

THE BATTALION

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Monday, February 24, 1997

Town Hall cancels concert

The group scheduled the event to raise awareness about plans to tear down Mount Aggie.

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Silence will reign on Mount Aggie Tuesday because of the cancellation of a concert to raise awareness about plans to dismantle it.

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The MSC Town Hall promised the concert in a petition distributed outside the MSC last Monday, but it was

canceled because the project did not follow any purpose stated in the Town Hall mission statement.

Stacy Pogue, Town Hall assistant to the vice chair club and a senior geography major, said Town Hall had thoroughly planned out the event but decided Tuesday that supporting the concert would not be a good idea.

"Town Hall is sorry for not having the concert," Pogue said. "We are still continuing to support the rebuilding of Mount Aggie."

Dr. Jerry Gaston, vice president for administration, said there are plans to tear down the Omar Smith Tennis Center and Mount Aggie.

"The tennis courts are planned to be rebuilt on West Campus," Gaston said. "There are no plans yet to rebuild Mount

Aggie. However, we are considering it."

There are two snow ski classes offered this semester. Beginning snow ski and intermediate snow ski classes comprise a total of 15 class sections.

Coach George Jessup has taught sections of these classes for 23 years at Texas A&M.

"I have enjoyed teaching at Mount Aggie," Jessup said. "It has been outstanding to have it."

The Texas Aggie Ski Club also uses Mount Aggie.

Chuck Wolf, president of the A&M Ski Club and a senior civil engineering major, said the destruction of Mount Aggie would ultimately eliminate the ski club.

"Without Mount Aggie, the ski club cannot function properly," Wolf said. "It is a big part of our organization."

International Week

Events promote cultural diversity

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

The diverse student population at Texas A&M will be celebrated during the 18th annual International Week which begins today.

The celebration is sponsored by the International Student Association and will feature daily events Monday through Friday.

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Rajesh Kumar, president of the International Student Association and a business administration graduate student, said the purpose of International Week is to increase awareness of the cultural diversity on campus.

"[International Week] is about fostering a greater understanding, appreciation and sensitivity to other cultures," Kumar said. "It's like taking a journey all around the world without actually leaving this place."

The theme for International Week is "Many Faces, Many Places, One Planet." The week will feature cultural displays, traditional food, international entertainment and fashion.

The festivities begin today at 10 a.m. in the MSC Flagroom with an opening ceremony.

After the ceremony, international cultural displays will open in the MSC. These displays will be available for viewing on Tuesday and Wednesday. The cultural displays will give students the opportunity to meet students from countries around the world and learn about their cultures. About 2,600 students from more than 113 countries will share their cultures with others through these displays.

Wednesday evening at 6:30 there will be an international buffet on the second floor of the

International Week

Event Schedule

Monday

Opening Ceremony: 10:30 a.m., MSC Flagroom
Cultural Display: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., first floor MSC

Tuesday

Cultural Display: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., first floor MSC

Wednesday

International Buffet: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., MSC 201-224

Friday

Talent Show and Dress Parade: 7 - 9 p.m., Rudder Auditorium
Closing Ceremony and Party: 10 p.m., Ramada Inn Ballroom

MSC with entrees from different countries for students to sample.

Rosa Garza, director of the buffet and a senior international studies and Spanish major, said the buffet is one of the more popular events of the week because it is food-related.

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Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION

Turtle Power Dillon Garret, a four-year-old preschooler at St. Thomas, quickly removes his hand from a pool containing a young sea turtle.

Conference focuses on technology

By JACKIE VRATIL
THE BATTALION

Texas teachers got a glimpse of future technology at the Association of Texas Technology Education Conference Feb. 22 in Rudder Tower.

The conference included guest speakers, exhibits and special interest sessions about technology in classrooms across the country.

David Greer, the program director in Texas, Worth for the Association of Texas Technology Education, said the association's main goal is to give teachers a place to look when they have questions.

"We (the association) try to provide professional leadership for our educators," he said.

Julie Moor, president elect of the Association of Texas Technology Education, is a middle school teacher in Alief, Texas. She said the theme for this year's conference is "Designing the Future, Together We Can."

"Our focus is to inform other teachers of the technology available," she said, "so they can take it back to their students."

Greer said the conference, along with the association, targets educators who use technology in their draft, shop or other courses that would use technology.

"We are trying to make a shift from the manufacturing of today to the 21st-century manufacturing that the students will need later," he said.

David Scarella, a high school manufacturing graphics teacher at Friendswood High School, said the conference has given him the chance to see what technology is available.

