

## Regents to approve money request

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will likely approve the Bonfire investigators' request to double its budget and extend its deadline, board chairman Don Powell told *The Dallas Morning News* Wednesday.

"From the very beginning, we knew that the process would take time and money," Powell said. "We've been committed to making sure we'd provide the resources necessary for them to complete their mission."

In a letter to the board, Leo Linbeck Jr., the chairperson of the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire, said his investigation team,

composed of four consulting and engineering firms, would need another \$1 million and a May 1 deadline to complete its final report to the University.

Among the expenses fueling the rising cost of the investigation is the \$100,000 needed to buy insurance that would cover the legal costs of the four firms if they are called to testify or give depositions in accident-related lawsuits. Also budgeted is \$45,000 for a peer review of the investigators' findings.

The commission has set a target budget of \$1.67 million, but it wants more money available if it becomes necessary. Additional funds have been allocated to each of the four companies, but they must have the approval of both the commission and A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen if recommended thresholds are exceeded, Linbeck said.

"We want to assure that the outcome is comprehensive, and we believe this is an amount appropriate to the task being undertaken," Linbeck said.

The largest share of the budget — \$900,000 — (up from \$450,000), goes to Kroll Associates. The recommended threshold is \$720,000. Linbeck said the allocation reflects the extent of Kroll's task, which includes coordinating the investigation teams and conducting interviews with nearly 400 officials, participants and witnesses.

Packer Engineering had \$400,000 budgeted, with a recommended threshold of \$320,000. The initial allocation was \$220,000. Packer, hired to determine what caused the bonfire to collapse, is examining the logs, centerpole and the soil beneath the stack.

Fay Engineering, employed to study the evolving structure of Bonfire over its 90-year history, will have \$200,000 budgeted, with a recommended threshold of \$160,000. The original budget allocated \$150,000 for Fay.

Performance Improvement International (PII), the firm studying the human factors that may have caused the accident, can be paid up to \$215,000, but must ask permission to spend more than \$160,000. PII had initially been given \$150,000.

McKinsey & Co., a firm that is serving as the investigation's project manager, may receive as much as \$40,000 for expenses, up from \$30,000 under the previous budget. The firm is not charging professional fees.

### BONFIRE INVESTIGATION NEW \$2 MILLION BUDGET

- \$900,000  
- Kroll Associates Investigation
- \$400,000  
- Packer Engineering
- \$200,000  
- Fay Engineering
- \$215,000  
- Performance Improvement International
- \$40,000  
- McKinsey & Co.

\*May not use entire \$2 million  
RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

## Replant will dedicate 12 new trees to fallen Aggies

BY BRADY CREEL  
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Replant Committee will do more than just plant trees this year — they will cultivate the memory of the 12 Aggies lost in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, by planting 12 trees, which will be witnesses to many generations of Aggies yet to come.

The ninth annual Replant, which is slated for Saturday, will have three kickoff events which will each be marked by the planting of four live oaks on Polo Street alongside the bonfire site.

"One of the biggest things to do on campus in memory of someone is to plant a tree," said Dana Arriens, publicity and marketing chairperson of Replant and a senior civil engineering major. "We feel like, since our organization plants trees, this is the biggest thing we could do in honor of them. It is part of our duty as this organization since Replant started with the help of bonfire."

The kickoffs will take place at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Polo Street. The family and friends of those 12 Aggies have been asked if they would like to take part in planting the trees.

Replant also will plant 80 trees at the Bryan Regional Athletic Complex (BRAC) and 130 at Lake Bryan, and will pot 500 seedlings at their tree farm at Lake Somerville.

Arriens said they expect between 2000 and 3000 volunteers this year.

Allison Rosen, student awareness chairperson for Replant and a sophomore biomedical sciences major, said many A&M leaders will speak at the kickoff events, including Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southernland, A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Student Body President Will Hurd, Director of Student Activities Kevin Jackson and Pete Smith of the National Tree Trust.

