

- Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on Labor Day festivities at Lake Bryan.
- Check out *The Battalion* online at [battalion.tamu.edu](http://battalion.tamu.edu).



• Consent to play  
Blue October brings its band of home-grown musical honesty to B-CS

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**Weather:**  
Partly cloudy with a high of 98 and a low of 73.

# THE BATTALION

**TUESDAY**  
August 29, 2000  
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2 Sections  
A 8 pages  
B 8 pages

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## Reopening of Sbisa delayed until Spring 2001

**RICHARD BRAY**  
*The Battalion*  
Construction delays will force Sbisa Dining Hall's Underground Food Court to open for the Spring 2001 semester, instead of opening this fall as originally scheduled. "We were never going to get Sbisa back [this semester]," said Cynthia Zawieja, associate director of the Department of Food Services. "We were hoping to get the Underground Food Court back, but that's not ready to give back to us." When the Sbisa building was built in 1911 and 1912, good blueprints were not saved, making the current construction project difficult to keep on schedule. "The building was added onto

three times during the course of that history, and you didn't know what was up there until we tore it apart and took the roof off," Zawieja said. The Sbisa renovations began in December, 1999. The scope of the project changed drastically once demolition work began in the spring, Zawieja said. According to the adjusted budget for the project, the increased scope of the renovations will raise the cost by \$1.4 million. It will include the replacement of deteriorated and unsafe electrical systems; replacement of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in the basements; replacement of damaged sanitary sewer and drain lines; replacement of badly deteriorated

roof deck; and completion of work on the ground level. All of the wiring and plumbing had to be replaced, the air conditioning systems had to be redone, and the plumbing and sewer in Hogg Street that connected to the building has to be replaced. "Everything we found just added to and complicated the project, so we really added to the scope once we found other problems," said Zawieja, adding that difficulties were to be expected in a project this size. "There's always a few problems with understanding specifications, or someone didn't understand it, or it wasn't done that way or this was left out of the project and we've got to add it back in, so we just contin-

ue to find problems and have to decide how we are going to handle them," she said. Zawieja said the renovations may be completed well before the spring semester, but the building will then be tested before it is reopened in January. "It might be turned over to us at the end of October or early November, but then we have to go in and test and make sure all the equipment still works that was old ... so that we will be up and ready to go spring semester," she said. "It doesn't pay to move into Sbisa after Thanksgiving when there's only two weeks left in the semester if—in fact, we're done by then." Zawieja said that, in some in-

stances, the lack of good blueprints forced the workers to add to their original plans for the project. "The supports for the roof, we thought, were going to be in good shape, but when we got up there we realized we needed some extra supports," she said. "It's things you really couldn't see from just standing there, and old blueprints didn't tell you the whole story of what really happened." However, Guy Cooke, assistant director of facilities construction, said he did not consider the conditions inside the building "problems." He said they are typical in old buildings. "Any time you get into an old

**Extra Sbisa Renovations**  
An increase in the scope of renovations will raise the cost by \$1.4 million.

- Deteriorated and unsafe electrical systems
- Damaged sanitary sewer and drain lines
- Badly deteriorated roof deck
- Finish work on the ground level

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

## Two killed in Arkansas shooting

**FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP)** — Two people were shot to death Monday in an apparent murder-suicide in a faculty office at the University of Arkansas, authorities said. Campus police confirmed the two fatalities, which took place on the first day of classes, said spokeswoman Robin Gregory.

Earlier, another spokesman, Roger Williams, said there was a report of at least three shots in a second-floor office in Kimpel Hall. Kimpel Hall houses faculty in a number of departments — communication, drama, English, foreign languages and journalism, Williams said. Journalism department chairman Patsy Watkins said police arrived at the building at 12:20 p.m., when many of the 50- to 60-student classrooms on the second floor of Kimpel Hall would have been filled. Students left the building in an orderly fashion, saying they had been told to leave, Watkins said.

"All we've been told is that shots have been fired," Watkins said. Journalism faculty members Larry Wiley and Robert Carey said police had asked them to leave their first-floor offices. Kimpel Hall is shaped like a T, with classrooms along the long end of the T and offices across the crossbar.

## All-University Night



The Class of 2004 was welcomed to Aggieland Monday during All-University Night. The yell leaders led the Aggie Band on a march around campus, collecting students at locations along its route. President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland were among several University administrators who greeted the crowd at Kyle Field. Following the introductions of Aggie athletics, the yell leaders led the crowd in a yell practice.

## Freshman in legal battle over sticker

### Graduation decoration causes disapproval

**BY BRADY CREELE**  
*The Battalion*  
Ashley Spence, a freshman journalism major, made a trip to College Station earlier than most freshmen do. Spence came in May to buy a Texas A&M sticker to wear on her mortarboard at her May 26 high school graduation ceremony, never imagining that it would land her in a legal battle. Despite admonitions from school personnel against disrupting the dignity and decorum of the ceremony, Spence decided to wear the sticker. She and her family went to court earlier this month with La Grange Independent School District about disciplinary action resulting from her decision.

According to a statement signed by Spence, she told La Grange High School guidance counselor Karen Dooley, "I have worked so hard for four years," as she walked onto the field at graduation. Dooley said she was unaware that Spence was planning to wear the sticker at graduation. Spence had mentioned wearing the sticker to very few people. She said she discussed it with a teacher, who endorsed the idea.

In past years, La Grange High School has added comments to students' transcripts as a result of their behavior at graduation. According to transcripts of Spence's account of the exchange between her and Dooley, another student had already been required to remove a sticker from her mortarboard before Spence was asked to remove her A&M sticker.

