

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

► State

## Smoke-filled cabin makes plane return

DALLAS (AP) — A Continental Airlines jet carrying 144 people returned safely to Houston Monday after smoke was detected in the cabin. No one was injured in the incident on Los Angeles-bound Flight 1515, said Sarah Anthony, a spokeswoman for the Houston-based airline.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-80 was about 15 minutes into a flight from Houston Intercontinental Airport, she said. The airline is trying to find the source of the smoke. The plane carried five crew members and 139 passengers, who were accommodated on other flights.

It was the second flight problem in two days involving MD-80s in Texas. On Sunday, an American Airlines flight crew aborted a takeoff and evacuated their jet after an engine failure and brake malfunction at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

## Aquifer pumps up wildlife concerns

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — When 50 people spent four days at the edge of San Marcos Springs last week, they'd hoped to reach a consensus on how to protect the

different species in the Edwards Aquifer while continuing to pump it for water.

The aquifer, which feeds the San Marcos Springs and Comal Springs just north of San Antonio, is used for municipal, agricultural and commercial wells.

Some conference participants worry that increased pumping, due to the growing population in the San Antonio region, is hurting the fish, amphibians and plants that live in the springs and require ample flow of water from the aquifer.

The meeting was organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for protecting endangered species.

► Nation

## Columbia grounded due to heat damage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Columbia for at least a week because of worrisome heat damage to insulation on a booster rocket used on an earlier flight.

Columbia was supposed to blast off Friday on a 16-day science mission, but NASA on Monday delayed the flight until at least Nov. 15.

Engineers are puzzled by an un-

usual amount of damage to nozzle insulation in one of the two solid-fuel booster rockets used to launch Atlantis in September.

NASA said the Atlantis crew was in no danger, but engineers want to understand what happened before flying Columbia.

A leak of hot gas through a joint in a booster rocket caused Challenger to explode after liftoff in 1986. NASA has since been extremely cautious about any booster abnormalities.

The five astronauts assigned to the Columbia mission will release and retrieve two satellites and conduct two spacewalks to practice space station construction.

## Insurance murder draws life sentence

DETROIT (AP) — A man whose mother and three wives died under mysterious circumstances was sentenced to life in prison Monday for murdering wife No. 3 with an overdose of cocaine.

Lowell Amos, 54, a former General Motors plant manager from Anderson, Ind., will not be eligible for parole.

His wife, Roberta Mowery Amos, 37, was found dead in a Detroit hotel room in 1994. Her body contained 15 times the lethal dose of cocaine. Amos testified

she died accidentally after he gave her the drug during sex play.

Prosecutors said Amos killed his wife to collect life insurance because he was in financial trouble and she about to file for divorce.

Amos was convicted last month. "You are one of the most dangerous criminals to appear in front of this court, and you have no conscience," Judge Jeffrey Collins said. "A lot of people come before this court because they committed crimes because they had to survive. ... You kill because of greed."

## Doctors forced to disclose records

BOSTON (AP) — For all you know, your doctor has paid several malpractice claims, been convicted of a crime and lost his privileges at a hospital. But until this week, you had little chance of finding out any of that.

On Thursday, Massachusetts becomes the first state to release information about malpractice payouts, disciplinary actions against doctors and physicians' criminal records.

Other states are considering similar disclosure laws, including Florida, California, Wisconsin and New York.

The move is "truly a revolutionary step," said Deirdre Cummings,

consumer affairs director for the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, which fought for the disclosure bill signed in August.

"It puts for the first time a lot of information that was kept behind closed doors into the hands of consumers, and they can use that information as one tool to choose a physician."

Anyone who wants information on a doctor's history — good and bad — can call the Board of Registration in Medicine's toll-free hot line and get up to 10 profiles faxed or mailed to them free.

Hospitals, HMOs and malpractice insurers also want the information, said Wayne Mastin, who is in charge of the project.

## Actors shot in play about 'Gangsters'

DENVER (AP) — Three actors in a church play about gang violence were wounded when a performer fired a gun that was supposed to be loaded with blanks. The incident took place Saturday night in front of 300 people at a production of *Gangsters' Paradise*. The actor, as scripted, shot at 10 other performers.

