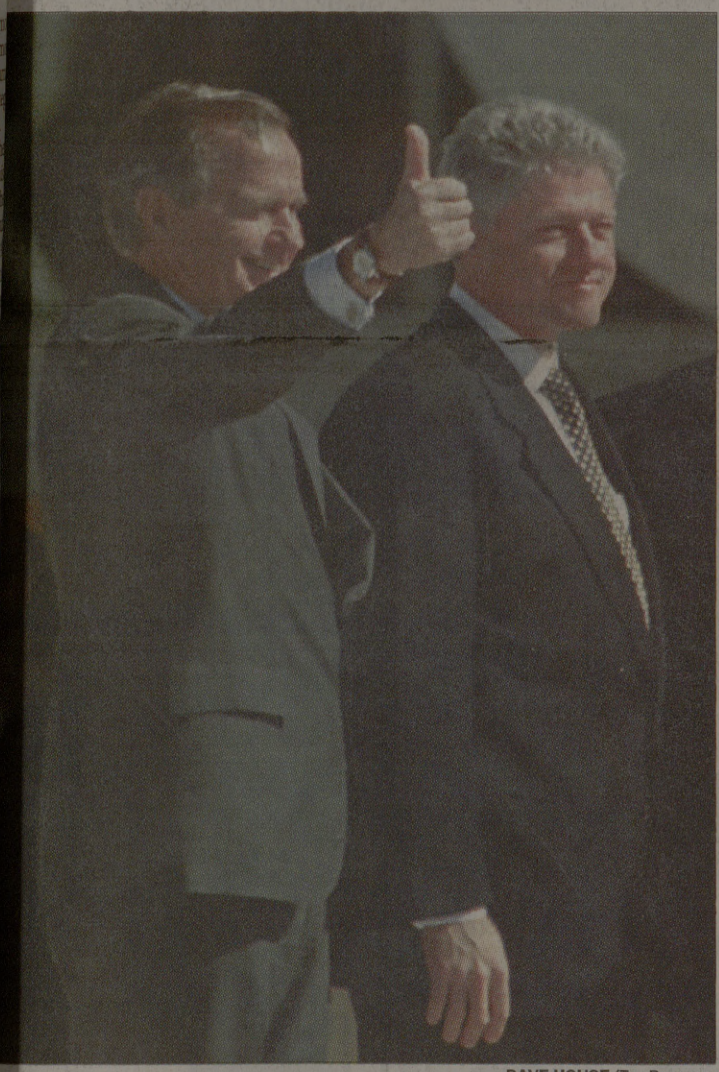


1997

looking back on

This year marks historic growth and notable losses on a campus already enduring change.



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Former President **George Bush** responds to the thousands of Aggies with President **Bill Clinton** at the opening ceremony for the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum November 6.

Garry Mauro: Glad I'm not wrestling with killer's fate

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Garry Mauro said Thursday there's one reason he's glad he's not governor right now — the approaching execution of the first woman in Texas since the Civil War. "Watching Gov. Bush wrestle with that decision, that's the only thing I can think of right now, the only reason I can think of right now that I'm glad I'm not governor," Mauro said.

"I have not wrestled with that. I do not know what I would do. It's a tough issue. I wish him well on coming to a resolution on it," the Democrat said.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected what could be the final appeal of Karla Faye Tucker, one of seven condemned women in Texas.

Tucker, 38, has been on death row since her conviction in the pick-slaying of Jerry Lynn Dean, 27, at Dean's Houston apartment during burglary. Dean's companion, Deborah Thornton, 32, also was killed in the 3-foot-long ax, which was left embedded in her chest.

The case has received nationwide attention, and there is a chance at Republican Gov. George W. Bush would have to decide whether to spare Tucker or let the execution proceed.

Bush will decide this case exactly as he has all the others during his term, gubernatorial spokeswoman Karen Hughes said.

