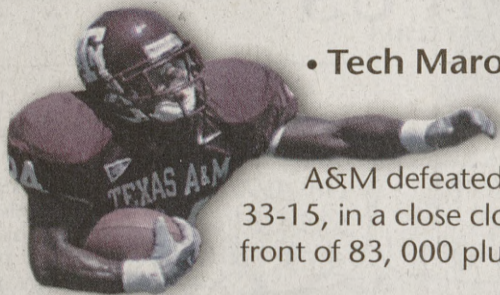


• Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on school inspections.
 • Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



• **Tech Marooned at Kyle Field**
 A&M defeated Texas Tech, 33-15, in a close game in front of 83,000 plus spectators.



• **Cooking 'Eddie'**
 Cook and eat a lobster feast without breaking the bank or a sweat.



Weather:
 Partly cloudy with a high of 90 and a low of 68.

Page 3

THE BATTALION

MONDAY
 October 2, 2000
 Volume 107 - Issue 27
 12 Pages

10 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Culpepper Plaza hit by burglars Man arrested in seven-business robbery strike Sunday morning

By BRADY CREEL AND MARIUM MOHIUDDIN

The Battalion
 A 32-year-old Plano man was arrested early Sunday morning for burglarizing seven businesses in Culpepper Plaza on Texas Avenue.

Sgt. Chuck Fleegeer of the College Station Police Department (CSPD) said Kenneth Clayton Smith was charged with one count of burglary of a building and that his identification was tentative pending further investigation.

Holze Music, Sew Vac City, Douglas Jewelers, Cato Fashions, Radio Shack, The Bagel Station, Muscle Tech and Rent/Buy were the stores burglarized, said CSPD Sgt. Greg Leeth.

Fleegeer said CSPD officers responded to an alarm at Cato Fashions, located at 1671 Texas Avenue in Culpepper Plaza, about 2 a.m. Sunday.

"One officer was down by Holze Music," Fleegeer said. "While we were waiting on a representative of Cato Fashions to show up, we saw some suspicious activity in Holze Music where ceiling tiles were falling down."

Apparently, the suspect entered the store through service ducts in the promenade of Holze Music, three stores down from Cato Fashions, Fleegeer said. Once inside Holze Music, he knocked holes in walls at floor level between each of the stores to get from one to the other.

"We found holes in the wall ... going into Sew Vac City," Fleegeer said. "We started calling representatives from all these shops along this stretch of the shopping center."

Fleegeer said after the first suspect was found and it became evident how he had entered the stores, the CSPD SWAT team was called at 7:30 a.m. to search the ducts above and around the buildings for more suspects. None were found.

An employee of one of the burglarized stores who wished to remain anonymous said the perpetrator was apprehended as the owner of Holze Music was leaving the scene.

See BURGLARY on Page 5.



Culpepper Plaza was investigated by CSPD SWAT, Sunday after a series of break-ins took place at its retail stores.

Waterline leak causes Verizon phone outage

By STEPHEN METCALF

The Battalion

Many College Station residents and businesses picked up their phones Friday morning and discovered they could not get a dial tone. Around 8 p.m. Thursday night, a waterline in the basement of the Verizon phone company substation on Holleman Drive sprang a leak, flooding parts of the building and cutting off service for customers from George Bush Drive to Rock Prairie Road.

Although the pipe broke early in the evening, the water did not flood the cable vault until after midnight, knocking out service in the area. The cable vault houses connections among many of the area's telephone lines.

Ed Savage, a supervisor at College Station Utilities, estimated that 1 million gallons of water poured out of the pipeline.

"When a big line like that fails, it does not take long for it to pump out a million gallons," he said.

Savage said that, by the time officials from College Station Utilities and the College Station Fire Department arrived on the scene, the basement was overflowing into the first floor of the Verizon building.

"The city assisted by killing the [waterline] for them and the fire department pumped the water out of the basement," Savage said.

Daniel LaCook, a Verizon employee at the substation, said two waterlines enter the Verizon complex from the

city's water main. One of the lines is the domestic line that provides water for human consumption, and the other line supplies water for emergencies.

LaCook said the break was on Verizon's portion of the fire line and that the valve to the waterline was shut off Friday morning with service being restored in segments. Service has been restored to some areas, but some customers

"When a big line like that fails, it does not take long for it to pump out a million gallons."

— Ed Savage
 a College Station Utilities supervisor

might have to wait until today for their service to resume.

Due to the service outage, many College Station businesses had to cope without credit card machines.

