting with campaign manager Steve Doole during the session "weird and consequential."

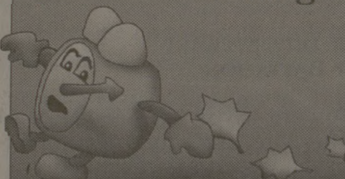
Perot, in Washington for a local Press Club speech, delivered a scathing indictment of President Clinton's ethics and said Doole the Republicans also had to be the campaign finance system traded favors for contributions.

"If you want this competition to stop, vote for the Reform Party in 1996," Perot said. Later added, "Am I in this for the haul? Yes. Do I intend to come to the bitter end? Yes."

Doole authorized Reed's news to Perot after a week of debate whether there was any way to beat Clinton's lead in national and state polls. But the GOP nominee was described by aides as being that word had leaked of what was supposed to be a secret mission.

FALL BACK

Set your clock back one hour at 2 AM Sunday morning.



► **This day in history**

(AP) — Today is Friday, Oct. 25, the 299th day of 1996. There are 67 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1812, the U.S. frigate *United States* captured the British vessel *Macedonian* during the War of 1812.

In 1929, former Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall was convicted of accepting a \$100,000 bribe in connection with the Elk Hills Naval Oil Reserve in California.

In 1951, peace talks aimed at ending the Korean Conflict resumed in Panmunjom after 63 days.

In 1962, U.S. ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson presented photographic evidence of Soviet missile bases in Cuba to the U.N. Security Council.

In 1962, American author John Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

In 1971, the U.N. General Assembly voted to admit mainland China and expel Taiwan.

In 1983, U.S. Marines and Rangers, assisted by soldiers from six Caribbean nations, invaded Grenada at the order of President Reagan, who said the action was needed to protect U.S. citizens there.




Ten years ago: The Boston Red Sox came within one strike of winning the World Series, but ended up losing to the New York Mets, 6-5, on a wild pitch and an error in the 10th inning, forcing a seventh game.

One year ago: A commuter train slammed into a school bus in Fox River Grove, Ill., killing seven students.


► **Today's birthdays**

Former baseball player Bobby Thomson is 73. Singer Helen Reddy is 55. Rock singer Jon Anderson of Yes is 52. Rock musician Matthais Jabs (The Scorpions) is 41. Country singer Mark Miller is 38. Rock musician Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers is 34. Actress Tracy Nelson ("Father Dowling Mysteries") is 33.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Gametime	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 78°F Tonight's Expected High: 69°F Expected Gametime Temperature: 75°F Tomorrow Night's Expected Low: 72°F
Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy and windy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	

Information courtesy of TAMU



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in 358 Bizzell Hall West

Tuesday, October 22
5:00 - 5:45 pm
Thursday, October 24
3:15 - 4:00 pm
Friday, October 25
3:15 - 4:00 pm

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS
161 Bizzell Hall W.
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You are cordially invited to the



International Networking Social
Friday, October 25th
3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Mark Francis Room
College of Veterinary Medicine

For more information
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or e-mail: jordan@msc.tamu.edu

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October 24 at 2:15pm
October 25 at 4:15pm
*All informational meeting held in 358 Bizzell Hall West

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Prof. Howard Marchitello
Tues, Thurs, 10:00 - 12:00
210C Blocker
845-8320

Prof. Gary Halter
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9:00 - 11:00
024 Bolton Hall
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