

NEWS BRIEFS

Corps to host first reunion celebration

Former members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will gather at the first Corps of Cadets Reunion this fall. The reunion will take place in conjunction with the A&M-University of Southwestern Louisiana football game on Sept. 20. The Corps celebration will begin with current Corps' practice march-in at 10 a.m. at Kyle Field. Other activities include an open house in the dorms, programs and displays at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center. The Texas Aggie Band will hold its annual reunion the same weekend.

Faculty Senate OKs research program

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate unanimously approved the Research Scholar Program Monday. The program encourages students to participate in research projects and publish their findings. Students completing the program will be recognized as research scholar at graduation ceremonies and on official transcripts. The program will begin in the fall. In other business, the Faculty Senate approved a name change from the Lowry Mays College of Business Administration and Graduate School of Business to the Lowry Mays College of Graduate School of Business.

Political Forum hosts campaign speaker

Suz Woodford, the executive director of Common Cause Texas, will discuss campaign finance reform, conflict of interest issues and public information access at 4 p.m. today in Rm. 230 MSC. The MSC Political Forum is sponsoring the free event. Common Cause fights to open government meetings and records to the public and prevent unpublicized back-deal legislation.

Jury rules in favor of former executive

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A jury awarded \$26.6 million Tuesday to a former beer brewing executive who sued his company for firing him after he discussed a racy episode of "Seinfeld" with a female co-worker. Harold Mackenzie was fired from his \$95,000-a-year job in 1993 after he told Patricia Best about the episode and she complained. Mackenzie said he was relieved by the verdict. "You should be able to talk to your workers. You should be able to talk to your subordinates as you would talk to anybody else," he said. Miller will appeal, spokesman Steve Brophy said.

Academic Building repairs to begin

Weathering, age have caused deterioration

BY ROBERT SMITH
THE BATTALION

The Academic Building will undergo repairs for exterior holes starting the first week of August.

The building's stone enclosure that lies just below the copper dome will be replaced.

The enclosure has been steadily deteriorating and has several cracks and large holes.

Rick Thomas, an informant of maintenance, said weathering and age have made repairs necessary. "The fact that it is an old building has caused it to deteriorate," Thomas said.

The Physical Plant planned this maintenance on the Academic Building in September 1995.

Thomas said repairs have been delayed due to a lack of allocated funds.

"It's been on deferred maintenance for over a year, and we're just now getting the money to work on it," Thomas said.

David Godbey, assistant director of the Physical Plant for Engineering and Design Services, said the project will be complex.

"It's pretty involved," Godbey said. "They have to erect a scaffold to remove the old blocks one at a time and replace them with new ones that match the surrounding blocks exactly."

Godbey said the project has a minimum cost of \$79,185.

"That is the bottom line cost," Godbey said. "There may be more damage than what we can see right now, and it could be more."

Godbey said he expects the repairs to be completed in four months.

The building's most recent major repairs were done in January 1994, when the original wooden window frames were replaced with aluminum frames.

The Academic Building was constructed in 1912 and is one of the oldest buildings on campus.

The building lies on the same ground once occupied by A&M's Old Main Building, which burned down in 1911.

Godbey said the repairs will significantly improve the appearance of the building.

"That part of the building is pretty worn down right now," Godbey said. "When everything is done, it will look like it did when it was first built."



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

Workers will begin repairs on the exterior holes of the Academic Building in August.

A&M jolted by power outage

BY ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M campus was without electricity for over two hours last night.

Jim Harless, a superintendent of utilities maintenance at Physical Plant, said the power outage occurred at 6:20 p.m., and electricity came back on around 8:20 p.m. in some parts of campus.

"We picked up lights on a gradual basis," he said.

Harless said the cause of the power outage is undetermined. He said Bryan Utilities said the cause might have been a lightning strike on "transmission incoming" land that two Bryan power plants are on.

A&M utilities are tapped into the two power plants. After the land was investigated, Harless said, the system was energized, and power was restored.

"We did not find any permanent damage to anything," he said.

Fashion designer shot to death outside Miami Beach mansion

Police believe Versace may have been the target of a serial killer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Gianni Versace, who dressed celebrities the world over in his glamorous, sexy designs, was killed outside his oceanfront villa Tuesday by a man who shot him twice in the back of the head at point-blank range.

The FBI was looking into the possibility that suspected serial killer Andrew Cunanan, one of the FBI's 10 most-wanted fugitives, had struck again. The 27-year-old Cunanan, who is suspected in the slayings of four men from Minneapolis to New Jersey, was known to move in gay circles. Versace was gay.

Versace, 50, was returning home from the News Cafe on South Beach's Ocean Drive after buying an Italian newspaper when he was gunned down outside the gates of his Mediterranean-style mansion. There was no sign of robbery.

"I do know it is not a random act of violence," Police Chief Richard Barreto said. "I believe that he was targeted."

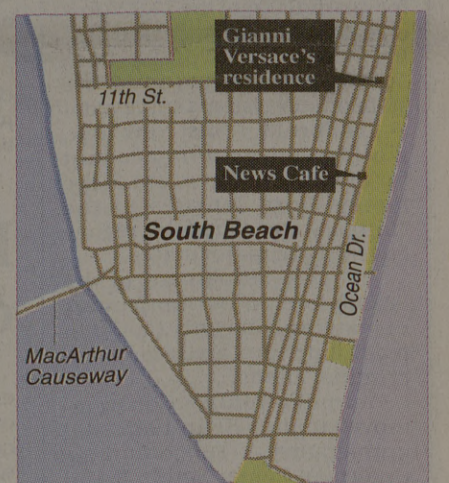
Police said the fashion designer was shot by a white man in his mid-20s, dressed in a white or gray shirt and dark shorts and carrying a backpack.

