

THURSDAY  
July 12, 2001  
Volume 107 - Issue 170  
8 pages

## Design contest deadline near

Stuart Hutson  
The Battalion

Junior industrial distribution major Amanda Dieter has put weeks of work and years of emotion into a design for a piece of art that may never see the light of day.

Dieter's work is not for a class. It is not for fun. Dieter's design is her own vision of a memorial that encompasses the emotional strife that was the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse.

Ever since that chilled November day when tradition became tragedy, those affected by the collapse have searched for a suitable memorial to the fallen Aggies. Now, a special committee appointed by the University is accepting applications for the memorial's design.

The deadline to register for the contest is Sunday; however, design submissions are not due until Aug. 31.

"Bonfire means so many things to so many people," Dieter said. "Everyone has their own memories and experiences. It's going to be hard to capture all that spirit and have it reflected in this memorial. Anyone who can do it should be rewarded."

Designs will be reviewed by an unannounced jury of noted art, architecture and engineering professionals from around the country, as well as selected representatives from the A&M community — one of whom is a parent of one of the Bonfire victims.

The jury will choose four designs to be reviewed by two corresponding committees who will provide feedback. The

first committee will be composed of family members of students who were injured or killed in the collapse and the injured students themselves.

The second committee will be composed of students, former students, faculty, staff and administrators.

"We want to ensure that as much of the A&M community as possible has input on this memorial," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland. "But the professionals are there to ensure that the memorial will work practically and aesthetically."

The jury will review the feedback and announce the winner on March 7. The four finalists will receive \$10,000 each, and the winner will receive an additional \$10,000. Submissions that receive honorable mention will receive a total of \$30,000.

So far, the committee has received designs suggestions ranging from life-like statues of the 12 carrying a log to a memorial garden to a fire-proof pole that could serve as a center pole for future bonfires.

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### Proposed Bonfire Memorial Sites



1. Area East of Houston Street and North of Clayton Williams Alumni Center
2. Area Northeast of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building
3. Cain Park
4. Polo Field

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

### News in Brief

#### Community

##### Man sentenced to life for area murder

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A Prairie View man has been sentenced to life in prison for killing a Navasota woman after interrupting a dispute between him and his girlfriend. Albert Lee Stoneham, 24, was found guilty earlier this year of killing Perneisha Moore, 2, District Judge Jerry Sandel signed the sentencing judgment Monday.

According to court testimony, Stoneham and his girlfriend were arguing in September 1999 at a housing complex when Moore asked them to make their disagreement somewhere else.

Stoneham shot Moore in the chest with a small-caliber semiautomatic pistol.

Sandel considered Stoneham's criminal history in assessing his punishment. Stoneham had been paroled in December 1998 from a state prison where he was serving two 10-year concurrent sentences for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and delivery of a controlled substance.

#### State

##### Toddler dies after being left in SUV

PLANO (AP) — A 3-year-old boy died Wednesday in a hot sport utility vehicle where he apparently had been playing at his family's Plano home, police said.

Temperatures in the Dallas suburb were near 100 degrees at the time he was found. The temperature inside a closed vehicle in such heat could reach 50 degrees, the National Weather Service said.

Police said Cory Clark was unconscious when paramedics arrived. They believe he was in the vehicle for about 10 minutes before he was found. Family members were inside the house.

The boy was transported to the Medical Center of Plano, where he later died.

Police are investigating the death, which they say appears to be an accident.

##### Man charged with murder of girlfriend

JASPER (AP) — A 22-year-old Jasper man has been indicted in the death of his girlfriend, Hemico Thomas, who was shot in the head outside her home in June.

Marcus Dwain Brown was charged Monday with capital murder in the death of Thomas, 9. She is the mother of his two children, ages 4 and 17 months.

Jasper police said that Brown, who had an on-again, off-again relationship with Thomas, went to her home on June 9 and allegedly dragged her out of the house before shooting her.

### Flying leap



Ben Inman, a graduate zoology student, watches as Ryan Reist, a junior nutrition science major, takes a leap off a 20-foot cliff into the waters of Lake Georgetown Wednesday.

JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

## Safety issues discussed at conference

Elizabeth Raines  
The Battalion

Representatives from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada met at Texas A&M this week to discuss everything from the sick building syndrome to the correct way to dispose of hazardous waste.

