

• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on College Station city offices closing for Labor Day.

• Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



• Fan favorites

Performance cements Blue October's B-CS fan base.

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Weather: Partly cloudy with a high of 102 and a low of 76.

THE BATTALION

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107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Families condemn renegade Bonfire

By MARIANO CASTILLO

The Battalion

One week into the fall semester — 9 1/2 months after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse — the Texas A&M community remains divided over the possibility of an off-campus bonfire on Nov. 22. Student leaders, parents of the victims and the administration have denounced the idea of a "renegade" bonfire as arguments intensify and Keep the Fire Burning (KTFB) finalizes its plans.

The Aggie community is divided between A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's decision for a two-year moratorium on Aggie Bonfire and KTFB's commitment to building an off-campus bonfire this year.

Several of the victims' families have written letters opposing the KTFB bonfire. Copies of the letters have been posted in several residence halls to discourage residents from supporting KTFB.

"... We can only hope and pray that the students and former Aggies will reconsider their actions in regards to having a bonfire this year."

— Ken Adams
father of Miranda Adams

Ken Adams, father of Miranda Denise Adams, wrote that an off-campus bonfire would not bring closure to the tragedy.

"There are 12 families that had 12 children taken from them," the letter stated. "They can never touch and hold their children any longer. There will never be closure for any of these families."

His sentiments were echoed in letters written by the Hand and Ebanks families.

"Our love for our daughter cannot be expressed enough, and we can only hope and pray that the students and former Aggies will reconsider their actions in regards to having a bonfire this year," Adams wrote.

The administration and student leaders share the families' opposition to the off-campus bonfire. Student organizations, including the Corps of Cadets, Aggie Band, football players and yell leaders, have stated their support of Bowen's decision and will not participate in an off-campus bonfire.

Student Body President Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, is encouraging students to respect Bowen's decision and not to take part in the KTFB event.

"I don't support a renegade bonfire," Lane said. "This administration said it will take two years. To say that we can take it and build it in three to four months is laughing at the commission's report."

The Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire cited Aggie culture — especially "tunnel vision" — as a factor leading to disregard for safety measures that ultimately led to the collapse. The commission defined "tunnel vision" in its May report as Aggies' justification of risks they take in the name of tradition.

Supporters of Bowen's decision say the two-year moratorium would be a proper time frame to redesign and to change the mentality of students' attitude toward Bonfire.

Jonathan Kimmel, brother of Lucas Kimmel, sent a letter to the Bryan-College Station Eagle expressing anger toward Bonfire culture.

"[Bonfire] is about a bunch of self-centered students who want their party no matter who dies or who gets hurt," he wrote. "Why not start a new tradition for the new millennium? ... You definitely need a new one — a tradition that would drive the true A&M spirit, not crush it."

However, KTFB, with membership an estimated between 7,000 and 12,000 students and alumni, believes the A&M spirit would be crushed if Bonfire does not burn this year.

Joe Dyson, a KTFB board member, said the organization's purpose is to carry on the traditions of Bonfire.

"We're not here just to build a structure," Dyson said. "The traditions of Bonfire are obviously teamwork, leadership and camaraderie that's built out there at cut site and stack site. It doesn't matter what we build — we can build anything."

