

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief

Nation

McVeigh denied a stay of execution

DENVER (AP) — A judge denied Timothy McVeigh a stay of execution Wednesday, saying nothing in newly disclosed FBI documents could change the fact that he was the "instrument of death and destruction" in the Oklahoma City bombing.

McVeigh's lawyers said they would file an appeal Thursday. The 33-year-old Gulf War veteran is set to die by injection Monday at a federal prison in Terre Haute, Ind.

After a hearing that lasted a little more than an hour, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch said he was shocked that the government waited until six days before McVeigh's original execution date to begin turning over more than 4,400 pages of documents in the case.

But he brushed aside McVeigh's bid to force a hearing over the mistake and said the findings of the jury that convicted McVeigh in 1997 would stand.

Surrogate mother gives birth to quads

PHOENIX (AP) — A woman who volunteered to be a surrogate mother for her best friend gave birth Wednesday to three girls and a boy.

The four babies, delivered by Cesarean section, were believed to be the nation's first set of surrogate quadruplets, according to Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center.

"It was just a great experience," father David Behler told television station KTVK. "I've never had anything like that before in my life."

He and wife, Stacey, had tried unsuccessfully to have a child for 13 years.

Friend Debbie Vibber gave birth Friday to a boy at 7:01 p.m., followed by the three girls, each a minute apart.

2-year-old pitcher as a perfect game

HARPER WOODS, Mich. (AP) — Little League pitcher Robert Knight's game was perfect and then some: Not only did he pitch a perfect game, but he struck out all 18 batters.

"I could tell the other team didn't really want to come up but anytime after a while," said the 5-foot-3, 100-pound pitcher.

The only imperfect thing about the 12-year-old's six-inning game Monday: Mom and Dad weren't there to see Keith Knight was driving in Ryan to another baseball game, and D'Ann Knight was playing softball at a field down the street.

Knight also had three hits in the Tigers' 7-0 victory over the Giants in a game between two teams from this Detroit suburb.

'Now is simply the time' Bowen resigns as president

Robin Lewis
The Battalion

Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen announced his resignation Wednesday, stating that his decision was made for the benefit of the University and not because of Bonfire or other outside influences.

"It's been basically a decision driven by the belief that now is simply the time — no other issue and no other agenda," Bowen said. "There's always going to be speculation [about Bonfire], but no, it didn't have anything to do with it."

A&M System Board of Regents Chairman Erle Nye said he has known for a couple of years that Bowen was interested in retiring near the end of his seventh term.

"I am infuriated to hear accusations that Bonfire is somehow responsible for him leaving office," Nye said. "To suggest that it had any bearing on his retirement is unfair and inaccurate."

Bowen believes that change is good for every organization, including A&M.

"The search for my replacement and the adjustment to a new president will create a wave of renewal on campus," he said.

He said this change will push every employee, every academic department and administrative unit to evaluate their relevance and commitment to A&M's goals.

"I simply think it is time to initiate this renewal," Bowen said.

Bowen said his final year as president at A&M will be just as full and active as his past years, with final decisions on Bonfire still pending and the planning of the University's 125th year celebration.

Bowen, who will have served eight years by the end of next June, is the fourth longest-serving president in A&M's 125-year history.

During Bowen's tenure as president, A&M went through many advancements. Among those included were the recognition of the engineering program by Hispanic Outlook as the nation's best for Hispanic students and the establishment of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, said Bowen will leave a lasting imprint on Texas A&M because of all he has done for the University.

"With calm, steady leadership, See **BOWEN** on Page 2.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Above: Dr. Ray M. Bowen announced his resignation at a press conference Wednesday morning. Bottom left: Bowen, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland, and 2000 student body president Forrest Lane at Muster. Bottom right: Bowen answers questions after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

Milestones of the Ray M. Bowen Presidency

- Funding for endowed undergraduate scholarships increased by \$37 million
- Appointment of Texas A&M's first female vice president (Eilyn Perrone) and first African-American vice president (Charles Sippial)
- Creation and implementation of Vision 2020, Texas A&M's wide-ranging goal of achieving recognition as a consensus Top 10 public university by the year 2020
- Establishment of Vision 2020 Matching Chairs program, allocating \$20 million in additional AUF funds made available by Prop. 17 to establish 20 additional endowed faculty chairs
- Recognition of engineering program by Hispanic Outlook as nation's best for Hispanic students
- Organization of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service and transition from a division of the College of Liberal Arts to an independent academic unit
- Establishment of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
- Texas A&M sports teams won seven Big 12 regular-season and six tournament titles

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Gramm dismisses talk he will seek position as A&M's 22nd president

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas says he is not ready to turn tail and run to Texas A&M University's top job because the Democrats are in charge.



