

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Explosives used in seismic work reported missing

HOUSTON (AP) — Seven hundred pounds of explosives used in seismic exploration for drilling are reported missing from a company in Harris County and federal law officers are investigating the apparent thefts. Officials of AirJac Drilling Inc. says the explosives were taken between Saturday and Tuesday. It's too early to know if the apparent theft is terrorist-related, officials say. The shaped charges, which come in different shapes and weights, have a nonexplosive outer covering and explosive material inside. They were being kept in a rural area in Harris County.

Marine killed in fall at naval weapons station

YORKTOWN, Va. (AP) — A Marine was killed when he fell from a third-story window of the bachelor enlisted quarters at Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, authorities said Thursday. Lance Cpl. Gilberto L. Rodriguez, 22, of Hereford, Texas, fell from a window in a common area about 1 a.m. Monday, said Capt. David Griesmer, a spokesman for the Norfolk-based Marine Corps' Atlantic Forces Command. Rodriguez died at the scene, Griesmer said. Rodriguez was off duty when he fell, Griesmer said.

PUBLIC EYE

College Station Fire Department responds to an average of 500 calls, alarms each year

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 3

Planet Northgate

Bands unite Friday and Saturday for international music festival

SPORTS

Page 7

Clash in the mountains

No. 25 A&M's undefeated record on the line against Colorado

OPINION

Page 9

Sit down, Bus Ops! Whoop!

Bus Ops new routes cause turmoil for drivers, passengers

WEATHER

TODAY

70% HIGH 84° F LOW 65° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 76° F LOW 58° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

A&M not planning ceremony

By ROLANDO GARCIA THE BATTALION

No University-sponsored memorial ceremony to commemorate the second anniversary of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse is planned, University officials said.

"Having a ceremony was the right thing to do last year, but that doesn't mean it's the right thing to do now," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland.

A candlelight ceremony was held Nov. 18, 2000 at 2:42 a.m. on the Polo Fields to remember the 12 students killed in the collapse.

Although no similar event is scheduled, Nov. 18 will not pass unnoticed, Southerland said. The four finalists in the Bonfire Memorial design competition will be unveiled and put on display, and other Bonfire-related events are in the works.

"We'll always remember Nov. 18, and the best way to do that is through the permanent memorial," Southerland said.

Student Body President Schuyler Houser, a senior industrial engineering major, said the feedback she has received indicates students would prefer a more private and discrete remembrance this year.

"We can't let the week come and go without recognizing what happened, but students don't want to have to relive it again and again," Houser said. "Students just want to get through it in their own way and not go through another big ceremony and relive those painful memories."

See BONFIRE on page 2.

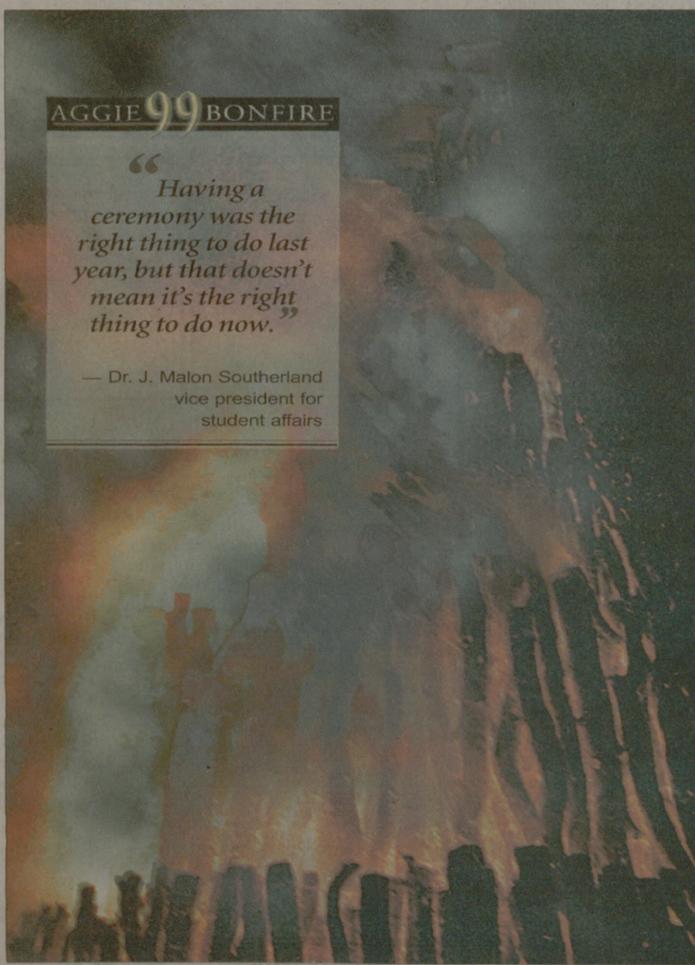


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Students, professors continue to archive Bonfire items

By NONI SRIDHARA THE BATTALION

This November marks the two-year anniversary of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, and the archiving of memorial items left at the site after the tragedy is an ongoing project for Dr. Sylvia Grider, an associate professor of anthropology, and her graduate student assistants.

"With the recent events, we can see that spontaneous shrines are a worldwide response to tragedy," Grider said.

