

# BATTALION



62  
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73  
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TOMORROW

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COLLEGE STATION • TX

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## Search under way for missing A&M professor

BY ROBERT SMITH  
Senior staff writer

A search continued Tuesday for a missing A&M geology professor who left Bryan on the evening of Nov. 13 in his private airplane headed for Van Horn, Texas, officials said. In his Cessna 180, Norman R. Tilford of College Station departed Coulter Field at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 13 to meet a group of A&M students on a field trip, said Major Carl Weiss of Civic Air Patrol (CAP).

Weiss said CAP found no new clues after sending seven aircraft from Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana in search of Tilford today.

"We sent out aircraft from different states just in case the plane flew out another direction," Weiss said.

Weiss said CAP began searching for Tilford Saturday night after the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center reported Tilford missing. CAP, a volunteer organization, dispatched an aircraft Saturday night to search

for an Emergency Locator Signal from the plane but did not find one.

Weiss said CAP can find a plane giving an ELT within three to four hours.

Airport manager Gary Gandy said students called the airport Friday morning and said Tilford had not arrived in Van Horn.

Gandy said the students called again in the afternoon and evening.

"I became concerned because it was not like him to not report in," Gandy said.

Gandy said Tilford did not file a flight plan

with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The FAA does not require private flights to file a flight plan, but the administration searches for all flights filed that have not reported landing two hours past their destination time.

CAP flew 48 "sorties," or search flights, with 55 people and 12 aircraft Monday and 22 sorties with 17 aircraft and 54 people Sunday. Each sortie is sent to a specific area of about 15 square miles.

Bryan Aviation sent two independent aircraft Saturday.

The plane was equipped with a new emergency transmitter, but the batteries in the device last only 48 hours, Gandy said.

The emergency transmitter will give an ELT if the plane has a hard land but will not respond if the plane is severely damaged or the engine is destroyed, Weiss said.

Gandy said Tilford was prepared for a camping trip and had food, water and a sleeping bag with him.

"Every possibility exists that he can deal with the situation out on the field," he said.

## Presentation addresses campus construction, future projects

BY AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

Bryan-College Station officials examined construction projects to Texas A&M students during a parking and transportation presentation last night in the Rudder.

The MSC Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) sponsored the presentation about parking issues on the Texas A&M campus and transportation in the Bryan-College Station area.

Martha Middleton, the vice chair of public relations for SCONA and a sophomore elementary education major, said the presentation was to educate students about transportation issues at A&M and the Bryan-College Station community.

"I hope that students can become aware of what's going on," Middleton said. "When [students] have a problem with parking and buses, we want students to be informed. We wanted the presentation to tie in with local issues."

Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) at Texas A&M addressed issues dealing with transportation, parking and construction.

After the presentation, students asked questions about transportation issues.

Gary Jackson, the PTTS shuttle bus manager, said Texas A&M has one of the biggest fleets of buses in the nation.

"We do have an aging bus fleet," he said. "We are as much as twice as many miles into many of the buses' life expectancies."

Jackson said the average life expectancy of a bus is between 150,000 and 200,000 miles. He said PTTS is looking at plans to purchase more buses.

"We have to develop a plan that will generate capital," he said. "We have looked at a lease plan, increasing the transportation fee and a possible bond issue. In the end, you may see a combination of two to three factors."

Kathryn Mathis, the PTTS associate director of administration, said the Reed

Arena parking area is expected to hold 1,500 spaces designated for off-campus students with blue parking permits.

Mathis said that University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen is reviewing a proposal for a 1,500 to 2,000 space parking garage on West Campus.

She said that there are no plans to build a parking garage for the George Bush complex.

Catherine Hejl, the assistant area engineer for the Brazos County division of TxDOT, said she wants students to be informed of the development of 11 highway construction projects in Bryan-College Station, including Texas Avenue, George Bush Drive and FM 2818.

"We have received a lot of negative publicity on the (Texas Avenue) job," Hejl said. "They are within two to three weeks on schedule of what they projected in February 1996. By late spring, the main construction ought to be done."

Last night's presentation was a prelude to SCONA's annual conference Feb. 19 through 21.

## Council aims to protect Aggie traditions

BY KARIE FEHLER  
Staff writer

The Traditions Maintenance Council was started this semester to remind Texas A&M students of Bonfire's goal and to unite Bonfire workers to preserve traditions.

"It is so important for Ol' Ags to see how the tradition is continuing. We want to get feedback from current Bonfire workers and those with stories to help preserve Bonfire's atmosphere."

J.W. WASHINGTON  
GROUP FACILITATOR, TMC

profanity on workers' pots surfaced this year. "We got a lot of people together to try and help solve the profanity problem and we discovered that profanity actually existed

on only 3 percent of the pots," he said. "TMC realized that even though this particular issue may have been a bit superficial, it was our catalyst and Bonfire's traditions needed some protection — we are simply here to preserve, protect and maintain Aggie Bonfire traditions."

Washington described the council as the "middle management" in Bonfire leaders.

"We're the middle management in Bonfire — the upper management are the senior [redpots] and top guys, and the lower management consists of the crew chiefs and co-chairs," he said. "We can help out because through our network of leaders from each dorm, we can get the right story out to workers and encourage them to follow our example — they respect old pots and co-chairs and will listen to them on issues like profanity."