If the live oaks get off to a good start and are properly cared for, their lifespans could range between 300 and 500 years, said Lanny Driesen, an associate head of the forestry science department and a forestry science specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Rosen said Awards Etc. donated memorial

**12 Memorial Trees TO BE PLANTED AT REPLANT This Saturday...**

**8 a.m.**

- Chad Powell
- Jamie Hand
- Michael Ebanks
- Tim Kerlee

**11 a.m.**

- Lucas Kimmell
- Chris Breen
- Jerry Don Self
- Jeremy Frampton

**1 p.m.**

- Miranda Adams
- Brian McClain
- Nathan West
- Christopher Heard

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

See REPLANT on Page 2.

### Breaking the waves



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Erik Cook, a senior at the University of Nebraska, competes in the preliminary round of the men's Big 12 Swimming and Diving Championships hosted by Texas A&M University. The championship meet is being held through Saturday at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium. See related article on page 7 for more details.

## Scientists want to clone pets

BY BRANDIE LIFFICK  
The Battalion

People who dream of reliving fond memories of days spent with a cherished

See related column on page 9.

family pet may now have a second chance to play "fetch" with Fido — if they want to take a chance on the latest advances in cloning.

Last Wednesday, Genetic Savings and Clone (GSC) opened its doors to individuals who want to clone their family pets. GSC was formed by a group of scientists — including several members of the Texas A&M faculty — and is based in College Station.

Initially, the company will serve mainly as a gene bank, a place to store DNA samples of pets until cloning is feasible. The company requests that an initial tissue sample be taken by the customers' local veterinarian and then sent to GSC, where it is treated and frozen in liquid nitrogen.

There is a one-time cost for initial tissue treatment, and then a smaller annual cost to store the DNA until it can be used.

The company was formed based on a project brought to A&M in 1997 — the Missyplicity project — by an unnamed donor who wanted his dog cloned. Over \$2.3 million was endowed for research in an effort to eventually clone the donor's 15-year-old pet, Missy.

While the team has not yet successfully cloned Missy or any other domestic pet,

they are hopeful that a Missy clone will be born within the next year, according to their Website, [www.savingsandclone.com](http://www.savingsandclone.com).

While cattle is the animal for which cloning technology has been developed, the company will soon offer cloning of other livestock animals, domestic pets (cats and dogs), wildlife (such as endangered species) and assistance and rescue dogs. The anonymous donor who supports the Missyplicity project is also providing the initial funding for GSC.

"Our goal at the University is not to clone peoples' pets for them. It is, above all, to research the process," said Dr. Mark Westhusin, a member of GSC and an associate professor of veterinary medicine.

See CLONING on Page 2.

## Curie's grandchild speaks on exhibit

BY DAVE AMBER AND YOLANDA LUKASZEWSKI  
The Battalion

The instruments look like tarnished metal junk from a dust-filled garage, but they gave birth to a new world of knowledge about the universe.

They are the laboratory instruments used by Marie and Pierre Curie in their late 19th century investigations into radioactivity and the discovery of radium. Displayed for the first time outside of Europe at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries until April 16, the instruments

are part of "Women in Discovery," a month-long celebration of the contributions of women scientists and also the importance of radiation research.

Marie Curie's granddaughter, Dr. Helene Langevin-Joliot — herself a nuclear physicist — opened the exhibit Thursday with a discussion about the legacy of her great-grandmother, the first woman to win a Nobel prize for science and women scientists. Her mother, Irene Joliot-Curie, also received a Nobel prize for the discovery of artificial radioactivity.

"Marie thought it was possible to be a mother, teacher and a scientist," Langevin-Joliot said.

"She's had such an influence on science as a whole and opened so many doors for women," said Kristin Kuhlman, a freshman psychology major.

Catherine Hastedt, curator of the J. Wayne Stark Galleries, said she wanted to reach a different section of campus, by organizing a science-related exhibit especially about women.

"There's so little out there about these women," she said. "It was difficult for women in the 19th century to get an education — let alone get an advanced degree and a job. But the ones who persevered are the ones you see on these walls."

The laboratory pieces in the exhibit include a piezoelectric quartz electrometer used to measure electric currents passing through air and an ionization chamber, an 8-inch metal cylinder the width of a compact disc.

There are also two metal tubes — one a yard-long and the other about a foot — used to pass electric charges from instrument to instrument.

"Marie Curie built all of her instrumentation. It was primitive but still had to measure minute electrical charges," said Alan Waltar, professor



SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION

Dr. Helene Langevin-Joliot opened an exhibit at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries honoring women in science, including her grandmother, Marie Curie.

and department head of nuclear engineering. "The fact that these instruments worked is amazing."