Grider is chairwoman of "Archives of Grief: Bonfire Memorabilia Collection" and gave a presentation Thursday night sponsored by the Brazos Valley Aggie Moms Club (BVAMC).

After the collapse, many students expressed concern that the artifacts and memorabilia left at the site would be thrown away, Grider said. She initiated a request to Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen to head a project in which the students

See ARCHIVE on page 6.



Dr. Sylvia Grider presents a slideshow on items that were archived in the "Archives of Grief: Bonfire Memorabilia Collection"

Liberal Arts shows new growth

By MELISSA SULLIVAN THE BATTALION

A key element in reaching the University's goal of Vision 2020 is enhancing the College of Liberal Arts, Dean Charles Johnson said at a reception dinner held Thursday to celebrate the history and advancement of the college.

"We are going in a positive direction," Johnson said. "We started off with 150 faculty and a budget of \$3 million, and have grown to a faculty of 400 and a budget of \$30 million."

The College of Liberal Arts is one of the largest colleges and has the same number of undergraduates as the Colleges of Architecture and Engineering. Liberal arts also teaches one-third of the classes in the core curriculum.

"During the next two years, we are hiring 25 new faculty members as well as establishing a merit program for faculty who have reached national prominence," Johnson said.

See LIBARTS on page 7.

On-campus student alcohol violations down

By ERIC AMBROSO THE BATTALION

On-campus student alcohol violations for the 2000-2001 academic year are down, said Laura Sosh-Lightsy, coordinator of Student Judicial Services.

"We must take a many-layered approach in order to combat underage drinking at Texas A&M," said Sosh-Lightsy. "Students found responsible for an MIP charge must all attend alcohol education classes at the University. They may also be put on conduct probation or even suspended. During the 2000-2001 school year we had a total of 160 alcohol cases in our office, which was down from 229 the previous year, which

means that the policies must be making a difference."

The University has implemented stricter penalties for students convicted of possessing alcohol as a minor. Sosh-Lightsy said first-time offenders face conduct probation, which places the student in bad standing with the University and makes them ineligible to hold any offices with student organizations. Second and third-time offenders often face deferred suspension or even indefinite suspension.

"Over the last two academic years only two students have had repeat alcohol offenses," said Mike Collins, assistant director of Student Life at Texas A&M. "I believe that this is due

See ALCOHOL on page 6.

Number of cases involving alcohol that were taken to student judicial services

1999 - 2000

229

2000 - 2001

160

Information from Laura Sosh-Lightsy, coordinator for student judicial services CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Officials, workers hold 1-month memorial

(AP) — At a still-smoking ruin, before a still-ravaged military headquarters, in far-flung places still reeling from unthinkable acts, they stopped to mark a milestone Thursday: A month had passed since terrorists made their indelible mark.

At the Pentagon service, there was a red rose on the seat of each relative of each victim — 125 workers, and the 60 passen-

gers and crew of the hijacked jet that crashed there.

"On Sept. 11, great sorrow came to our country, and from that sorrow has come great resolve," said President Bush.

At the World Trade Center, there was a moment of silence at 8:48 a.m., the time of the first attack on Sept. 11. Workers at the massive grave paused from the cleanup

Daylight air raid sweeps Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The first daylight raid on the Afghan capital in the 5-day-old, U.S.-led air campaign sent shoppers scattering in panic Thursday, jumping on donkey carts and bicycles to flee heavy explosions. In the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, a hit on a munitions dump set off a series of deafening blasts — and an exodus of civilians toward the Pakistani border.

U.S. planes returned to the skies over Kabul late Thursday, and a huge fireball lit up the sky over the eastern part of the city in the direction of a training base of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Huge detonations accompanied by a howling wind could also be heard Thursday evening from the Afghan side of the border in the Pakistani frontier town of Chaman, about 70 miles south of Kandahar.

One month after the terror attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Pakistani officials acknowledged for the first time that U.S. planes and personnel were on the ground as part of the American-led campaign against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden and that the United States

See KABUL on page 2.

Hundreds of possible anthrax sources probed

(AP) — The anthrax bacteria that killed an editor at a Florida tabloid last week could have come from countless places, including hundreds of laboratories worldwide.

Most of those labs either develop vaccines and treatments against the disease, or serve as general repositories for bacteria and viruses. A few rogue labs probably do biological weapons research as well.

Until a few years ago, none of the laboratories have faced serious restrictions on who has access to anthrax and other potential biological weapons. Since 1997, however, the United States have put restrictions on who can possess anthrax or order it from the handful of biological suppliers that provide microbes to laboratories.

The anthrax in laboratories today originated from animals that died of the disease or soil contaminated by the bacteria. To collect anthrax, scientists would visit a farm with a livestock outbreak of the disease and take a small piece of tissue from an animal that had died from it.

Back in the lab, the researchers would then isolate the anthrax bacteria from the tissue and keep the microorganisms alive in a liquid culture. For decades, that one sample can spawn subsequent generations of the same anthrax strain.

See ANTHRAX on page 2.

duties, took off their helmets and joined arm in arm. "Don't look at the terrorism over there, look at the heroism over here," said Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, a Fire Department chaplain.

At St. Paul's Cathedral in London, British firefighters mourned their fallen

See MEMORIAL on page 7.