



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

## Former employee faces felony charges in theft

BY STUART HUTSON  
The Battalion

Rachael Rhea Ingram turned herself in to College Station Police for arrest March 15 after being charged for the Feb. 24 theft of \$110,000 from the Northgate office of the Texas AggieLand Credit Union. Ingram, a 25-year-old former employee of the credit union, will now face the charge of theft of U.S. currency in the amount of over \$100,000, a second-degree felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years and a fine of not more than \$10,000.

AggieLand Credit Union Vice President Gregg Baird said the stolen money was discovered during a routine audit on March 2.

"We were doing a normal audit of our

general ledger and we discovered that we were \$110,000 short — so after doing a physical count of all the cash in the office, we determined the amount had been taken and notified the police immediately," Baird said. "The [auditing] detection devices worked very quickly in discovering the source of the loss."

Baird said that upon further investigation, it was discovered that the missing money, taken in the form of \$50 and \$100 bills, was diverted from a Feb. 24 cash delivery to be used for the credit union's cash registers and ATM.

"It appears that certain checks that work to ensure that this sort of thing doesn't happen were being overlooked," Baird said. "Changes have since been made to ensure that does not happen again — along with new, additional devices to add extra security."

Baird added that Ingram has not been legally identified as the thief, but that she has since been fired from her job as teller supervisor where she overlooked teller activity and cash flow.

According to police reports, Ingram told police she had sent the missing amount back to the delivering credit union, but the establishment's records show no sign of such action. The report also states that additional evidence against Ingram were credit union records showing large transfers and deposits of cash from her account into her husband's and her recent purchase of two new vehicles, a 2000 Tahoe and a 2000 Dodge pickup.

Baird said the missing money will not affect the deposits of the members of the credit union, and that it will be refunded by the credit union's federal insurance.

## Head-on car collision claims life of student

BY MEREDITH HIGHT  
The Battalion

Amanda Ritchie, a junior agricultural business major from Houston, died March 10 on her way home for spring break.

According to Linda Chanek, Ritchie's mother, Ritchie died in a head-on collision on Highway 6 about 10 miles south of College Station.

"A [sport utility vehicle] had swerved to miss a stalled car, lost control and went into the ditch," she said.

When the driver of the vehicle attempted to get back onto the highway, he collided with Ritchie's car. Police reports on the accident were not available to *The Battalion*.

Ritchie, a member of Off Campus Aggies (OCA) and an active participant in Aggie Bonfire, transferred to Texas A&M this year after two years at the University of Houston.

"She was a devoted Aggie all the way. She loved the Aggie spirit and the traditions, especially bonfire," said Justin Ellis, Ritchie's former bonfire crew chief and a senior agricultural development major.

"She was out there at every stage, from cut to stack. And when it fell, she was out there the whole time," Ellis said.

Chanek said Ritchie was to be the co-chair for



Amanda Ritchie

OCA's bonfire activities next year.

"She was at cut every weekend and did the Re-plant thing a few weeks ago," she said.

Ritchie had planned to work on bonfire the night of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

"She traded with another person because she had an exam or something. When I heard the stack fell, I felt she was there," she said.

Chanek said she was relieved to discover that Ritchie was not at the site.

About 45 of Ritchie's Aggie friends attended her

*"She was a devoted Aggie all the way. She loved the Aggie spirit and the traditions ..."*

— Justin Ellis friend

funeral March 14, including some OCA members involved in bonfire. Six of the pallbearers were pots at the funeral. Ritchie's pot was placed in her coffin.

Chanek said several items, including an ax handle that read "We love Amanda" signed by the Aggies that attended the funeral, were given to the family. The group also sang a hymn at the funeral.

"She had her family here, but her second family was in College Station," Chanek said.

She would have celebrated her 21st birthday March 18. She will be honored at the April 4 Silver Taps.

## Computer lab printing fees to be increased

BY ANN LOISEL  
The Battalion

At least once a day, Clint Hajovsky, a freshman general studies major, prints out guitar music and school-related work at a campus computer lab. He said he can not count the number of pages he prints out every week, much less every semester.

"I print something every day — it might be one page, it might be 20 pages," he admits. "But I think I print responsibly."

