

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Wednesday • February 19, 1997



Pat James, THE BATTALION

**Surplus** | Jeremy Poland, vice president for the Class of 2000, sorts through old class shirts stored in the basement of the MSC.

► **State**

### Abortion bill could regulate licensing

AUSTIN (AP) — State regulation of abortion facilities would be strengthened under a bill passed by the Texas Senate.

The bill by Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, was passed Tuesday and goes to the House for consideration.

Supported by such diverse groups as the National Organization for Women and the Eagle Forum, the bill would authorize administrative penalties against abortion clinics that violate state standards.

It also would allow the Texas Department of Health to immediately suspend or revoke an abortion facility's license when people's health and safety are threatened.

The department would be allowed to release to state licensing boards information and records relating to abortion facilities to enforce state licensing laws.

### Lanier hospitalized with stomach pain

HOUSTON (AP) — Mayor Bob Lanier was hospitalized Tuesday after he complained of stomach pains and a cold sweat.

Lanier, 71, underwent diagnostic tests and will be kept overnight for observation at The Methodist Hospital, said spokeswoman Angela McPike.

It's possible the illness could be the flu. He will receive medication for nausea, McPike said.

His wife, Elyse, was with him. "He's been chatting with everybody, and he seems to be in good spirits," McPike said.

Lanier had fallen ill at City Hall. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital on the advice of the city's emergency medical services director, Ms. McPike said.

The popular mayor is in his third two-year term as head of the nation's fourth-largest city. He cannot run for re-election because of term limits.

► **Nation**

### Clerk assaulted with one-pound sliced ham

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A city councilman was convicted and fined \$250 Tuesday for smacking a store clerk in the head with a flying one-pound package of sliced ham.

A judge found Paul Riddick guilty of assault and battery in the incident Nov. 16.

Lynda Doss testified that Riddick came to the store where she works to return ham that was spoiled. Doss said that when she put a package of fresh ham on the counter, Riddick shouted, "Don't throw that ham at me!"

The councilman then threw the package, hitting her in the side of the head, knocking off her glasses and bruising her nose, she said.

Riddick testified that the woman had "slung" the ham onto the counter, snarled, "Take your damn ham" and called him an "SOB."

Doss said after the verdict: "Nobody should be able to do that. I don't wish anyone bad luck, but he got what he deserved."

### Battle focuses on parents' witchcraft

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP) — A man who tried to win custody of his son by exposing his ex-wife's witchcraft lost when pictures surfaced of him standing in front of a fire and apparently setting up a maypole.

Rana Kern said the photos showed a pagan fertility ritual and proved her ex-husband lied about living a witchcraft-free life. She was granted custody of the couple's 3-year-old son, Brandon.

Walter Kern, 27, had contended his wife's witchcraft and ritual animal sacrifices made her an unfit parent.

But Kern, 35, portrayed herself more in the mold of Oz's good-witch Glenda. She denied sacrificing animals and said her pagan beliefs did not prevent her from being a good mother.

After receiving the pictures from a mutual friend, Kern won custody Jan. 27. The couple had shared custody before.

She corrected reporters who said her ex-husband was a warlock. Technically, she said, he's a Druid.

### Astronauts may do historic sixth walk

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — NASA was forced to consider a sixth spacewalk to replace a critical steering component of the Hubble Space Telescope that malfunctioned early Tuesday.

Mark Lee and Steven Smith had just finished fixing Hubble's torn insulating cover in the cargo bay of

space shuttle Discovery when Mission Control notified them that the four reaction wheels had developed "a glitch."

After an hour, Mission Control told the astronauts to prepare for a spacewalk and to be ready to back out again Tuesday night if engineers determine that the reaction wheels which were performing spacewalks need to be replaced.

The crew has a spare reaction wheel on board, as a backup installed over the weekend.

The reaction wheel was much slower than it should be, engineers feared it might be damaged. During the fifth spacewalk, the crew should have been the final walk of the servicing mission. Lee and Smith used foil, wire, clips, plastic and parachute cord to repair the peeling insulation.

The spacewalkers hung patches over splits in Hubble's reflective insulation, apparently aged by sun exposure during years in orbit. They clipped the inch-by-16-inch pieces of materials and knobs on the telescope.

In a spot where the insulation cracked but not yet ripped, recovery crewmen stretched the material to prevent the material from falling.

It was frustrating for spacewalkers had to work in light of their helmets; most of the 1-1/2-hour job took place in the darkness of space.

Mission Control added the walk to shuttle Discovery's schedule. Lee and Smith could finish the repairs before the shuttle departs the night before.

► **This day in history**

(AP) — Today is Wednesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 1997. There are 315 days left in the year.

• On this date:

In 1473, the astronomer Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution. (However, Congress did not formally ratify Ohio statehood until 1953.)

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was arrested in Alabama. (He was subsequently tried for treason and acquitted.)

In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin.

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for his phonograph.

In 1881, Kansas became the first state to prohibit all alcoholic beverages.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive

order giving the military the authority to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans.

In 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines landed on the Western Pacific island of Iwo Jima, where they encountered ferocious resistance from Japanese forces. The Americans took control of the strategically important island after a month-long battle.

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved a treaty outlawing genocide, 37 years after the pact had first been submitted for ratification.

► **Today's birthdays**

Hall-of-Fame jockey Eddie Arcaro is 81. Singer Smokey Robinson is 57. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath) is 49. Actor Jeff Daniels is 42. Britain's Prince Andrew is 37. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 35. Singer Seal is 34. Actress Justine Bateman is 31.

► **Weather**

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected: 68°F
Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and SE winds of 15-20 mph.	More than an 80 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms and SE winds of 10-15 mph.	Cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain and SW winds of 10-15 mph.	Tonight's Expected: 61°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High: 65°F
			Tomorrow's Expected Low: 50°F

Information courtesy of...

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Light refreshments available.  
**FEBRUARY 19**  
**WEHNER**  
**11:30 - 1:30**

**"The State of Social Fragmentation in America"**  
  
**Jim Pinkerton**  
Current lecturer at the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University and former Bush domestic policy aid presented by  
Memorial Student Center  
Student Conference **On National Affairs**  
Tomorrow in MSC 201 at 6:00 p.m.  
 Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. In order to provide adequate assistance we request three (3) working days notification.

**TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL**  
**12TH MAN / WALK-ON**  
**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**  
DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 1997  
TIME: 4:30 PM  
WHERE: Kyle Field Stadium Film Room  
  
For More Information: 845-0374

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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 session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843-4200. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.