

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Physical Plant fire knocks out air conditioning**

An electrical malfunction sparked a fire at the Texas A&M Physical Plant shortly after 8 p.m. Friday night. A chiller housed in one of the complex's buildings caught fire. The blaze was extinguished within 20 minutes and the building was declared safe at 9:30 p.m., said Dick Williams, vice president of the Physical Plant department. No one was in the building when the fire started, Williams said. A Physical Plant team cut power to all the chillers to end the blaze. Buildings on campus may have experienced some discomfort Friday night because of air conditioner problems related to the blaze, Williams said.

**Student Senate on campus for Constituency Day**

Texas A&M student senators will be on campus Monday for constituency day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to listen to students' comments, concerns and suggestions.

Senators will be available for students at several locations on campus, including the Commons, Sbsia Dining Hall, the Memorial Student Center, Wehner and the Richardson Building.

**PUBLIC EYE**

**Unemployment claims in Texas**  
**Jan. 2001**  
 69,777  
**May 2001**  
 87,029

**TODAY**

**AGGIELIFE**

**Page 3**  
**For patriots' pride**  
 Centuries old, the American flag still flies as a symbol of freedom and glory

**SPORTS**

**Page 6**  
**Bufs slide by Ags, 31-21**  
 A&M suffers familiar loss to Colorado

**OPINION**

**Page 9**  
**The eyes of ESPN are upon you**  
 Pro-Con: Is Sidelines' a damaging misrepresentation

**WEATHER**

**TODAY**  
 HIGH 84° F  
 LOW 55° F

**TOMORROW**

HIGH 69° F  
 LOW 50° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

## Two Aggies die in car crash

Third student suffers minor injuries, remains hospitalized in stable condition

By SOMMER BUNCE  
 THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M students were killed and one was in stable condition after a one-car collision outside Giddings early Sunday morning.

A 1996 Toyota was traveling northbound on US Highway 77 in Lee County when the car struck a tree at 7:34 a.m.

Passengers Antonio Torres II, 18, a

freshman business administration major from Mission, and Xavier Monge Ortega, 20, a freshman agricultural economics major from Guayaquil, Ecuador, were killed in the accident. The driver, Jonathan Steed, 19, a sophomore political science major from Amarillo, was transported to Brackenridge Hospital in Austin. He was listed in stable condition with minor injuries.

All three students were Delta Tau Delta pledges.

A Delta Tau Delta member confirmed Sunday night that the pledges were together for a fraternity-related activity. A "Pledge Retreat" was listed for Saturday, Oct. 13, on the Delta Tau Delta calendar posted on their Website. No information was given on what the retreat entails, and it was not clear if all three pledges participated in the event.

Members discussed what they could say publicly about the accident during their chapter meeting Sunday.

"It [the accident] has nothing to do with hazing," said the Delta member, who requested anonymity. "As a fraternity, I can say that we don't haze."

Delta Tau Delta president Joe Handy, also the public relations representative for the InterFraternity Council (IFC), declined to comment.

Monge Ortega told friends he was spending the night with a fraternity brother

See ACCIDENT on page 2.

## Bonfire loses safety firm

By SOMMER BUNCE  
 THE BATTALION

The safety firm that was to help design Bonfire 2002 backed out of contract negotiations with Bonfire planners this month, citing a lack of involvement with students as its main reason for leaving.

Jay Marak, of Marak Safety Services in Houston, said he informed University officials and Joe Colaco of CBM Engineers, the firm chosen to design Bonfire 2002, of his decision to withdraw from negotiations by email Oct. 1. Marak's main complaint was that he would not be able to meet with students until the design was finalized in mid-December and students were back on campus in January.

"I felt like I needed access to students beginning in October, and they said I could not have access until January," Marak said. "We wanted to start talking with team leaders, but their design is not chosen, and they [planners] said no student is going to come to a meeting with us if there is not a design."

Despite the setbacks, David Godbey, assistant director of the Physical Plant Department for engineering and design services and A&M's point man in the design phase of planning for Bonfire, said it is "still a strong possibility" that there will be a Bonfire in 2002.

Marak said that losing three months of student contact would leave him pressed for time in the safety aspects of Bonfire that his firm would have been responsible for.

