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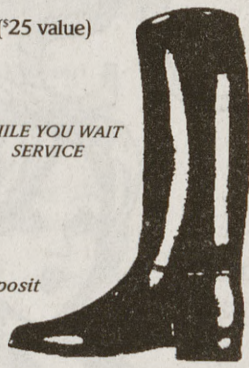
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# NATION & WORLD

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THE BATTALION

Monday, February 20, 2000

## Italy closes routes to explode bomb

ROME (AP) — Italy shut down a central stretch of its major north-south rail and road routes and evacuated hundreds of people Sunday to blow up a newly uncovered American-made bomb dropped in World War II.

The rusted bomb contained about 550 pounds of TNT, authorities said. Explosives experts deemed it too fragile to dig out or disarm. Instead, they excavated a crater and used plastic explosives to destroy the bomb from afar.

An allied warplane dropped the bomb near Terni, about 40 miles east of Rome, on Jan. 28, 1944, when much of Italy was under German occupation. The bomb landed in the Paglia River, near a rail route.

Sunday, authorities rerouted traffic in both directions on the A-1 autostrada and the Rome-Florence rail route in case of any trouble with the detonation. Officials ordered about 500 nearby residents evacuated, opening a reception center for the few who did not leave and using ambulances to evacuate the sick to hospitals for the day.

## 'Hands on a hard body'



Tanaya St. Julien, a sophomore computer science major, and Chris Price, a sophomore recreation parks and tourism science major, participate in a "Hands on" contest to win Backstreet Boys tickets Sunday at Post Oak Mall. They, along with Tracy Shelton of Normangee were the three finalists to compete for the tickets. After 42.5 hours the three remaining contestants decided to split the prizes.

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## China may gain 'normal trade' status

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rattled by what many view as mixed signals from Vice President Al Gore, congressional Democrats are exploring ways to make a difficult vote on granting permanent trade benefits to China more politically acceptable.

Side agreements to retain some congressional oversight over Chinese conduct on issues dealing with workers' rights and environmental concerns appear to be gaining favor in the intensifying debate, at least among Democrats.

Measures were expected to be introduced this week by Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich., and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., to try to make the China trade deal more palatable by establishing review procedures.

President Clinton is resisting efforts to attach strings. But the proposals could provide political cover for troubled Democrats whose support is needed to propel the endangered China trade deal to passage this spring or early summer.

While most Republicans back the Clinton administration's trade-expanding overture, active opposition from organized labor puts many Democrats in an election-year bind.

Business and labor groups are mounting heavy advertising campaigns for the year's most contentious legislative battle. Potential swing-vote House members are being targeted in their home districts. Armies of business owners and union members are descending on Capitol Hill.

And the White House is considering sponsoring a spring-break field trip to China for swing-vote members. The debate has spawned unlikely alliances.

Clinton has teamed with free-trading Republicans to push the measure, which would bring China into the World Trade Organization. At the same time, labor unions are courting conservative Republicans opposed to China's entry.

The administration measure also would end annual congressional votes on China's trade status. Clinton would lower most trade barriers to U.S. goods.

China is the only U.S. trading partner whose access to lowest-possible U.S. tariffs — formerly called "most favored nation" status but now called "normal trade relations" — is subject to annual review.

"I'm going to push this as hard as I can, and I can't tell you how important I think it is," Clinton said.

But the issue is uncomfortable for many Democrats, who are unwilling to alienate labor. Particularly in the House, Republican leaders say the bill may fail without sizable Democratic support.

Gore, in the middle of the tug-of-war, continued the issue last week by sitting down with labor leaders in New Orleans at the AFL-CIO's annual winter meeting. Some at the private sessions suggested Gore's support for the China trade deal is less than enthusiastic.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said, "The president has committed himself to being strong on core labor standards in trade agreements with the president."

— President Clinton

## Summer Job!

Applications are now being accepted for the College Station Summer Day Camp

Are you looking for a fun and exciting job this summer that is both challenging and rewarding? Are you a hard working, responsible individual that has experience working with children ages 5-12? If so, then the College Station Summer Day Camp is now accepting applications until March 3rd for both part-time and full-time positions. The camp is 11 weeks long (May 29-Aug 11) and offers a variety of games, art projects and field trips. There are two all day camps ages (5-8) and (9-12) and a half-day camp. Applications may be picked up at 103 Timber St. #4. Any questions call 764-5430.

## Much Ado About Shakespeare

the MSC Literary Arts Shakespeare Festival

February 20th through 26th

Sonnet Contest Awards & Open-Mic at Barnes and Noble on Texas Ave., Sunday Feb. 20 at 2pm with prizes provided by Barnes and Noble.

Cushing Library Tour Monday, Feb. 21 at Noon & Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 1pm.

Open-Mic in Rumours on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at Noon. You can share your favorite Shakespeare passages.

Shakespeare Abridged Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 8pm in MSC 201. A comedic live performance of all of Shakespeare's works condensed into two hours.

Film on Video Much Ado About Nothing (1995) at 7pm Thursday, Feb. 24 in the Visual Arts Gallery with introduction by Dr. Paul Parrish.

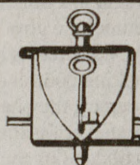
Dr. David Scott Kastan Friday, Feb. 25 on Shakespeare and Print in Cushing Library at 5pm.

Masquerade Ball Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8pm in the Forsyth Galleries. Tickets are available at the MSC Cashiers desk.

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Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.



Golden Key National Honor Society

Meeting  
Tuesday, February 22nd  
8:30 p.m. Koldus 111

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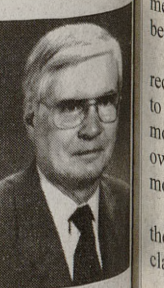
Located between the main floor and Hallabaloo in the Memorial Student Center

## Chat & Chew

with Dr. Southerland '65  
Vice President for Student Affairs

February 23, 2000  
11:00 am-1:00 pm  
Blocker Foyer

- Voice Concerns
- Ask Questions
- Light Refreshments



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- CARC 331/ARTS 350: History of Art & Civilization (3)
- CARC 485: Directed Studies (3)
- CARC 489: Special Topics (3)
- ENDS 311: Photography (3)

For more information & to pick up an application:

TAMU Study Abroad Office  
Bizzell Hall West - Room #161  
845-0544

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## Financial Aid Awareness Week

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Tuesday February 22, 2000 2pm - 7pm  
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- ✕ Informational Booths (Lenders, Employment, Financial Aid, Admissions, Scholarships, Corps, others) ✕
- ✕ Scholarship Searches ✕ Refreshments ✕ Gift Certificate Drawings ✕

Special Information Sessions for February 22, 2000:  
All Sessions to be held in 301 Rudder Tower

- 2:00 - 2:45 General Financial Aid Information
- 3:00 - 3:30 Study Abroad
- 3:45 - 4:15 Student Loans & Debt Management
- 4:30 - 5:00 Scholarship Information
- 5:15 - 6:00 General Financial Aid Information
- 6:15 - 6:45 Student Loans & Debt Management