

# BATTALION

	94		94
	75		75
Today		Tomorrow	

See extended forecast page 2.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Singh named head of electrical engineering

The electrical engineering department named Dr. Chanan Singh, an A&M professor of electrical engineering, the new head of the department this week.

Singh, who has been at A&M since 1978, specializes in electric power systems, power electronics and urban transportation systems. He managed the National Science Foundation's power systems program. He also served as engineer for railways in India and for the transportation ministry in Canada. Singh is the co-author of four books on power systems. He succeeds interim department head Dr. Norman Griswold.

### Harner takes honors for Shakespeare CD-ROM

Dr. James Harner, an English professor at Texas A&M University, was named the Besterman Medal for his work on The World Shakespeare Bibliography CD-ROM June 17 in London, England. Harner is the editor of the bibliography.

The award was given by the Library Association of Great Britain for the outstanding bibliography of 1996. This is the first time the award was given for an electronic publication. Over 100 bibliographies were nominated.

### Ashworth plans to join Texas A&M

AUSTIN (AP) — State Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, who is retiring Aug. 31, plans to join Texas A&M University as a part-time visiting professor this fall.

Ashworth, who has been higher education commissioner since 1976, will be a visiting professor in Texas A&M's College of Education during the fall semester and at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service in the spring. He will be paid \$30,000.

### Panel focuses on JFK assassination records

WASHINGTON (AP) — The board reviewing documents on the assassination of President Kennedy would continue working for another year under a bill the House passed Monday.

The board, established in 1992, is responsible for examining hundreds of thousands of Kennedy assassination documents and deciding whether they can be made public. It is expected to speed the release of CIA and other records relating to the 1963 assassination.

The independent panel has transferred more than 14,000 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration for inclusion in the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, the House Republican Conference said in a written statement.

**TODAY IN BATTALION**

ENTERTAINMENT

### Shawping Daisy's frontman

Shawping Daisy's frontman talks about music and the band's new guitarist.

See Page 3.

### OPINION

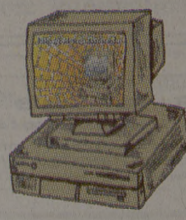
Francis: Perverse nature of visual media permeates American culture, citizens.

See Page 5.

### ONLINE

<http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

more on story, link to MA's home page.



## Prof sets precedent as AMA's first female president

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M College of Medicine has something new to boast about.

Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, an associate professor in the Department of Family and Community Health at A&M, has been named the 1998 president of the American Medical Association. She ran unopposed, and AMA delegates chose her Sunday night.

Dickey will be the first woman president of the nation's largest organization of doctors.

Her responsibilities will include being the primary spokeswoman for organized medicine, helping set medical agenda and influencing health policy.

Dr. Michael Friedland, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president of health affairs, said Dickey will represent the medical organization well.

"She's a great model of what a physician should be," Friedland said. "She's a doctor, a

teacher and she can balance a professional life, a social life and her family life."

Dickey teaches first- and second-year medical students and trains interns and residents at A&M.

She chaired the AMA Board of Trustees and has served on the association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs.

Janice Maldren, director of public affairs for the College of Medicine, said Dickey focuses her career on ethics in medicine. Her specialization in ethics is one of the reasons she was chosen for the presidency, Maldren said.

Friedland said assisted suicide, late-term abortion, managed health care and Medicare reform will be the top issues Dickey will deal with during her term.

Friedland said Dickey is the best person for the job to deal with such controversial and multidimensional issues because of her knowledge of medicine, her talent and her leadership skills.

"I don't think it could have happened to a better person," Friedland said. "Dickey is one

of the best representatives of medicine in the United States."

**"She's a great model of what a physician should be."**

**Dr. Michael Friedland  
Dean, College of Medicine**

The AMA, based in Chicago, has no legal effect on government policies on medicine, but the organization has impact on the medical field, public policy and health through lobbying and informational activities. Publishing is the main source of informational activities for the group.