"I take great consideration that nothing goes wrong [with Bonfire]," Marak said. "When it

See BONFIRE on page 2

## 'I pledge allegiance ...'



A third grade class at Rock Prairie Elementary School recites the pledge of allegiance in front of the American flag in their classroom Friday. Rod Paige, U.S. secretary of education, asked more than

100,000 public and private elementary and secondary schools to participate in Pledge Across America, a nationwide synchronized recital Friday at 1 p.m.

STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

## ASB may lose University recognition

Organization not allowed to choose its own adviser

By MAUREEN KANE  
 THE BATTALION

Alternative Spring Break (ASB), a student service organization, may lose its University recognition if it refuses to accept a new adviser chosen by the Department of Student Activities, ASB leaders said.

Beth Guyton, chair of ASB and a senior biomedical engineering major, said the organization has until Wednesday to accept Angela Gray, the student activities adviser designee, as its new adviser to complete the re-recognition process on time. In a meeting with Monica Latham, assis-

tant director of student activities, Guyton said she was told that ASB must replace their current adviser, Emil Luza, with Gray. "On Oct. 1, I was told that they (student activities) were going to replace our adviser," Guyton said. "Emil (Luza) was out and we will not be recognized with Emil as either primary or secondary adviser. They felt that a candidate from their department would be better suited to the task of advising ASB and [Gray] would be the only acceptable adviser for ASB."

week grace period.

Kevin Jackson, director of Student Activities, said Gray is the best choice for the position of adviser for ASB, and is the "most effective fit" with the goals and purpose of the organization.

"It's the responsibility of the Department of Student Activities to assure the best fit between an adviser and a student organization," Jackson said. "We look very closely at who the adviser is going to be to assure that that group is getting the best level of advising. As an affiliated group, they (ASB)

See ASB on page 5.

## Taliban escorts journalists through bombed cities

KARAM, Afghanistan (AP) — Waving shovels and sticks, enraged villagers surged toward foreign journalists brought there Sunday by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia to see what officials say was the devastation of a U.S. air attack.

"They are coming to kill us! They are coming for information, to tell the planes where to bomb!" angry and terrified villagers shouted as they charged the reporters. Taliban escorts held them back.

Sunday's trip to the village of Karam in Afghanistan's eastern mountains marked the first time since the U.S.-led air campaign began Oct. 7 that the Taliban have allowed international journalists into areas controlled by the Islamic militia.

The Taliban, who escorted journalists to the village, claim nearly 200 people were killed here Thursday. If true, it would be the deadliest single strike by U.S. and British warplanes.

"They are innocent people living here," one villager, Gul Mohammed, said. "There is no military base. What is it they are looking for in Afghanistan? Where is Osama bin Laden? He is not here. Why did they bomb us?"

The small village had clearly been hit by explosions. A number of houses were damaged or reduced to rubble, and several bomb craters were dug into the rocky landscape. Dozens of sheep and goat carcasses were strewn about, the air thick with a rancid stench.

But it was difficult to assess claims of casualty figures three days after the attack. Muslims traditionally bury their dead quickly. Villagers pointed out what they called traces of the attack's deadliness, including a bloodstained pillowcase by a house and what appeared to be a rotting human limb.

Washington has expressed regret for any civilian victims in its airstrikes, say-

ing it doesn't target noncombatants. It has acknowledged a stray bomb hit homes outside Kabul last week but has said it can not verify the alleged Karam attack.

In the hospital in Jalalabad, 25 miles to the east, doctors treated what they said

were 23 victims of bombing at Karam — one, a child barely two months old, swathed in bloody bandages.

Another child, Samina, played with

See ATTACKS on page 2.

## Number of anthrax cases rises to twelve

NEW YORK (AP) — A police officer and two lab technicians involved in the NBC anthrax investigation have tested positive for the bacteria, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said Sunday. Nevada officials said four people who may have come into contact with a contaminated letter at a Microsoft office tested negative, while results were not known for two others.

In Washington, meanwhile, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said he considered the

anthrax cases in New York, Nevada and Florida to be instances of bioterrorism. "It certainly is an act of terrorism to send anthrax through the mail," he said on Fox News Sunday.

And Attorney General John Ashcroft said it was premature "to decide whether there is a direct link" to Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, but "we should consider this potential that it is linked."

See ANTHRAX on page 5.