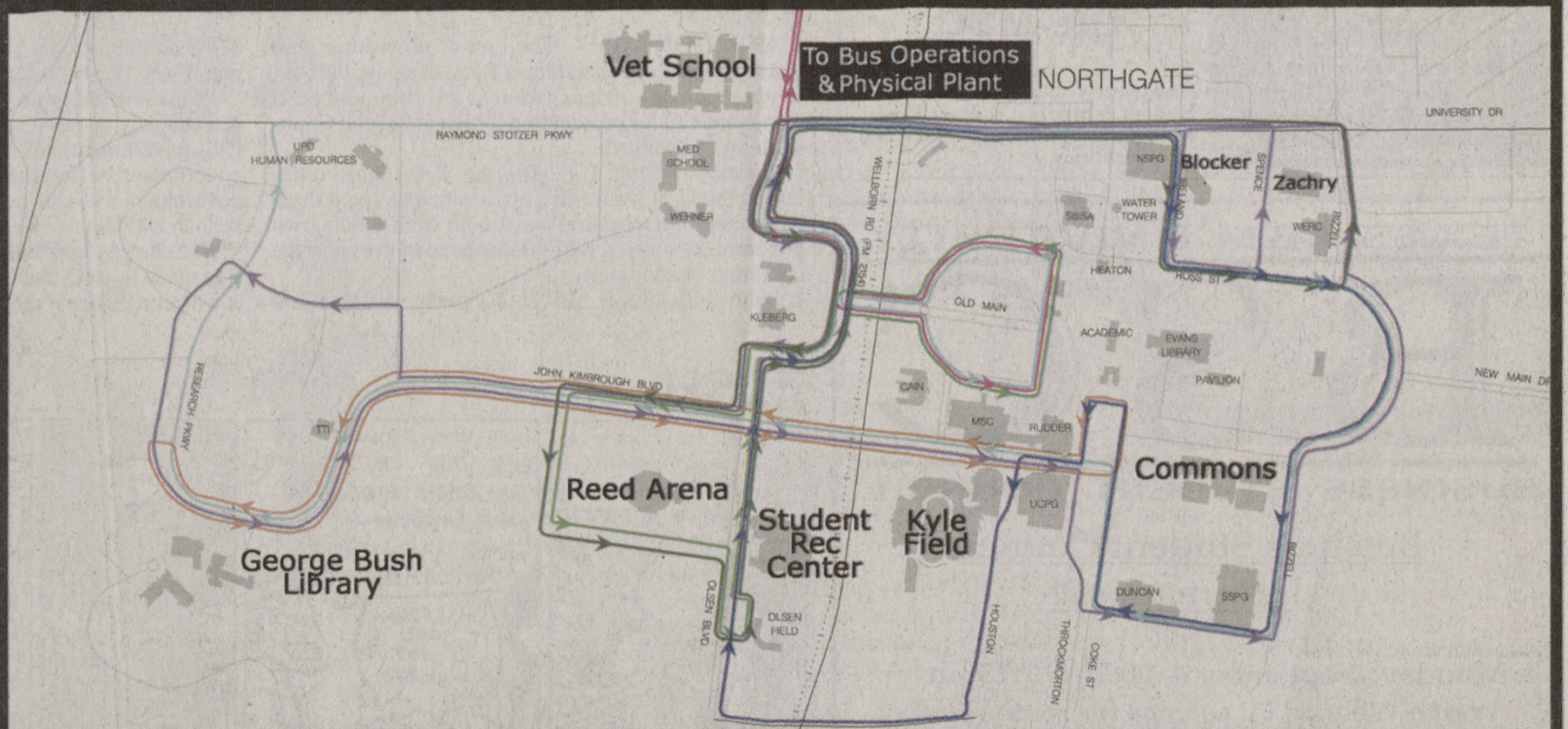
The KTFB board members have absorbed much criticism from various groups. They have been labeled rebels and selfish renegades, yet they keep their sights on their goal.

"We're not doing this for ourselves in any means," Dyson said. "We're just coming up with a means for people if that's what they want. ... This is for everyone."

See BONFIRE on Page 2.

Getting Around CAMPUS

Information by Brian Ruff and Courtney Stelzel



BUS OPERATIONS

- Bus Operations provides seven different routes, with 22 buses running these routes daily. Buses run from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Bus Operations added two new routes —

- Yell Practice and Bonfire; two new vans will be added to the routes to increase the frequency of buses throughout campus
- The Bonfire route will serve as the night route for students needing transportation af-

- ter regular on-campus operation hours — in addition to its daytime route.
- Off-campus routes will remain basically unchanged with minor relocations of bus stops.
- Students will be allowed to ride the off-

- campus buses without a bus pass until after Sept. 11.
- For more information on times and bus routes call 845-1971 or visit www.busbops.tamu.edu.

CONSTRUCTION & PARKING

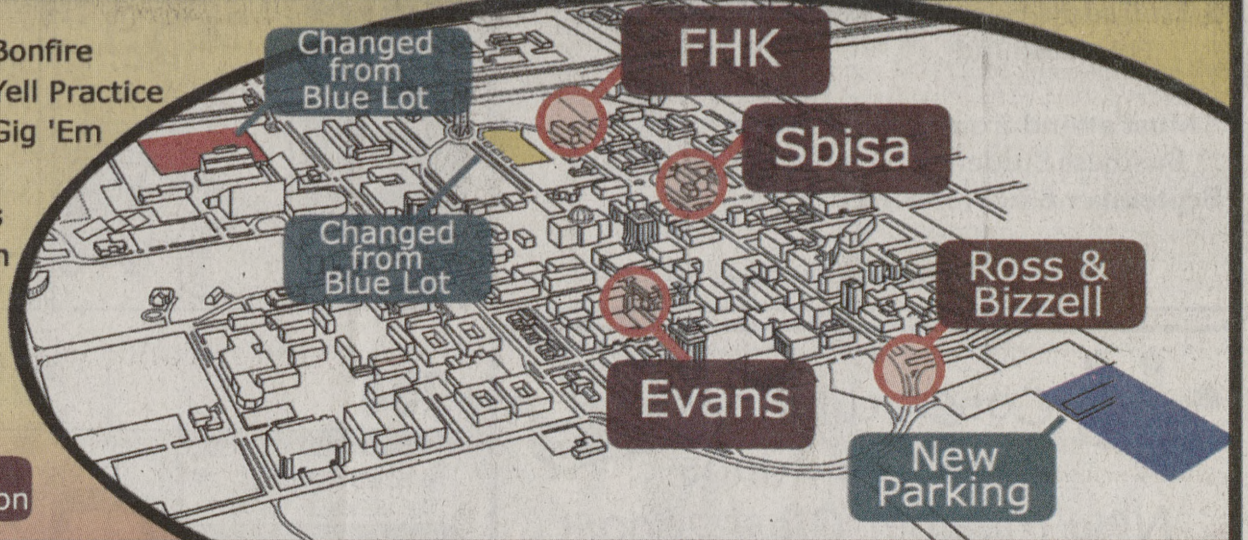
- Rudder
- Bush School
- Traditions
- Howdy
- Bonfire
- Yell Practice
- Gig 'Em