Tim Thornton, a supervisor at Freebirds World Burrito on Texas Avenue, said his location was unable to process credit cards or Aggie Bucks until Friday afternoon.

"It was a little crazy," Thornton said.

Savage said he did not expect the leak to affect water service to any College Station Utilities customers.

Right: Former President George Bush looks out at incoming Corps members as they march onto Kyle Field Saturday. Bush was among A&M Board of Regents and University Administration members, including President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and VP of student affairs J. Malon Southerland. Also reviewing march-in was Mexico's Secretary of Defense, Gen. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre. Below: Cervantes (left) gave a speech in front of the James Earl Rudder statue. He placed a wreath at the statue before taking a tour of the Corps museum.



PHOTOS BY ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Mexican general visits A&M, Corps

By MAUREEN KANE

The Battalion

Mexico Secretary of Defense Gen. Enrique Cervantes Aguirre and Brig. Gen. Filipe Bonilla Espinobarras, general director of education for the armed forces of Mexico, led a delegation of military officers and cadets to strengthen ties with Texas A&M.

Cervantes laid a wreath at the statue of James Earl Rudder Saturday morning and praised the late general for his bravery and accomplishments during WWII.

Afterward, Bonilla signed an interlibrary agreement at the Memorial Student Center Forsythe Gallery, which will allow information to be shared between A&M and the universities of

the armed forces of Mexico. He spoke about the relationship between the universities. A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and other A&M officials were present at the signing.

Cervantes served as the reviewing officer for the Corps of Cadets' military formation as it marched in before Saturday's football game against Texas Tech.

Accompanying the officers were 30 of the top cadets from Mexico's Heroic Military College, who spent three days living with Corps members.

Mark Welsh, Corps commander and a senior finance major, said the weekend visit went well and the cadets were cordial and respectful.

"We were very impressed by these cadets and

See CERVANTES on Page 2.

Petro engineering ranked #1

Engineering, business schools rank among nation's best

By ARATI BHATTACHARYA

The Battalion

The No. 1 petroleum engineering department in the United States resides on the campus of Texas A&M, according to U.S. News and World Report.

U.S. News and World Report ranks A&M's Lowry Mays College of Business 28th and the A&M Dwight Look College of Engineering undergraduate program 17th in the nation.

Different departments within the business program fared high, as well. Marketing is ranked 19th, accounting 22nd and management 23rd.

"This is the first time marketing has been ranked in the top 20," said Dr. P. Rajan Varadaraman, head of the marketing department. "Our department continuously strives for excellence in research and teaching. We regularly examine our curriculum in search of what's needed to enhance

the learning experience."

Dr. James J. Benjamin, professor and head of the accounting department, said the rankings are well-deserved.

"Our accounting department has been steadily improving over the recent years, and the rankings are finally catching up to us," Benjamin said, adding that more than 25 percent of the students registered for the May 1999 CPA exam in Texas were from A&M. The passing rates from A&M and the University of Texas-Austin were more than 42 percent, while the remainder of Texas and the national average stood at 16 percent.

"It is clear that we are doing better than the others," he said.

The new rankings are an encouragement to both colleges, which have experienced a drop in

See RANKINGS on Page 5.

TEXAS A&M DWIGHT LOOK College of Engineering Undergraduate program	
Ranked 17th overall	RANK
Petroleum	1
Industrial	5
Nuclear	9
Civil	10
Chemical	16
Aerospace	17
Mechanical	19
TEXAS A&M LOWRY MAYS College of Business	
Ranked 28th overall	RANK
Marketing	19
Accounting	22
Management	23

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Sydney waves bye to the 2000 Games

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — First came the Greek priestesses and the shiny robots on stilts. Then the upended fish skeleton, the Frankenstein kangaroo and the evil egg-laying chicken put in appearances, stalking along the same track where Marion Jones won gold.

By the time the giant shrimp on bicycles pedaled by and the huge inflatable eyeball soared through the stadium air, one thing was clear: The 2000 Summer Olympics were over.

Sydney ended the "best Olympic Games ever" Sunday night with a gargantuan burst of exuberance — a closing-ceremony party for 110,000 guests and billions of TV viewers that offered a festive, often psychedelic tour through what it means to be an Australian.

Fireworks rolled east across the sky, an 8.5-mile "fuse" that carried the Olympic torch's symbolic light from the stadium along barges in Homebush Bay to a humanity-crammed downtown. There, the majestic Harbor Bridge exploded like a giant Roman candle in a fusillade of pyrotechnics.

"Seven years ago, I said, 'And the winner is Sydney,'" said Juan Antonio Sama-

See OLYMPICS on Page 4.