"We filed an injunction to have the comment removed from my transcript so we could have a clean transcript to send to all of these scholarship committees," Spence said. "We felt that comment could jeopardize my chances for scholarships." Spence and her family decided to forego two potential scholarships — one of which could have run into five-digit figures.

Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka said that he chose not to grant the temporary injunction because he felt that evidence of irreparable damage was not presented by Spence's lawyers.

"On the back of all transcripts, there is a comments section," said La Grange ISD Superintendent of Schools Erwin A. Sladek Jr. "We tell the youngsters that if they do things that are inappropriate at graduation, or if they are disruptive at graduation, or cause a distraction ... then we make a comment on the transcript."

Spence said that during the week after graduation, La Grange High School principal Bill Wagner added a disciplinary comment to Spence's transcript, which was then sent to Texas A&M. Spence did not know that the comment had been added or the transcript had been sent.

"At the hearing, they said they didn't want to send the transcript [to me] with

that comment on there when the principal and counselor would be out of town," Spence said, "because they knew that we were going to have a problem with it. "We felt that if [Texas A&M] saw that — not necessarily my scholarship would be taken away — but that it might have some [negative] effect on me later," she said.

However, the Department of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships does not consider disciplinary action when considering scholarship applicants, said Djuana Young, the assistant director of Honors Programs.

"We make our scholarship decisions based on information received from students," she said. "We do not require students to provide us a final transcript." Although the honors office does not require the final transcript, the office of admissions does. A final transcript is necessary to complete a student's record with the University.

Sladek said he suggested that Spence meet with Wagner. Sladek said he and Wagner consented to considering a change of wording. However, Sladek, a 1970 graduate of Texas A&M, said he received threatening phone calls from Spence's lawyers the following Monday morning, and the lawyers entered the game on both sides.



**ASHLEY SPENCE**, a Lechner scholar and freshman journalism major, is involved in a legal battle concerning a comment of disciplinary action her principal added to her transcript after graduation.

Russ Ham, legal counsel for the Spence family, confirmed that the school offered to change the wording, but said no specific offers of the exact wording had been made.

"We felt like they left us with no alternative," Spence said. "They didn't follow their own procedures set up in the handbook as far as taking any disciplinary action. Over the course of June and July, there was back-and-forth suggestions as to settle this."

Spence said that once lawyers were brought into the negotiations, her family and La Grange ISD could not discuss

## Texas drought breaks record

**DALLAS (AP)** — A history-making drought in North Texas has all the signs of continuing for days — or even weeks — and the rain forecast elsewhere in the state is not much better. With no precipitation in the forecast Monday, the record of 58 consecutive days without rain in the region — first set in 1934 — was vulnerable.

A rainless Sunday tied the record, which had been repeated in 1950.

"We will have the record all ourselves," said Lonnie King, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fort Worth.

The National Weather Service forecast this week calls for con-

tinued temperatures at or exceeding the century mark along with dry skies.

"We could very well have 65 to 70 days without rain," said Michael Mach, another NWS meteorologist in Fort Worth.

A 58-day drought interval first occurred in Texas May 25 to July 21, 1934 during the Dust Bowl years of the Great Depression.

"But one thing to keep in mind about 1934 was the streak was broken by 0.01 inches of rain — barely above a trace," said Mach.

The dry spell happened again Nov. 4 to Dec. 31, 1950.

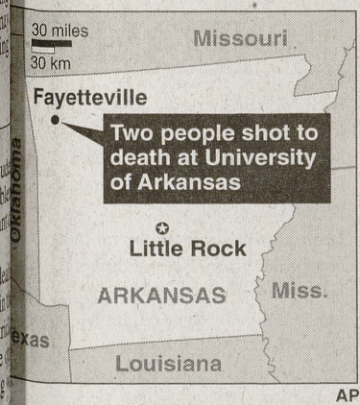
This year's streak started July 1, and more heat and sun-

shine are forecast for the region, said Joe Harris, an NWS meteorologist in Fort Worth.

Statewide, agriculture and livestock producers estimate they have already lost \$595 million this year to the parched conditions, said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs.

In Central Texas, a steady drop in the Edwards Aquifer has threatened supplies in San Antonio and surrounding cities that rely upon the underground reservoir. In the Houston area, many livestock ponds and small lakes are low or dry.

See HEAT on Page 2A.



## Clubhouse, hotel add to course plans

**NATHAN ROGERS**  
*The Battalion*  
The developing partners of the Traditions Golf Course and Country Club met to create a contract on Aug. 15, ensuring the construction of a clubhouse and hotel that will accompany the Nicklaus-designed golf course.

The meeting between the financiers and contractors was arranged when the returned construction estimates exceeded the original price guidelines. Upon completion, the entire Traditions project will span 800

acres in west Bryan, south of Villa Maria Drive. It is estimated to cost \$275 million.

Traditions will benefit from an affiliation agreement with Texas A&M, catering to local residents and former students and serving as the home fairway for the A&M men's and women's golf teams. The four major parties involved in the project were each given different responsibilities for maintaining the integrity and timeliness of the construction.

In the contract, ClubCorp of America agreed to give 10 percent of the net profits to the city of Bryan for a profit participa-

tion contribution of \$1 million. Also, Campus Hotels of Wisconsin and the CF Jordan Com-



pany of El Paso agreed individually to purchase memberships at the club. The Army Corps of Engineers is negotiating with the Traditions group to make sure all environmental regulations are agreed upon and met.

"Not a single thing is being sacrificed when it comes to the development of Traditions," said Ken Kasten, senior vice president of ClubCorp. "Each member of the development team is adjusting so that Traditions is a success."

Traditions will feature a golf See GOLF on Page 2A.