"He will wait until the Board of Pardons and Paroles makes a recommendation. He will review that and ask two questions: Is there any question about the guilt of the individual? Have the courts had ample opportunity to review all the legal issues?"

BY COLLEEN KAVANAGH
 Staff writer

A year of events at Texas A&M was highlighted by the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library and the George Bush School of Government and Public Services, which brought the national spotlight to College Station in 1997.

GEORGE BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Former President George Bush was joined by more than 25,000 friends, family, dignitaries, students and the public to celebrate the dedication of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Nov. 6.

President Bill Clinton, former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, and former first lady Nancy Reagan spoke at the dedication honoring the 41st president of the United States.

The 69,000-square-foot facility is the 10th presidential library and contains official records, personal papers and memorabilia of George Bush and the Bush administration.

The library and museum complex holds 38 million pages of documents, one million photographs, audio and video tapes and multiple volumes of information documenting Bush's life and career.

Exhibits include a TBM Avenger Aircraft, a 1947 Studebaker Coupe, a history of Operation Desert Storm and a piece of the Berlin Wall.

The library and museum was estimated to cost \$82 million provided by private funding.

The ceremony ended with the presentation of the key of the library to John W. Carlin, the archivist of the United States.

GEORGE BUSH SCHOOL

The dedication of the George Bush School of Government and Public Services was celebrated Sept. 9.

After the dedication, former President Bush met privately with the charter class of graduate students in the Bush School.

The Bush School of Government, which opened for fall classes Sept. 1, is designed to provide a professional degree for students interested in public service and government.

FISH DRILL TEAM

The Texas A&M Fish Drill team was disbanded Aug. 5 after 16 A&M students faced hazing charges from the University.

The Brazos County grand jury returned 60 indictments of hazing and assault charges against nine advisers of the team. The nine students also faced University charges this summer.

Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hoppgood said that although it is difficult to separate the impact of one event on the Corps of Cadets, the Corps' performance has been exemplary after the disbandment.

"Next semester we are going to do a wide-ranging evaluation with regards to the pros and cons of having a drill team," he said. "The announcement was made Aug. 5, so we have a year to make a decision about a drill team."

FIRES

An early morning apartment fire killed one A&M student and injured two other residents of Kensington Place apartments in College Station in January.

Paul Meleony, a sophomore electrical engineering major, was found dead on his bedroom floor. The preliminary autopsy showed the cause of death was smoke inhalation and hot fire gases.

PLEASE SEE REFLECTIONS ON PAGE 9.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Construction on the Reed Arena special events center will be completed in Spring 1998 in time for the Muster Ceremony. The arena will be used for graduation commencements, concerts, basketball games, and other special events.



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Former first lady **Lady Bird Johnson**, former first lady **Barbara Bush** and first lady **Hillary Clinton** wave to the crowd of over 25,000 students, dignitaries, friends and family at the opening of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum November 6.

World mourns death of Princess Diana; U.S. avoids conflict with Middle East

BY RACHEL DAWLEY
 Staff writer

The deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, the turmoil in the Middle East and the largest mass suicide in history are a few of the events that made 1997 a year to remember.

PRINCESS DIANA

"Goodbye, England's rose" and the voice of Elton John poured through Westminster Abbey at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. Millions wept as they witnessed the funeral, most via television, for the princess who was killed in a car accident in September.

"Diana profoundly influenced this nation and the world," said Rev. Dr. Wesley Carr, the dean of Westminster.

MOTHER TERESA

A few days after Diana's death, Mother Teresa, a woman who devoted herself to the poor and sick of the world, died of a massive heart attack in Calcutta.

Lauren Donohue, Class of '97 and an employee of St. Mary's Catholic Student Center, said the life of Mother Teresa provided the world with an image of service and love for one another.

"Everyone understands how Mother Teresa's life and service towards the poor and the sick help the world," Donohue said. "She showed us that anyone can serve and can help in small ways. She encouraged people and gave them hope. She was a simple woman who changed the world."