The exhibit explores the benefits of radiation, from medical and research applications to industrial uses, but it also shows the need for respect and careful attention.

In one corner of the galleries is a specially-built wooden box the size of a small file cabinet with a thick glass window.

Inside the box, surrounded by a ton of protective lead bricks, is a vial containing 2.5 milligrams of radium salts originally owned by Marie Curie.

The black and yellow sticker on top of the box says, "Caution Radioactive Materials," soberly reminding of the power she helped to unleash.

"When the word radiation is mentioned, we take a step back," Waltar said. "But it's unleashed a great many benefits for mankind."

## SPRING BREAK 2000

Students prepare for the long-awaited holiday

BY ANNA BISHOP  
The Battalion

The point in the semester when classes seem a little longer, homework a little tougher and making it to class requires a little more effort has arrived.

Spring break, a week welcomed by students and faculty alike, offers a perfect solution to mid-semester exhaustion.

Whether planning a big trip to a tropical location or a week of lounging on the couch in front of the TV, a week off from classes is a welcome source of relaxation for students.

So where are Aggies headed after

classes let out next Friday?

According to the Real College Life Magazine Website, South Padre Island, Texas, will host thousands of college-aged "breakers," making it the top travel destination for spring break in the state.

For students wanting to travel a little farther from home, many opted to consult travel agencies for help with their plans.

Amber Brittan of AggieWorld Adventures, a travel agency located in College Station, said students want their trips to be as low maintenance as possible.

There is an increase in the number of all-inclusive travel packages purchased by students. This type of travel package includes all airfare, transportation and meals for the duration of the trip.

"All-inclusive travel is ideal [for students] because it takes care of everything, so they do not have to worry," Brittan said. "All meals, lodging ... everything is taken care of, from the moment of boarding the plane until the completion of the trip."

See SPRING BREAK on Page 2.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Bill Quinn, a senior accounting major, Ben Inman, a senior biology major, Kris Evans, a senior management major and Brian Smith, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, play at South Padre Island.

**INSIDE**

**Sports**

- Aggies close out regular season against Cornhuskers

Page 7

**Aggielife**

- The B-side of H-town

Houston offers alternatives to mainstream tourist attractions.

Page 3

**Opinion**

- Cloning for dollars

Allowing private companies to donate money for university research is full of potential woes.

Page 9

**Batt Radio**

- Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on Bryan drug arrest.

**Batt Online**

- Check out *The Battalion* online at [battalion.tamu.edu](http://battalion.tamu.edu).

crease  
market. We need an increase  
full year starting April 1. The  
Secretary Bill Richardson  
world production is currently  
y less than consumption.  
marks came amid reports Mexi  
d Venezuela were set to pro  
ease crude oil production by  
day. OPEC countries cur  
6 million barrels a day — 35  
d's daily oil production.  
ice oil minister denied the  
ulation," said the minist  
aking in Caracas. He not  
from the three countries "have  
ants abrupt rises and abrupt  
want a stable market and a  
work with adequate prices"  
neither Venezuela nor the  
have decided yet on any spe  
production hike by OPEC.  
states has been trying to pers  
ations to increase output in  
national oil prices, which h  
ar highs at about \$30 a barr  
roducers  
cited by the U.S. State  
cient points for drugs enter  
ries and their estimated  
an  
China  
Taiwan  
Hong Kong  
Laos  
Vietnam  
Burma  
Thailand  
Cambodia  
town of 1999 production  
South  
58  
ast  
Colomb  
83  
Colomb  
31  
NG TO HOUSTON  
MENTS • TOWNHOMES  
F., 1,2,3,4 BEDROOMS  
IT MY WEB SITE  
ustonapartments.com  
or  
LL 7 DAYS A WEEK  
800-601-5100  
PARTMENT LOCATORS - Size 28  
Look Before You Lease  
E LEGAL ADVISE  
Brazos County  
ople's Law School  
ponsored by: TYLA and  
os Valley Young Lawyers  
d Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
r. 4<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am - 12:00pm  
Zachry 102  
(979)694-7000  
OUT  
www.busbout.com  
From  
\$15  
per day  
d  
...  
RNED  
more  
ne.  
More info...  
Inded adventurers