A 6-year-old hit in the head and a 13-year-old shot in the hand were treated at a hospital and released. Esmeralda Limas, 20, was in good condition with an eye in-

jury. Doctors said her vision would not be affected.

The play was produced by Victory Outreach, the Denver chapter of a Los Angeles-based church that works with inner-city youth and gang members.

"We do a lot of these dramas," pastor Tom Vasquez said. "I reach out to the kids and to gang members. We have a lot of visual effects to make the play as real as possible."

## Testimony avoids O.J. evidence gap

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Crime lab supervisor today glossed over a big evidence gap in the O.J. Simpson case — one of the discrepancies that laid the foundation for a police frame-up theory and helped win Simpson's acquittal in murder charges.

And because Gregory Matheson made only passing mention of blood found on socks recovered from the foot of Simpson's bed the day after Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were murdered, the defense was unable to question him about it at any length.

The families of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman accuse Simpson of causing their deaths. If he is held liable in the wrongful death civil case, jurors could recommend monetary damages.

► This day in history

(AP) — Today is Tuesday, Nov. 5, the 310th day of 1996. There are 56 days left in the year.

On this date: In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was fined \$100 for attempting to vote for President Ulysses S. Grant. (She never paid the fine.)

In 1895, George B. Selden of Rochester, N.Y., received the first U.S. patent for an automobile.

In 1912, Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Republican Theodore Roosevelt and incumbent Republican William Howard Taft.

In 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office as he defeated Republican challenger Wendell L. Willkie.

In 1968, Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and third-party candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1994, former President Ronald Reagan dis-

closed he had Alzheimer's disease.

Ten years ago: The White House reaffirmed a U.S. ban on weapons sales to Iran as it sought to curb speculation that an arms deal with Tehran might have been connected to the release of American hostage David Jacobsen.

One year ago: An endless procession of Israelis filed past the simple wooden coffin of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated the night before.

► Today's birthdays

Actor-singer Roy Rogers is 85. Singer-songwriter Ike Turner is 65. Singer Art Garfunkel is 55. Actor-playwright Sam Shepard is 53. Singer Peter Noone is 49. Singer Bryan Adams is 37. Actress Tatum O'Neal is 33. Actress Andrea McArdle is 33. Actor Corin Nemec is 25.

► Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High 79°F
			Tonight's Expected Low 58°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High 80°F
			Tomorrow Night's Expected Low 55°F

Information provided by the Associated Press

**J.D. Wells**  
Rock 'n' Saloon  
Tonight November 5th  
**Steve Green**  
from  
**Pete's Piano Bar on 6th Street in Austin**  
\$1<sup>00</sup> Bar Drinks, \$1<sup>00</sup> Long Necks  
\$1.00 Draft Beer 8 - 10 p.m.  
No cover over 21, 8-10 p.m.

**Register to Win!!**  
Each Tuesday's give away at J.D. Wells  
**A Tag Heuer Watch**  
Courtesy of  
**John D. Huntley**  
313B South College Ave. • 846-8916  
(located next to Hurricane Harry's)  
Sign up at entry, Tuesday night, must be present to win.

It's not too late to sign up for  
**ITALY STUDY ABROAD**  
SUMMER '97!  
Informational Meeting Times in November  
MON. NOV. 4 at 3pm WED. NOV. 6 at 3pm  
TUE. NOV. 12 at 4:30pm THUR. NOV. 14 at 3pm  
MON. NOV. 18 at 4pm WED. NOV. 20 at 4pm  
TUE. NOV. 26 at 3pm WED. NOV. 27 at 2pm  
\*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  
Mons., Wed., Fri. 9:00 - 11:00  
024 Bolton Hall  
845-3127

Study Abroad Programs  
161 Bizzell Hall West  
845-0544

Study at the Santa Chiara Center in Castiglione Fiorentino, Italy and earn Texas A&M credit! All classes in English! All majors Welcome!