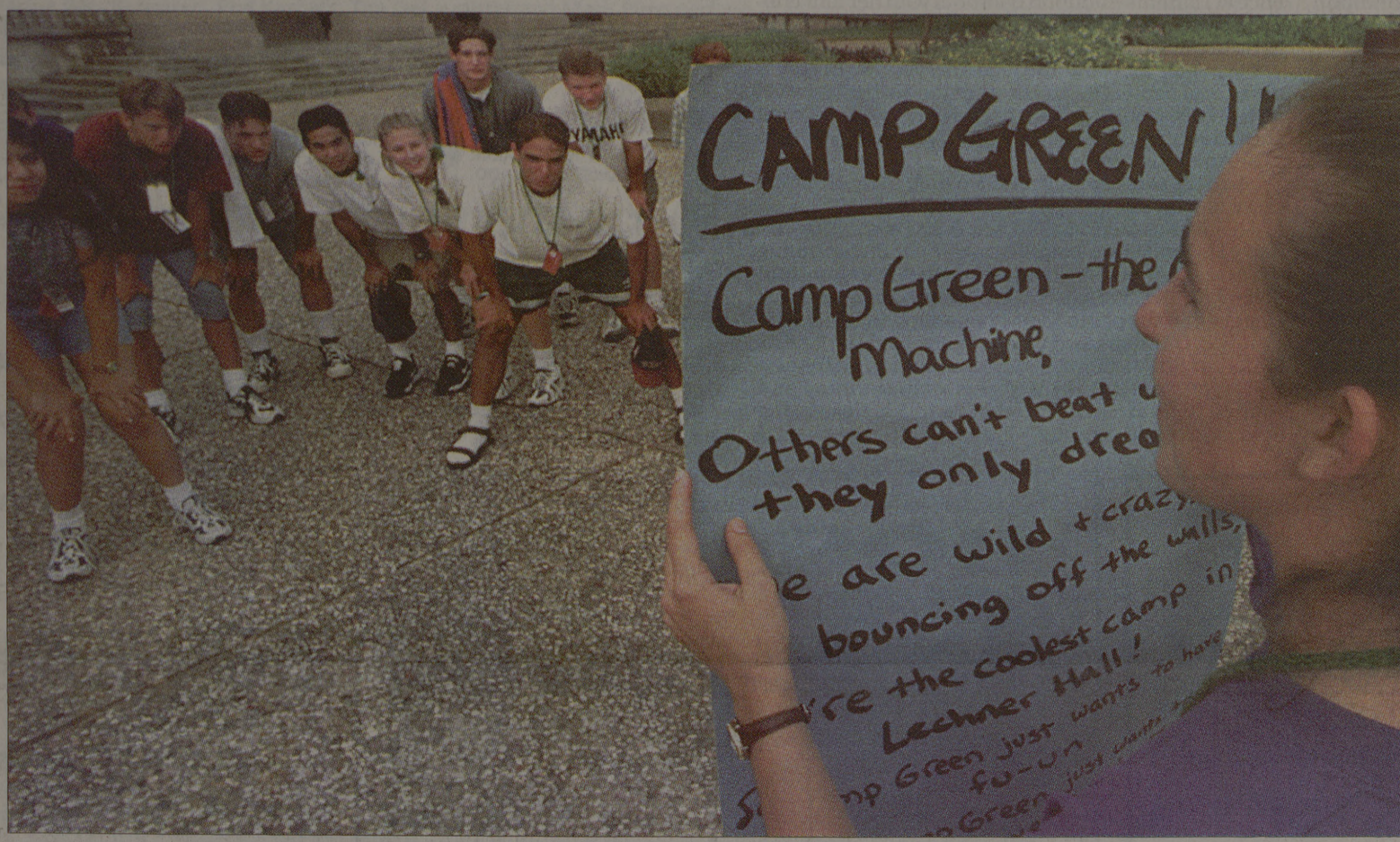
Gene Charleton, a science writer for Uni-

versity Relations, said Dickey has played a major role in health care in the Bryan-College Station area. Dickey is the clinical director and family physician of the Family Medicine Center in Bryan. The clinic is staffed by residents in the College of Medicine's family practice residency program. Dickey, along with Dr. H. David Pope, trains residents and interns at the clinic.

Dickey, 46, is from Richmond, Texas, but moved to College Station with her husband Frank Dickey, and joined the college faculty a year and a half ago. She has been married for 26 years to Frank, who coaches high school football and basketball. She has three children, ages 15, 18 and 21.

Dickey is in Chicago at the AMA headquarters attending the annual AMA convention and could not be reached for an interview.

More information about the American Medical Association can be found on the organization's official website at [www.ama-assn.org/home/amahome.htm](http://www.ama-assn.org/home/amahome.htm).



**Yell Practice** Tish Shanley, a sophomore biomedical science major, teaches a yell to a group of high school seniors who are participating in the Honors Invitational Program Monday evening.

## Four killed in train collision

DEVINE, Texas (AP) — Two freight trains collided head-on and burst into flames, killing four people and leaving investigators searching Monday through the mangled, smoldering remnants of locomotives and boxcars.

The two Union Pacific trains — one heading north, the other heading south — slammed into each other about 11:15 p.m. Sunday on a single-track stretch of rail in this town about 30 miles southwest of San Antonio.

"It looked like an explosion like in the movies," said Cayetano Guerrero, who was driving nearby when the trains crashed. "It looked like the sunset coming up. That's how bright it was."

The fire was extinguished by early Monday, although smoke continued to spew from a huge clump of railcars.

The trains were carrying about 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel but no hazardous materials. The surrounding area was briefly evacuated immediately after the crash, authorities said.

Some of the 29 derailed cars were almost unrecognizable they were so badly damaged and twisted. The wreck also damaged a railroad bridge.

Two of the dead were Union Pacific workers, one from each train, said Mark Davis, a railroad spokesman at the accident scene. Their identities were not immediately released.

The other two who died were not authorized train passengers and were suspected to have been trespassers on board, Union Pacific officials said.

A third railroad employee, identified as Randy Dennis, 37, was in serious but stable condition at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio with burns. A fourth employee was treated and released.

The northbound train was headed from Laredo to near Baton Rouge, La., and was carrying loads of rocks. The southbound train, headed from Chicago to Mexico, was transporting auto parts.

