

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Page
Friday • December 13, 1996

► Campus

Memorial service to be held for student

A memorial service for Ryan Alspaugh, a senior finance major who was killed in an automobile accident Dec. 8, will be at 6 p.m. today in the All Faith's Chapel. The public is welcome.

Alspaugh will be honored at Silver Taps on Feb. 4 and at Muster on April 21.

► Nation

Government seeks more organ donors

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not just an arm and a leg.

The government wants you to give up your liver and heart, too.

The 70 million Americans who receive tax refund checks next year also will receive information on how to become organ and tissue donors upon their death. They will also receive donor cards.

Legislation signed by President Clinton in August, making

Because of the holiday break, The Battalion will not be printed again until Jan. 13, 1997.

health insurance portable from job to job, included a section directing the secretary of the treasury to include the information with refund checks mailed between Feb. 1 and June 30.

"This new effort will expand the pool of donors, increase the likelihood that families will authorize donation upon the death of a loved one, and reduce the number of people who die while waiting for organ transplants," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., the provision's sponsor.

California Condors released in wild

VERMILION CLIFFS, Ariz. (AP) — For the first time in 72 years, the largest and rarest bird in North America took flight over Arizona's red cliffs and canyons Thursday in an effort by scientists to bring California condors back from the brink.

For thousands of years, condors flew over these craggy sandstone cliffs and fed on carcasses of woolly mammoths and saber-toothed tigers. Then hunters and other hazards of humankind pushed them to near extinction.

Seventeen condors from a captive breeding program that began in the 1980s have since been released into the wild in California,

and the government wants to establish a second wild population in northern Arizona.

Following a countdown led by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt on Thursday, a biologist atop the 1,000-foot cliffs opened a pen on a rocky ledge where six young condors have lived since Oct. 29.

The baldheaded fledglings walked out a few minutes apart and surveyed their surroundings to the cheers of 500 birdwatchers below. Ten minutes later, one condor turned into the wind and lifted its 9-foot wings, flapping awkwardly to a ledge 50 yards away. The crowd let out a whoop.

The rest, all 6- to 7-months old and weighing about 20 pounds, soon followed with short aerial spurts among the rocks and junipers.

"I'm standing here trying not to cry," said Robert Mesta, condor program coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We couldn't have sculpted it any better — birds flying, sun shining, blue sky."

Top executive Ovitz leaves Walt Disney

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood power broker Michael Ovitz is leaving as Walt Disney Co.'s No. 2 executive after trying for a year to share power with Michael Eisner at the entertainment giant.

Ovitz is the latest top Disney ex-

ecutive to leave in recent years after growing frustrated under Eisner's apparent unwillingness to cede control to lieutenants.

The company has grown dramatically, particularly with the addition of the ABC television network earlier this year. Only Time Warner, with the purchase of Turner Broadcasting, is bigger among the world's entertainment companies.

Through a spokesman, Ovitz said he was not moving to another company, but would be inclined to start his own business.

"It is important to recognize when something is not working," Ovitz said in a statement released by Disney. "I hope that my decision to leave will eliminate an unnecessary distraction for a great company."

Valley fever cases continue to rise

ATLANTA (AP) — A deadly lung infection caused by a soil fungus in the Southwest is on the rise in Arizona, preying on the elderly and those with the AIDS virus.

The number of cases of valley fever in Arizona jumped from 255 in 1990 to 623 last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday. Valley fever caused 134 deaths in Arizona from 1990 to 1994; figures for 1995 aren't available.

Arizona's recent weather patterns and changing demographics are to blame, said the CDC's Dr. Rana Hajjeh.

Valley fever begins as a fungus that grows in the ground, usually after heavy rains. Long dry spells cause the fungus to become airborne, where it is inhaled.

Also, the number of people 65 or older and those who have tested positive for the AIDS virus increased in Arizona from 1990 to 1995.

The disease is called valley fever because it is often found in the dusty soil of the Southwest, Mexico and Central and South America.

Community unites against vandals

NEWTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Hanukkah candles are flickering alongside Santa's reindeer, wreaths and Nativity scenes in some windows of this Philadelphia suburb, in what neighbors call a show of force against hate.

Early Sunday morning, after the third night of Hanukkah, someone threw a rock through the Markovitz family's front window, grabbed the electric menorah that had blazed from within, and smashed it to the ground, breaking all nine bulbs.

"Have you ever seen real fear and devastation?" asked Margie

Alexander, 36, a Christian who saw Judy Markovitz hours after the vandalism, "real pain. You don't see something like that and not do something."

So she did do something, so did her neighbors. And neighbors. On Thursday, the to-last day of the eight-day Festival of Lights, 25 Christian homes in the well-to-do neighborhood had menorahs burning their windows.

And the vandals never returned.

"It just blossomed," said Keeling, 35, a former police officer who raced from store to store in search of scarce menorahs for neighbors to display before candlelight time arrived at sundown. "I said going to get a menorah. I don't know if it's going to help — but maybe they have another person to talk to. I ran out right away."

Markovitz, a 42-year-old mother, two, immigrated to the United States from the Ukraine as a child to escape persecution in the former Soviet Union. Markovitz's mother, a Holocaust survivor, and her father, a dentist, was unable to practice because he was a Jew.

She did not know of the neighborhood menorah effort until she returned home Sunday night and saw the orange bulbs burning.

"It actually brought tears to my eyes," Markovitz said.

► This day in history

(AP) — Today is Friday, Dec. 13, the 348th day of 1996. There are 18 days left in the year.

On this date:

In 1577, Sir Francis Drake of England set out with five ships on a nearly 3-year journey that would take him around the world.

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman arrived in present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's musical work *An American in Paris* had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser *Nashville* was badly damaged in a Japanese "kamikaze" suicide attack that claimed 138 lives.

In 1978, the Philadelphia Mint began stamping the Susan B. Anthony dollar, which went into circulation the following July.

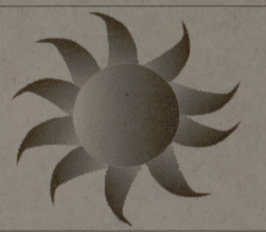
In 1996, Amy Collier and Gretchen Perrenot say goodbye to *The Battalion*, one of the best college newspapers in the country, after working there for two years.

► Today's birthdays

Country singer Buck White is 66. Movie producer Richard Zanuck is 62. Singer John Davidson is 55. Singer Ted Nugent is 48. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter (The Doobie Brothers; Steely Dan) is 48. Country musician Ron Getman (The Tractors) is 48. Actor Johnny Whitaker (*Family Affair*) is 37.

► Weather

Today



Mostly sunny with light northeast winds.

Tonight



Increasing cloudiness with light winds.

Tomorrow



Partly cloudy with light southeast winds.

Highs & Lows

Today's Expected High

74°F

Tonight's Expected Low

56°F

Tomorrow's Expected High

75°F

Tomorrow Night's Expected Low

55°F

Information courtesy of T&E

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