GRAMM

Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's announcement Wednesday that he planned to step down next summer has ignited conjecture about whether Gramm, a former A&M professor, would take his place.

Gramm said such talk is fantasy. "This is an unhappy time for those who dream of raising taxes and spend-

ing money in Washington, so I am not surprised that some dream of a landscape from which I am missing," Gramm said in a statement. "But if any Democrats are hoping that the idea of Tom Daschle as (Senate) majority leader is causing me second thoughts, let me just say that I liked playing offense, but I love playing defense."

Gramm, who announced in January that he would seek re-election in 2002, expects to have held 30 fund-raisers by the end of the month. He already has raised \$1 million to add to a \$3 million campaign chest, said Gramm spokesman Larry Neal.

"So as far as re-election is concerned, count me in," Gramm added. "I enjoy beating Democrats, even if I

have to do it one at a time."

Talk that Gramm might step down was stoked by Sen. James Jeffords' recent defection from the Republican Party, which gave Democrats the Senate majority. Jeffords officially became an independent Tuesday.

His switch shoved Republicans from committee chairmanships, including Gramm from his post as head of the powerful Senate Banking Committee.

Gramm has strong ties to A&M: he was an economics professor at the school and met his wife, Wendy, there. Wendy Gramm, who recently was appointed a Texas A&M regent, dismissed suggestions that he wanted to be A&M's next president.

"He's got a pretty busy job right now,"

she told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Harris County Republican Party Chairman Gary Pollard told the *Houston Chronicle* that he believes Gramm would accept the post if it were offered.

"Senator Gramm has wanted three positions in his life," Pollard said. "He wanted to be a United States senator, and he is. He wanted to be president of the United States, and he tried but failed. And he wants to be president of Texas A&M."

Pollard did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press. Edward Check, Harris County GOP executive director, said Pollard was only stating his opinion.

Neal said he did not recall such a statement by Gramm.

Students face criminal mischief charges

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Crocker residents believed to have poured drum full of urine, excrement into Moore Hall hallway

No court date has been set yet for three Crocker Hall residents believed to be responsible for pouring a 55-gallon trash can full of urine, vomit, excrement and road kill into a hallway of Moore Hall last spring.

Ryan Matkin, Daniel Reed and Gary Sanchez have each been charged with two counts of criminal mischief for the April 25 vandalism, said Director of the University Police Department (UPD) Bob Wiatt. They face a class A misdemeanor, punishable by no more than one

year in jail and/or a fine up to \$4,000, and a class B misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine of no more than \$2,000.

Wiatt said police believe the three individuals collected the bodily fluids during a party the weekend prior to the incident and then added nine road kill carcasses the next day. The spill seeped into the rooms of two students, damaging personal property.

Tom Murray, a student development specialist for the Department of Residence Life, said the road kill was cleared away by A&M's pest control service and the area was cleaned and disinfected for blood-borne pathogens by custodial services. The area was then inspected by the A&M environmental health and safety department and pronounced clean.

"I don't know if hazardous was really the word for this,"

Murray said. "Health wise, the biggest danger was probably the road kill. The biggest problem was actually the smell, which we couldn't get rid of for days."

Murray said the total cost of clean-up for the prank was \$154.59.

Byron Lightsey, a Northside area coordinator, said the three were identified by a Moore Hall resident who said he heard a commotion and saw them running out of the hall.

"Of course, the police didn't have anyway to match the names with the faces until they passed by Crocker and happened to see the three students outside," he said.

Wiatt said UPD then obtained an arrest warrant and apprehended the three on May 10.

"It breaks my heart to see people of such a young age ruin a good part of their lives because they wanted to get drunk and do something stupid," he said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland

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