ARTS 350: The Arts and Civilization  
Prof. Paolo Barucchieri

LBAR 333: Italian Civilization & Culture: Italian Renaissance Literature  
Prof. Howard Marchitello

POLS 316: Urban Politics  
Prof. Gary Halter

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS OFFICE  
161 Bizzell Hall W. • 845-0544

**GET AN EDGE.**  
For more information, call  
696-9099  
GMAT • LSAT • GRE • MCAT  
THE PRINCETON REVIEW

**Med School**  
Your Future Begins With a Higher Score  
**KAPLAN Medical**  
Start Studying Early with  
Kaplan's MCAT Head Start Class!  
Class Start Dates  
Head Start: Sat., Nov. 16  
Regular: Wed., Jan. 22  
Last Chance: Thu., Feb. 6  
**1-800-KAP-TEST**

**LAST CALL**  
to  
**WORK ABROAD**  
in  
**ENGLAND, GERMANY & the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
Intern in a field related to your major!  
Become part of a host family!  
Explore a new culture!  
**APPLICATIONS DUE, FRI., NOV. 8, 5 PM**  
Come by the L.T. Jordan Institute in  
MSC 223-I, call 845-8770 or  
e-mail us at: [jordan@msc.tamu.edu](mailto:jordan@msc.tamu.edu)  
<http://ltjordan.tamu.edu>  
Persons with disabilities please call 845-8770 to inform us of your special needs.

**THE BATTALION**  
MICHAEL LANDAUER, EDITOR IN CHIEF  
AMY COLLIER, EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
GRETCHEN PERRENT, EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
HEATHER PACE, OPINION EDITOR  
RACHEL BARRY, AGGIE LIFE EDITOR  
TIFFANY MOORE, NIGHT NEWS EDITOR  
HELEN CLANCY, NIGHT NEWS EDITOR  
KENDRA RASMUSSEN, CITY EDITOR  
TOM DAY, SPORTS EDITOR  
STEW MILNE, VISUAL ARTS EDITOR  
CHRIS YUNG, WEB EDITOR  
TIM MOOG, PHOTO EDITOR  
BRAD GRAEBER, CARTOON EDITOR

STAFF MEMBERS  
CITY DESK - ASSISTANT EDITOR: Ann Marie Hauser; REPORTERS: Manka Cook, Brandon Hausenfluck, Christie Humphreys, Garita Marsh, Melissa Nunney, Laura Oliveira, Wesley Poston, Erica Roy, Meredith Stewart, Courtney Walker & JoAnne Whittemore  
AGGIE LIFE DESK - ASSISTANT EDITOR: Libe Goad; FEATURE WRITERS: James Francis, Kimber Huff, John LeBas, Aaron Meier, Joseph Novak, April Towery & Shea Wiggins; PAGE DESIGNER: Michele Chancellor  
SPORTS DESK - ASSISTANT EDITOR: Kristina Buffin; WRITERS: Jamie Burch, Sara Duesing, Jeremy Furtick, Colby Gaines, Ross Hecox, Matt Mitchell, Dennis Ramirez & Nicole Smith  
OPINION DESK - ASSISTANT EDITOR: Erin Fitzgerald; COLUMNISTS: Jon Appar, H. Baxter, David Boldt, Bryan Goodwin, Marjorie Goodyear, Shannon Halbrook, Michael Heintz, Aja Henderson, Jennifer Howard, Mason Jackson, Sean McFarlan, Chris Miller, David Minor, Patrick Smiley & Jeremy Valdez  
NIGHT NEWS - PAGE DESIGNER: Marissa Alanis, Jennifer Bishop, Michele Chancellor & Angie Rodgers  
COPY EDITORS - Katie Arnold, Brian Gieselman, Shannon Halbrook, Gina Panzica & Matt Weber  
VISUAL ARTS DESK - PHOTOGRAPHERS: Rony Angkriwan, Dave House, Pat James, Rachel Redington & Ryan Rogers; GRAPHIC ARTISTS: Jenny Maki, James Palmer & James Vineyard; CARTOONISTS: Michael Depot, Ed Goodwin, Dave Hoffman, John Lemons & Quatro Oakley  
WEB MASTERS - Terry Butler, Dusty Moer & Tung Tran  
NEWS: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647; E-mail: [battalion@tamu.edu](mailto:battalion@tamu.edu); Internet Address: <http://bat-web.tamu.edu>  
ADVERTISING: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald, and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.  
SUBSCRIPTIONS: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion cover of American Express, call 845-2611.  
THE BATTALION (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except 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, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.