Colby Turner, a council member and a senior engineering technology major, said the group wants to work closely with the University on proposed changes to different Bonfire traditions.

"We just want to maintain the way we build Bonfire," he said. "The council wants to work with Bonfire officials and the University to make sure all future changes are truly justified, and maybe to review past changes to make sure those are needed also."

Washington said the council's plans include contacting former A&M students who were involved with Bonfire to find out their favorite Bonfire stories and compiling these stories for future Aggies.

"It is so important for Ol' Ags to see how the tradition is continuing," he said. "We want to get feedback from current Bonfire workers and those with stories to tell to help preserve Bonfire's atmosphere."

## How does your garden grow?



Sharon Banister checks the condition of a batch of Poinsettias under her care at the Floriculture Greenhouse Tuesday afternoon.

## National Children's Book Week stresses importance of literature for youth

BY RACHEL DAWLEY  
Staff writer

The MSC Literary Arts committee is celebrating literature through its observance of National Children's Book Week. The 78th annual celebration, sponsored by the Children's Book Council in New York City, is from Nov. 17 to 23.

"Any Time is Book Time" is the theme for the week, which dates back to 1919. Children's Book Council President Paula Quint said the week is an opportunity to focus on the importance of books for children.

Sarah Lloyd, chair of Literary Arts and a senior English major, said the week helps students and faculty enjoy the books they read as children.

"The purpose of the week is to try to get everyone to think about books they read as kids," Lloyd said. "This allows them to reflect and remember how much fun reading can be."

Several programs are scheduled for the week. Campus leaders, including MSC Director Jim Reynolds and MSC President Nelson Burns, will read Shel Silverstein books at Rudder Fountain at 12:15 each day.

Bryan-College Station author Kathy Appelt will present a workshop on how to write a children's book Wednesday at 7 p.m. in 292 MSC.

Dr. Donna Norton, an A&M professor of instruction and curriculum in the Texas A&M College of Education, will present "The Challenge of Children's Books" Thurs-

day at 7 p.m. in 292 MSC.

Norton is the author of *Through the Eyes of a Child...An Introduction to Children's Literature*, a book used by universities around the world. Thursday's presentation will focus on different ways books can be shared with children for excitement. It will also use award-winning literature for educational purposes.

"The focus is to try to get people to read quality books," Norton said. "During the week, several sources are trying to emphasize fine literature for children. By getting into award-winning books, you study the techniques authors use and start to appreciate good literature."

Norton said children's literature can bring history to life through characters and settings. The books also help students to appreciate art, she said.

Literary Arts raises campus awareness of literature and aims to increase understanding of books, Lloyd said. The group has 25 members with a variety of majors.

Denise Goertz, small programming executive for Literary Arts and a senior genetics major, said children's books have great meaning. Goertz said she read books such as "Where the Wild Things Are" and Dr. Seuss' "Hop on Top" as a child.

"The programming helps students realize the importance of reading and the importance of children's books," Goertz said. "We do this week for fun. It is a break to bring you back to your childhood."

## INSIDE lifestyles

"Arsenic and Old Lace" mixes murder and humor in Stage Center production.  
See Page 3

## sports

A&M Women's Basketball team falls to tenth-ranked Vanderbilt in season opener.  
See Page 7

## opinion

Waylay: Corps of Cadets offer valuable lessons in work ethic, discipline.  
See Page 11

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## Fraternities, sororities display Greek pride through Letter Day

BY WENDY DULANEY  
Staff writer

Members of fraternities and sororities are wearing their letters today in support of the Greek System at Texas A&M.

Carrie Beyer, a graduate assistant at the Department of Student Activities and an educational administration graduate student, said letter day promotes unity within the Greek community.

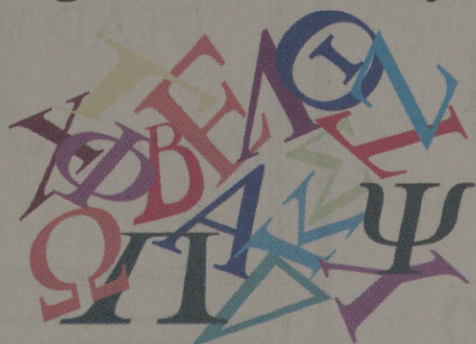
The three councils that govern the Greek system — Panhellenic, Pan-Hellenic and Interfraternity Council — want members to identify with the large group as well as with the individual fraternities or sororities.

Eric Vroonland, president of Interfraternity Council and a senior finance major, said Greeks want to show their presence on the A&M campus.

"Letter day will help Texas A&M students recognize what an integral part of campus life the Greek population is and show the spirit of the Greek community," he said.

Vroonland said many students will be surprised at the number of activities fraternity and sorority members are involved in besides Greek activities.

Beyer said letter day also shows Texas A&M students what a large percentage of the student body belongs to fraternities or sororities, and more than 4,000 members have the



opportunity to show their pride for their fraternity or sorority.

Greeks have been on campus since the 1970s, and were officially recognized by the University in 1990.

Jennifer Burns, president of Panhellenic Council and a senior nutritional science major, said fraternities and sororities have different days to display individual letters. "This is the first time everyone has tried to work together," she said.

An All-Greek Forum Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium also will promote Greek unity.

Fraternity and sorority members and Texas A&M students, faculty and staff are invited to the presentation to learn more about the three councils.