**"On any campus, you have all different types of people with all different types of safety hazards."**

— Dr. Robert Emery  
University of Texas Houston  
Health Science Center

Representatives attended the five-day 48th Annual International Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) Conference. The conference, part of the National Safety Council-Campus Safety Division, gave safety and health professionals from different college campuses an opportunity to discuss present and future safety issues.

"On any campus, you have all different types of people with all different types of safety hazards," said Dr. Robert Emery from the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center. "This conference allows for [the different college representatives] to share their experiences and address different issues of importance."

Each day of the conference was divided into three tracks and 52 classes. Different tracks included: fire and life safety, emergency disasters, laser safety, and the sick building syndrome.

Emery said the sick building syndrome was one of the major issues discussed at this year's conference and a topic he sees returning as a major safety issue to colleges in the years to come.

Benita Mann of San Diego State University said sick building syndrome occurs when occupants of a building complain of a set of symptoms such as headache, fatigue, memory loss or throat irritation, that cannot be related to a specific cause such as but are alleviated when the person leaves the building.

"You often see signs of mold and bacteria growth in discolored walls, floors, ceilings and carpets," Mann said. "Just cleaning — even with bleach —

See SAFETY on Page 2.

## Wilkens put to death

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Apologizing profusely and repeatedly asking for forgiveness, convicted killer James Wilkens Jr. was put to death Wednesday night for a shooting spree that claimed the lives of his ex-girlfriend's 4-year-old son and her new boyfriend almost 15 years ago in Tyler.

"I am sorry. Please hear me. Please understand. In the name of God, please forgive me," he said, looking at Sandra Williams, the mother of the 4-year-old killed in the rampage. Only Williams, shot in the back, survived.

"Find peace and comfort. I am sorry. For your sake, forgive me, all of you," he said, looking at Williams and the child's two grandfathers, who also witnessed the execution.

Then he turned to several

friends who also were witnesses and expressed love to them and thanked them for "giving me more than I deserve."

Then Wilkens prayed, asking God to forgive "the horror I have committed."

After telling the warden he was ready to go and urging that "God be with all of you," he exhaled once, gasped a couple of times and slipped into unconsciousness as the drugs took effect. He was pronounced dead at 6:23 p.m. CDT, eight minutes after the lethal dose began.

Wilkens, 39, was the 10th condemned inmate to be executed this year in Texas, where a record 40 convicted murderers were executed last year. At least seven more executions are scheduled over the next 10 weeks.

Wilkens was already on pa-

role after serving 14 months of a five-year sentence for robbery when he was arrested a day after the child, Larry McMillan Jr., was shot repeatedly as he cried on a couch. Also killed in the rampage two days after Christmas 1986 was Richard Wood, 28.

Wood was dating Wilkens' former girlfriend. According to testimony at his trial, Wilkens broke into Wood's empty trailer home and waited until Wood and Williams and the child returned from an out-of-town holiday trip.

All three were shot when the apparently jealous and enraged Wilkens opened fire with a .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle. Only Williams, shot in the back, survived. Wood was shot in the head. The child was shot 13 times.

## CSU adopts new alcohol policies

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Nine months after a California State student drank himself to death, the nation's biggest university system adopted some of the most sweeping restrictions in the country on college drinking Wednesday.

The restrictions include limits on alcohol-company sponsorship of parties both on and off campus.

"This is not a California problem. This is a national higher education problem," said Chancellor Charles B. Reed after the unanimous vote by the trustees at CSU, which has about 368,000 students at 23

campuses. "The message is that we are going to pay attention."

The new policy bans, for example, naming student events after a brand of beer. These activities — popular among fraternities, sororities and other organizations — rely on funds and products provided by alcoholic-beverage companies.

The policy applies to off-campus parties held by university organizations.

Other directives include developing early-intervention and treatment programs, notifying students of changes in alcohol laws and rewarding

See CSU on Page 2.

**INSIDE**

**AggieLife**  
• Reel Critique: Scary Movie 2 and others reviewed

**Opinion**  
• It's not working: Operation Gatekeeper ineffective

**Battalion News Radio:**  
1:57 p.m. KAMU 90.9

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