HUSSEIN BACKS DOWN

The world turned its attention to the Middle East this year. When Saddam Hussein refused to let inspectors into the country, the United States replied with sanctions and military threats. Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov wanted sanctions against Hussein lifted so Iraq could repay the \$7 billion it owes Russia. President Bill Clinton said he wanted to maintain economic sanctions and stand up to the threat of Hussein's germ warfare. Saddam has agreed to let inspectors back in but he is limiting access to possible chemical and biological weapons sites.

HEAVEN'S GATE MASS SUICIDE

A mass suicide occurred in March in Rancho Santa Fe, a California suburb. The 39 members of Heaven's Gate swallowed phenobarbital-laced pudding chased with vodka in order "to shed their coverings" and follow the

comet Hale-Bopp. The group ranged in age from 26 years old to 72 years old.

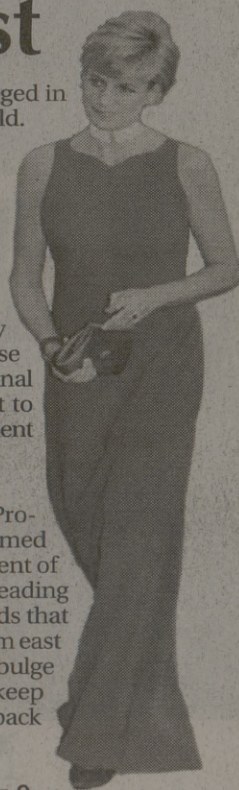
CLOSING THE BOOKS ON TWA FLIGHT 800

After a 16-month investigation, the U.S. government concluded that TWA Flight 800 was not downed by a missile or a terrorist bomb. Having found no evidence of criminal activity, the FBI formally suspended its inquiry into the cause of the July 1996 crash. The National Transportation Safety Board is set to present its conclusion that the accident resulted from mechanical failures.

EL NIÑO

The World Climate Research Programme of the United Nations termed this year's El Niño the "climatic event of the century." The chain of events leading to El Niño began when trade winds that usually blow across the Pacific from east to west diminished. As a result, a bulge of warm weather that the winds keep "bottled up" near Indonesia slosh back towards South America.

PLEASE SEE EVENTS ON PAGE 9.



Henry Cisneros indicted on 18 felony counts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros was indicted Thursday on 18 felony counts of conspiracy, obstructing justice and making false statements to the FBI about payments to a former mistress.

Three other people, including the former mistress, were also charged in the 21-count indictment brought by Independent Counsel David M. Barrett in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Barrett alleged that Cisneros made the false statements to FBI agents conducting a background in-

vestigation when he was nominated to President Clinton's Cabinet in 1993. Cisneros allegedly lied about the size and nature of his payments to former mistress Linda Jones.

The 66-page indictment issued Thursday also referred to an unspecified number of other extramarital relationships Cisneros allegedly lied about.

"Cisneros continued to pay (Jones) in order to ensure her public silence regarding, among other things, their relationship and the nature, purpose, and extent of his payments to her and to another

woman, so that he could be nominated, confirmed and serve as secretary of HUD," it said.

Cisneros served as secretary of Housing and Urban Development during Clinton's first term, resigning in November 1996. He is now president of the Univision, a Los Angeles-based Spanish television network.

"While Mr. Cisneros and his family do not relish the prospect of further public airing of private events beginning a decade ago, he will defend himself vigorously and expects complete exoneration after

a trial," said Cisneros' attorney, Cono Namorato.

The indictment made Cisneros the second Clinton Cabinet secretary to be indicted. Former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy was charged in August in a 39-count indictment with accepting illegal gifts and lying to investigators. Ron Brown, the late commerce secretary, also had been the subject of an independent counsel probe.

Clinton, on a fund-raising trip in Miami, issued a statement praising Cisneros' "distinguished career of truly dedicated public service."

The Battalion will resume publication on Tuesday, January 20, 1998.