The number of pages students have printed out on campus computer labs has almost doubled since the Student Computing Center opened in Fall 1998, bringing estimated number of copies that will be made this year to 22 million said Dr. Pierce E. Cantrell, the associate provost for information technology.

Cantrell said \$382,000 a year from the Computer Access Fee currently pays part of the cost of student printing, but the estimated cost of printing comes to \$850,000.

That deficit costs Computing Information Services (CIS) money it does not have, and Cantrell estimates the number of printouts will continue to increase by 20 percent each year if the system of unrestricted printing continues unchanged.

"The current approach of virtually unlimited printing does not encourage responsibility in printing," he said. "The decision has already been made to up the printing costs, but how that will be done will be decided by the students by means of the Student Senate."

Cantrell said his office will be working closely with the Student Senate to work out the details of how to execute the increase.

In September 2000, students can expect to pay for the pages they print in the computer labs, either by paying for each sheet separately or with a quota system that charges for excess printouts, Cantrell said.

Cari Eggenberger, a CIS student technician and a senior animal science major, said that after observing the printing process on the job, she feels the quota is necessary and fair for students.

"I had a guy that just printed out a 1,000-page document," she said. "When someone does that, all the students have to pay for it. If we're allotted a certain number of sheets, your money is being used for your sheets. It's more fair."

She said CIS had been running different programs to test the average amount of pages students print each semester to help decide a fair quota.

"Students will have to pay for printing one way or another, and direct charges will keep students from subsidizing those that print excessively," Cantrell said. "Anecdotal reports from other universities suggest that printing volume will reduce by 50 percent or more when direct charges for printing are instituted because individuals will avoid unnecessary costs."

He estimates that with a quota system, students would not pay

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Student Printing Costs		
Fiscal Year '98	Fiscal Year '99	Fiscal Year '00
11,948,289 pages \$559,793	18,745,808 pages \$785,569	22,050,557 pages \$847,847

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

## Burn, baby, burn



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Firefighter L. Fryoux, of Norco Firefighting, instructs fellow firefighters (R to L) Jim Strohbeck, Keith Haydel and Gail Babinaux during a drill at the Brayton Fire Training School on Monday.

## Student body president candidates address transportation concerns

This is the second part in a five-part series. The four student body president candidates were asked five questions in separate interviews.

BY ROLANDO GARCIA  
The Battalion

Parking and transportation issues are always near the top of students' concerns, and the four candidates for student body president said they are ready to solve the problem once and for all.

All support the University's move to become a pedestrian campus and said they are committed to improving the busing system.

"I don't know that putting parking garages up everywhere is really going to answer our problems. I think the key is providing students with access to any part of campus easily through our transportation system," said Corey Rosenbusch, a junior agricultural development major.

Rosenbusch said he supports implementing a transportation fee so bus operations can buy new buses and run more routes to make riding the bus a more viable option for students living off campus.

"If we increase our busing frequency, quality and the routes that they run, that

means you know you can be on campus in 10 minutes and be dropped off in a central hub," Rosenbusch said.

An improved bus system would also allow students who live on campus convenient transportation to the mall, grocery store and other places in the community, Rosenbusch said.

Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, said that while a commitment to the bus system would be costly, it is the best solution

they'll be running better because the congestion is gone," he said.

Schiefelbein also said that while the new parking garage and pedestrian tunnel being built on West Campus will help alleviate traffic problems for students, the projects were not designed to cater to students.

"It seems to me like a place where alumni can park, walk underneath Wellborn and go to a football game," Schiefelbein said. "I would rather have seen the garage across the street closer to West Campus, and for that tunnel to be by Albritton Tower so students that have to go to West Campus every day could use it."

Schiefelbein said it is important to make students more aware of transportation issues so they can register their opinions before final decisions are made.

"We need to be able to know why a garage may or may not be located there, rather than when it's all said and done for us to be guessing why the garage is there," Schiefelbein said.

Brandon Garrett, a senior international studies major, said he supports a transportation fee to improve the bus system. In particular, he said he would like to see new bus routes to new housing developments in College Station.

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# 2000 STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

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