Officers later cordoned off a five-story municipal parking garage near the shooting scene after a witness saw a man fitting the description of the suspect.

WTVJ-TV in Miami reported that police found clothing under a red Chevrolet pickup truck in the parking garage, and that the truck's vehicle identification number matched that of the vehicle Cunanan was last reported driving. Police believed the clothes belonged to the suspect.

The station also quoted unnamed police sources as saying Versace was killed with a .40 caliber handgun, the same caliber weapon used in the murders Cunanan is suspected of committing.

"This guy's a serial killer," said a Miami Beach homicide detective at the garage who refused to give his name. "We know who he is."



AP



PHOTOGRAPH: Sarah Johnson

Helping Hand

Betsy McFarland of the University Press Marketing Department, donates blood Tuesday morning for the American Red Cross on campus.

Halogen lamps banned in campus residence halls

BY JENARA KOCKS
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students are no longer permitted to have halogen torchiere fixtures in residence halls starting this fall.

Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Residence Life, said the department recently banned them from the halls because it heard the heat the lamps produce makes them a fire hazard.

"We'd be at risk if we didn't [keep them out of the halls]," Sasse said.

According to the policy, "torchieres found in student rooms will be confiscated, and residents will face disciplinary charges."

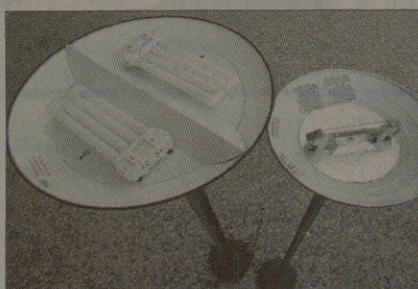
Eric Williams, RHA president and a senior biomedical science major, said many students in the residence halls own these lamps.

"This [policy] will definitely affect many students," Williams said.

He said that many students in the Commons have the lamps because they brighten up the dark rooms of these residence halls.

Sasse said he had not heard of any accidents occurring in the halls because of the lamps, but Williams said he has heard of a few small incidents.

He said he heard that a year or two ago a poster fell on top of a halogen lamp in Aston. Part of the poster



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog

Fluorescent lamps (left) burn cooler than halogen lamps (right). But the new lamps cost over \$100.

caught on fire and fell onto a comforter that also ignited.

Williams said a resident advisor smelled smoke and used a fire extinguisher to put the fire out before it did a lot of damage.

Sasse said he also talked to other housing directors at Big 12 universities, and some are considering a similar policy.

Anna Cauvana, administrative assistant to the assistant director of Residence Life at the University of Texas, said the department banned halogen lamps that produce more than 120 watts from their halls in June.

Campus housing offices at universities outside the Big 12 are also trying to keep halogen lamps out of residence halls.

Please see LAMPS on Page 6.

Houstonians remember Flight 800 victims

HOUSTON (AP) — Crime victims' advocate Pam Lychner and her two young daughters, all victims of the crash of TWA Flight 800 a year ago this week, were being remembered Tuesday with dedication of a bronze memorial.

Lychner, 37, a former TWA flight attendant, was one of the founding members of the Houston victims' rights group Justice For All. She was heading to Paris for a vacation with daughters Shannon, 10, and Katie, 8, and were among 230 people to die in the July 17, 1996, crash.

The life-size bronze of Lychner with her arms around her daughters is the centerpiece of a pink granite circular plaza at Town Hall Park near the Lychner home in Spring Valley, an enclave of Houston.

Local officials described the sculpture as a perpetual remembrance of Lychner, the family values she embodied and her work for her community. "It's Pam protecting her children forever in bronze," sculptor Patrick McGuire said.

"I think it's beautiful," said Joe Lychner, who lost his family in the crash. "It's been a long time coming. A lot of people have put in a lot of hard work."

Justice For All was founded in mid-1993 after a man with a history of sexual assaults attacked Lychner, who was working as a real estate agent, while she was showing a house.

Under her leadership, the group attracted several thousand members to become Texas' largest victims' rights group, campaigning against early release of prisoners and expansion of privileges for Texas prison inmates. The group also pushed legislative programs to aid crime victims and opposed repeated delays in executions of Texas death row inmates.

Texas honored Lychner late last year by naming a Houston-area state jail after her.

The 747 jumbo jet's crash remains a mystery. Investigators this week are using a rented similar jet outfitted with electronic sensors in hopes of finding a cause.

The plane's center fuel tank exploded as the aircraft, which had just left New York's Kennedy Airport, climbed to around 13,700 feet in calm weather. The jet then dropped to about 9,000 feet before exploding in a fireball off the coast of Long Island.

TODAY IN THE BATTALION

SPORTS

Changlers President Tom Scheiffer discusses the future of major league baseball.

See Page 3.

OPINION

Editor: Successes of women, career achievements remain overlooked by society, A&M.

See Page 5.

ONLINE

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Look for previous Battalion stories in the archives.

