

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief

Campus

Forum today on the \$2 tuition increase

An open forum will be held today at 3 p.m. in 292 MSC to allow students, faculty, staff and the public to discuss the proposed \$2-per-credit hour increase in the University authorized tuition for the Fall 2001 semester. Those in attendance will be able to question Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen about the need for the increase.

State

Police kill man after he allegedly kills son

HOUSTON (AP) — Police killed a 31-year-old man early Monday after he allegedly stabbed his 11-year-old son to death and wounded his son, Nebraska laughter and their grandmother, police said.

The incident started about 30 a.m. when a family member reported a possible hostage situation to police. Officers went to the middle-class neighborhood in south-east Houston and surrounded the one-story house.

At that, a man emerged from the front door and threatened officers with an eight-inch kitchen knife, said Houston police spokeswoman Sylvia Trevino. After he ignored demands to drop the knife, two officers fired four to six shots, killing the man.

Nation

Group honors gay service members

CATHEDRAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — A gay veterans group unveiled a monument to remember gay service members killed in combat.

The Sunday ceremony was attended by veterans in uniform, the mother of a Navy serviceman beaten to death in 1993 for being gay, and a color guard carrying the rainbow banner that symbolizes gay pride.

Artists battle over giant balls of bras

EL CERRITO, Calif. (AP) — An artist weighs 650 pounds, another weighs 1,300 pounds, and when it comes to a competition between two giant balls of bras, does size really matter?

Artists Emily Duffy and Ron Nicolino are more concerned with copyrighting their creations than cup size and cleavage. They've retained lawyers and traded threatening letters over who owns the bra ball concept.

Former redpot names A&M in continuing Bonfire case

By Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System has once again been introduced into the lawsuit by Jackie Self for the death of her son in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, but it is not Self who has reinvolved the school — it is a redpot.

Stephen Evan Herring, one of the 1999 redpots who Self claims exhibited negligence that played a role in death of her son, Jerry Don Self, has filed a third-party lawsuit against the University stating the University's alleged negligence should be submitted along with alleged negligence of the other defendants, said Mark Stradley, Herring's attorney.

"The defendant is not pointing any finger at A&M, and the language of the suit makes it clear that it is the plaintiff, Mrs. Self, who is alleging that A&M was negligent," Stradley said. "With A&M being dropped from the suit, my client and the other defendants might receive an unproportionate amount to pay in damages because A&M is not in the mix. It is only a matter of procedure to make sure that proportions of negligence are properly assigned in the unlikely event that [Herring] is found responsible."

A&M was originally named in the suit brought by Self in late March, but was shortly thereafter dropped because of a technicality in Texas State law, which would have limited the total maximum

amount Self could receive from all the defendants to \$250,000, Keith said.

"I wanted to protect Mrs. Self from a hyper-technical and unfair technicality that would stop her from obtaining a fair and reasonable amount in compensation for the loss of her son," Keith said. "The A&M family has to understand that if a great wrong is committed and a son is taken away from his mother, somebody has to be held properly accountable."

Keith said A&M's current status as a third-party defendant does not affect the sum total Self can receive.

Self's wrongful-death lawsuit

With the majority of the 23 defendants

in the Bonfire wrongful-death lawsuit having been served with notification, the suit is entering its discovery stage in which the defendants are being asked to disclose all relative information they have about the 1999 Bonfire collapse.

"Basically, everything is on hold right now while the defendants are responding," said Jody Mask, the attorney defending three former redpots named in the suit. "The next real court action will most likely occur in mid-July, when a judge in Tarrant County [where the lawsuit was originally filed] will determine whether or not the trial should be moved to Brazos County, as several of

See BONFIRE on Page 2.

<p>Summer 2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid July - Safety Engineering Corp. chosen • Mid July to Early Fall 2001 - Safety aspects integrated into designs 	<p>Fall 2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd week - three designs posed to student body for vote • Design submitted for independent review • Design plan submitted to Bowen for final approval • November 1 - final plan in place • Student Leadership Design begins 	<p>Spring 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb. 1 - Student participation design in place • Training begins 	<p>Fall 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two weeks prior construction begins • Bonfire
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RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Remembrance



Nellie Brunson and her son Bill Brunson walk among the decorated headstones at the College Station Cemetery Monday, Memorial Day. Her husband was killed in World War II and her other son was killed in Vietnam.

BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Design plans delayed until Fall semester

By Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Three options for the design of the 2002 Aggie Bonfire will not be submitted to the student body for the final selection until the second week of the Fall 2001 semester, said Dr. Bryan R. Cole, the Bonfire Steering Committee head and assistant vice president for quality leadership.

Cole said the designs by CBM Engineering for Bonfire must still be integrated with safety plans provided by a professional safety engineering corporation, which should be chosen by mid-July.

After the design has been chosen by the student body, it will be submitted for independent review by multiple engineers and then will be handed over to Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen for final approval.

Cole said that approval by Bowen is not guaranteed because Bowen may reject the proposal if he finds it is too costly or unsafe.

"Designing this Bonfire has been a challenging task for all involved," Cole said. "CBM Engineering has built the tallest sky scrapers ever built, but they have never had to design anything like a Bonfire. They also have to deal with other factors such as the use of students as a

work force instead of skilled craftsmen."

Cole said input from students has also made planning the 2002 Bonfire a unique task.

"All along we have also paid close attention to student requests, such as that it be as labor intensive as possible," he said. "That has been asked for time and time again. The ultimate

"The ultimate goal is to build a Bonfire that is meaningful for students by building camaraderie and providing a unique experience."

— Dr. Bryan R. Cole
Bonfire Steering Committee

goal is to build a Bonfire that is meaningful for students by building camaraderie and providing a unique experience — while at the same time keeping a safe and responsible environment."

See PLANS on Page 2.

Africanized bees found in vicinity

Burleson, Lee counties added to those quarantined by Texas Apiary Inspection Service

By Justin Smith
The Battalion

Two local Texas counties have been officially quarantined by the Texas Apiary Inspection Service because of the discovery of Africanized honey bees.

Burleson and Lee counties are the latest to be added to the growing number of quarantined Texas counties, which has now reached 131. While none of the bees have been found in Lee County, all of its neighboring counties have located them and it is assumed they have made their way into Lee.

The Africanized honey bees,

more commonly known as "killer bees," have spread across much of the state and into New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California since their arrival in Hidalgo, Texas in October 1990.

The Africanized honey bee was originally brought to Brazil in 1956 to be used by beekeepers rather than the European honey bee, which was typically seen throughout North and South America. The Africanized honey bees were more productive, worked longer during the day and were better suited for the tropical climate than their European counterparts. In 1957, some bees escaped the

quarantined area and began to breed and spread through South America, migrating north.

Their first victim in the United States was Jesus Diaz in Brownsville, Texas in May 1991. The first fatal attack was on 82-year-old Lino Lopez on July 15, 1993. Lopez was trying to remove the colony of bees from the side of a building on his ranch outside Harlingen, Texas when he was stung more than 40 times.

Chief Apiary Inspector, Paul Jackson, said, "Africanized honey bees are wild and therefore

Counties quarantined due to presence of Africanized Honeybees



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Aggielife

- So long summertime blues
- B-CS offers outdoor activities

Battalion News Radio:
5:57 p.m. KAMU 90.9

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