"I have learned many new outlooks," he said, "and I have learned about some technology that I will be able to take back to my students so they can pursue it in college or in the workplace."

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Man shoots seven, self on Empire State Building

NEW YORK (AP) — A man opened fire on a crowd of tourists on the observation deck of the Empire State Building Sunday, killing one person and wounding six others before shooting himself in the head.

Dozens of people — many of them foreign tourists — fled in panic toward the stairways and elevators as the unidentified man sprayed bullets around the large, windowed room that opens onto the observation deck. A baby and toddler were knocked from their parents' arms in the panic.

"I've never seen so much blood in my

life," said Belgian businessman Stef Nys, who said he saw the man shoot himself and fall, his dentures popping loose. "The most scary part was when people started to panic."

The man muttered something about Egypt seconds before he began shooting at about 5:15 p.m. on the 86th floor observation deck of one of the world's best-known tourist sites, authorities said.

Nys, 36, said he heard other witnesses say the gunman was asking tourists if they were from Egypt. Police did not know if

there was any significance to his remarks.

A man in his 30s was killed, Police Inspector Michael Collins said. A .380-caliber pistol was recovered at the scene.

A 27-year-old man was shot in the head, while two other men were shot in the shoulder and a man was shot in the leg. A 44-year-old French man and his 36-year-old wife were both shot in the buttocks. Four women and the two young children were hurt in the crowd.

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Study finds residence halls in need of repair

By SHEA WIGGINS
THE BATTALION

Residence halls at Texas A&M need \$26.4 million in repairs, a study said last week.

The \$300,000 study investigated roofs, plumbing, painting, carpets and other items in student living quarters.

An increase in annual maintenance funds also was recommended by the study to help avoid future housing problems.

The study, commissioned by the Department of Residence Life, was performed by architectural engineering firm Half Associates Inc., of Dallas, and R.G. Vanderweil Facility Advisors of Boston.

The appraisers said Texas A&M's housing rating was higher than average for evaluations of housing by similar studies at other universities.

A&M President Ray M. Bowen said the result of the study was good news for the University.

"We have historically taken good care of our facilities, but we are a big school," Bowen said.

"You would expect the number to be large, taken we are the third largest school in the country."

Bowen said money for repairs will be distributed in a deferred maintenance program over a period of years.

"It was good planning on the part of our residential life staff to get the study, get it organized and get it focused," Bowen said.

The study also predicted \$6 million per year will be needed if student living quarters are to be kept in fair condition.

Ron Sasse, director of residence life, said in a press release that this will be difficult, as the University spends only \$1 million a year now on housing maintenance.

"That's why we're working on a long-range housing plan — to come to some common agreement on how we're going to deal with these issues," Sasse said. "Without it, we can expect to see a slow decline in the quality of our student housing."

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UPD establishes reward for stalker information

By KATHLEEN STRICKLAND
THE BATTALION

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered for information leading to the identification and arrest of an individual who has been stalking a Texas A&M student.

The reward is the result of a combined effort on the part of the University Police Department and the Association of Former Students to locate the individual.

Bob Wiatt, director of the UPD, said this is only the second time a reward has been offered for information leading to the capture of an unidentified individual.

"Maybe he has confided to somebody about what he has done," Wiatt said. "If they see that a reward is being given, they may decide to turn him in for a portion of the reward money."

The Association of Former Students created a fund for the University to offer cash rewards for information about felony crimes on campus. The money is given to UPD to use at their discretion.

Randy Matson, executive director of the association, said he is confident in UPD and Wiatt's use of the fund.

"The Association of Former Students has [provided] a reward fund for a number of years to help the University discourage serious crime on campus," Matson said.

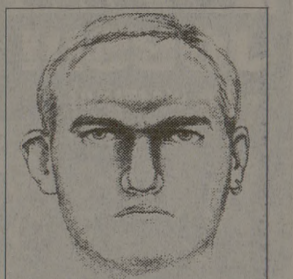
A forensic artist produced a composite drawing of the suspect from the victim's description. The drawing has been posted both on and off campus.

The suspect is described as a 19- to 20-year-old white male, weighing about 170 pounds, with a stocky build. He is identified as having

short straight blond hair and blue eyes. Distinctive characteristics depicted in the drawing include a protruding forehead, a pointed right ear and a silver loop earring in the left ear.

Wiatt said the effectiveness and accuracy of the drawing depends on the victim's recollection.

"When the suspect is captured, they sometimes look remarkably like the drawing," he said.



Anyone with any information regarding the individual is asked to contact the UPD at 845-2345.

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LADY AGGIE: Linda Waltman was the first A&M woman to receive a full athletic scholarship.

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