As workers repaired the train tracks and used a crane and bulldozers to remove the rail cars Monday, investigators tried to determine why the two trains were on the same track.

"That's going to be the crux of our investigation," said John Bromley, Union Pacific spokesman in Omaha, Neb. "We're checking the orders that were issued to the trains to see how they were written and how they were carried out. It's likely that human error will probably play a large part in this."

Investigators will question railroad dispatchers in Omaha and the railroad employees who survived and will look for clues in data boxes aboard the trains, Davis said.

"In each locomotive they have like a 'black box,'" Davis said. "It's not as sophisticated as (on an) aircraft, but at least it gives us when brakes were applied, how fast the train was going, things of that nature."

## Former FBI agent gets 27 years for spying

**Pitts charged with selling secrets to Russians**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A former FBI agent was sentenced to 27 years in prison Monday for spying for Moscow before and after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Earl Pitts, 44, the second FBI agent caught spying, had been charged with selling U.S. intelligence secrets to the Russians for more than \$224,000 from 1987 to 1992.

Prosecutors had sought a sentence of nearly 24 1/2 years. But U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis told Pitts his crimes were especially severe and said Pitts has yet to fully apologize.

"Every time you go by Arlington, every marker you see, every name you see on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, or the Korean War Memorial, of people who made the ultimate sacrifice, you have betrayed them especially," Ellis said.

Pitts, looking thin and disheveled, told the judge he understands how deeply he betrayed his country and his profession. "I do not wish to excuse or explain away my actions. What I did was wrong, pure and simple," he said.

Pitts was snared in a 16-month FBI sting that ended with his arrest in December, when he was stationed at the FBI Academy in Quantico. The FBI caught Pitts by convincing him that the Russian government wanted to re-activate him as a spy.

He pleaded guilty in February to conspiring and attempting to commit espionage, avoiding a possible sentence of life in prison.

The only other FBI agent ever caught spying was Richard W. Miller, a Los Angeles agent who was arrested in 1984 and later sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Earlier this month, CIA agent Harold Nicholson was sentenced to 23 years for selling secrets to Moscow.

## Transient alligator spotted at Wolf Pen Creek

By ROBERT SMITH  
THE BATTALION

A 4-foot alligator is on the loose in Wolf Pen Creek, but no injuries from the alligator have been reported.

Jim Davis, a fishery specialist at Texas A&M, said recent heavy rains may have washed the alligator into the creek.

"Alligators tend to wander," Davis said, "and when you have a lot of water, they can move around even more."

Davis said alligators reside in the Brazos and Navasota Rivers, but they are not aggressive.

"If there's a lot of people out, they will usually leave," Davis said.

Steve Beachey, director of College Station Parks and Recreation, said the alligator was first spotted Saturday behind Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheatre.

Mario Barrientos of College Station said he saw the alligator twice.

"It was quite a shock," Barrientos said.

"I saw it in the water on the backside of the creek on Saturday. I saw it this morning around 9:30 sunning on the bank of the creek."

On Monday, Beachey contacted the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which plans to locate and remove the alligator this week.



GRAPHIC: Brad Graeber

## Flood leaves Central Texas towns ailing

LAKEWAY (AP) — A tearful Tammy Keller helped move a television set, her daughter's pink bicycle and racks of clothes out of her two-story home near Lake Travis and into a rented trailer Monday.

Nearly everything was out of her house except a collection of porcelain figurines high on a shelf on the second floor.

That part of the house was expected to be spared as water continued rising from driving weekend rains. The down-pour turned peaceful creeks into white-water rapids, killed three people in Bandera County and one man in Brown County in Central Texas.

"Thank God for family and friends," Keller said through tears. "Everyone in the world has called to help us."

The Kellers, who were told water likely would fill the first floor of their home and six inches of the second floor, were among hundreds of families who evacuated homes along swollen river and lake beds from Hondo, west of San Antonio, to Lakeway, just west of Austin.

Austin's Lake Travis was expected to be the hardest hit because it is the primary downstream repository for the Colorado River basin.

Although skies were sunny much of the day Monday, scattered showers were in the forecast for the next several days.

The Lower Colorado River Authority, which provides water and electric service to about 1 million residents in 58 counties, projected that water levels in Lake Travis would rise from a normal of 685 feet above sea level to 710 feet by Tuesday morning as upstream rainwater pours in.

That would match a record level following Christmas Day flooding in 1991 that damaged approximately 300 homes on the Lake Travis shoreline.

LCRA officials estimate that roughly 400 homes on Lake Travis will be damaged by the most recent flooding, as well as 80 homes near Marble Falls and 80 more near Llano. Both towns are along the swollen Colorado River. Water levels in the Llano River were the highest since 1952.

The floods left little question that last year's drought, which cost the state \$5 billion, had been broken.

Robert Cullick, an LCRA spokesman, said, "If you look back in history, droughts are always broken by floods. Texas just doesn't know how to be moderate."

"We got enough water in Lake Travis in the last 24-hour period for about 60,000 families for a year," Cullick said. "I would say the drought is definitely broken."