Arrows Indicate Bus Stops and Bus Direction

Work Area

Parking Changes

Road Construction



PARKING CHANGES

- Parking, Traffic, and Transportation Services (PTTS) alleviated the parking chaos by adding a new commuter (blue) parking lot between Polo Road and University Drive.
- Four parking lots around Kyle Field — which were dedicated to commuter parking last year — have been changed to red lots for the fall.
- PA 42, located between Old Main Drive and the Northside residence halls, was changed to yellow staff parking.
- All vehicles are required to display valid Texas A&M parking permits or park in the

- visitor levels of the parking garages.
- For more information on parking, visit www-ptts.tamu.edu or call 862-PARK.

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

- The Electrical Distribution System Upgrade, which deals with all the electrical wiring in the tunnels, is in its second phase. Most of the construction is occurring underground in the tunnels, but there is some activity around the residence halls of Keathley and Fowler. It is expected to be completed later in the semester.
- There is some last-minute construction at Sterling C. Evans Library. One of the projects is the replacement of the air conditioning cool-

- ing towers along the south side of the library. The cooling tower construction began in May, but the completion was delayed because a needed pipe did not arrive until mid-August. Guy Cooke, assistant director of facilities construction at A&M, estimated that the project will be completed within the next two weeks.
- Due to the Sbisa construction, the sidewalks around the construction area and Hogg Street behind the facility will be closed until the end of October.
- The repaving of Ross Street is not set to begin until later this semester. The projected completion date is unknown. Mark Cervenka, assistant director of the administration, divi-

- sion of facilities planning, said this area will be disorganized while reconstruction is occurring on the inner campus roads. Start-up dates for this project are unknown.
- Bids have not been received for the construction of the parking garage beside the Student Recreation Center and the Underground Pedestrian passageway.
- Construction on Wellborn Road will not begin until later this fall.
- For more information on these construction areas and others, contact the Facilities Planning and Construction Website at <http://fpcnts.tamu.edu/fpc/>

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Whitewater probe ends

Investigators turn to Clinton's Lewinsky testimony

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Independent Counsel Robert Ray formally declared an end to the Whitewater era Thursday, announcing that he had closed the Arkansas office where President and Hillary Rodham Clinton's business dealings had been investigated for the past 6 1/2 years.

Ray said he is now focusing on whether the president should be held criminally liable for his testimony about Monica Lewinsky sexual harassment case.

A federal judge last year cited Clinton with contempt of court and fined him \$90,000 as a civil

penalty for what she called misleading testimony in the Jones case. A grand jury was seated July 11 to consider whether Clinton should also face criminal charges for the sworn testimony.

During their work in Arkansas, independent counsels Ray, Kenneth Starr and Robert Fiske saw 21 people charged and 14 convicted for a variety of crimes, many of which did not pertain to the land deal which gave the Whitewater investigation its name.

In Arkansas, all that remains to be dealt with is an appeal and a plea for post-conviction relief by former Gov. Jim Guy Tucker,

who left office after being convicted of fraud in 1996.

"If he wins ... we've agreed not to retry," said Keith Westbrook, a spokesman and lawyer in Ray's office. He said other matters that might come up in Arkansas would be handled by the Washington staff of the Office of the Independent Counsel.

The Little Rock office was down to two people before it closed its doors Thursday. At its peak, more than three dozen lawyers, FBI agents and others were assigned to the special prosecutor's operation in Arkansas.

See WHITEWATER on Page 2.

MSC Open House slated for Sunday

By STEPHEN METCALF
The Battalion

More than 350 student organizations and 10,000 students are expected to converge on the Memorial Student Center this Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. for the annual MSC Open House.

MSC Open House provides student organizations with a chance to recruit new members and familiarize students with the MSC and its services.

"It's a great opportunity for student organizations to

not only recruit new members, but also to share information with other organizations," said James Glueck, director of MSC marketing and a junior agricultural development major.

In previous years, MSC Open House hosted approximately 300 student organizations. This year, new organizations will participate, including MSC Fish, MSC Lead and Aggie Swamp Club. New organizations

See MSC on Page 2.