

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Easterwood opens passenger entry

Easterwood Airport has reopened the lower level terminal entrance for passenger pick-up and drop-off.

Because of increased security, drivers are urged to follow all traffic signs. Vehicles and baggage must be attended at all times while in the drop off area, officials said.

UT student dies after fight at party

AUSTIN (AP) — A University of Texas-Austin freshman has died after a fight with another student at a party.

Assault charges against the other student could be upgraded since Terrance McArdle, 28, died Saturday after spending days in critical condition at Brackenridge Hospital.

McArdle was injured on Oct. 7 while attending a party, according to Tracy Karol, sheriff's department spokeswoman.

University of Texas-San Antonio student Brandon Threet, 19, was charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, Karol said.

Witnesses say the two teens had challenged each other to begin hitting one another but in a joking manner.

McArdle was kicked in the head, Karol said.

PUBLIC EYE

Events held at Reed Arena last year totaling 383,384 people

297

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 3

Feel the burn

Rec Center offers personal trainers, tips on working out for health benefits

SPORTS

Page 7

Ags melt down in third quarter

A&M's second half spelled disaster

OPINION

Page 11

Knowledge in college of the vine

Programs focusing on the alcohol business a positive

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 69° F

LOW 48° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 73° F

LOW 41° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

DTD pledge fell asleep at wheel

By SOMMER BUNCE THE BATTALION

The driver of the Toyota SUV that crashed into a tree early Sunday morning fell asleep at the wheel, a Department of Public Safety (DPS) official said.

The crash killed the vehicle's two passengers, both students at Texas A&M and pledges in Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

Jonathan Steed, a sophomore political science major, fell asleep at the wheel of his vehicle three miles north of Giddings in Lee County on U.S. Highway 77. The SUV veered off the road to the right and struck a tree head on, said DPS Trooper Bruce Opperman.

Passengers Antonio Torres II, 18, a freshman business administration major from Mission, and 20-year-old Xavier Monge Ortega, a freshman agricultural economics major from Guayaquil, Ecuador, were killed.

Steed, from Amarillo, was transported to Brackenridge Hospital in Austin for treatment of minor injuries, and released.

There was no evidence of alcohol in the driver, and Torres and Monge Ortega were not tested, Opperman said. Torres and Monge Ortega were not wearing seatbelts, he said.

"This was a massive collision — it totaled out the vehicle," Opperman said. "By the time I arrived, EMS and Giddings Fire Department vehicles were already there."

Steed, also a Delta Tau Delta pledge, was at home with family in Amarillo on Monday, said Ann Goodman, associate director of student life at A&M.

The fraternity hosted a "chapter brotherhood retreat" on a ranch in Sealy Saturday, and Steed, Torres and Monge Ortega attended, Goodman said. The three chose to leave early Sunday morning, and that was the last the fraternity heard from them, she said.

Visitation services for Antonio Torres II will be held at the Virgil Memorial Chapel in Mission today from 1 to 5 p.m. A funeral mass will be held tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, also in Mission.

Provided by the Department of Student Life

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

"All members were present, and the advisers were aware of the retreat," Goodman said. "These gentlemen chose to leave earlier than the rest; maybe they wanted to get back to campus, do laundry and get ready for another week of classes."

See WRECK on page 10.

VPSA clarifies flag ban decision

By ROLANDO GARCIA THE BATTALION

In the wake of a public fervor, University officials reversed course Monday and announced that students living on campus will be allowed to hang American flags outside residence halls.

"There was a misinterpretation about the (Department of) Residence Life policy addressing safety," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland. "I want to make it clear that there is no prohibition against flying the American flag."

Residence Life rules prohibit students from hanging any objects from their windows because of concerns that students may injure themselves leaning out of upper level windows, but Southerland said he felt compelled to issue a "clarification" because of the widespread misunderstanding that the rule applies to the American flag.

"The American flag was the only object at issue, and I'm saying the American flag can be flown, but the policy still applies to all other objects," Southerland said.

Students hanging American flags from their windows must do so in a safe manner, Southerland said, and University personnel are available to assist them.

Southerland declined to comment further on his decision or how safety would be ensured.

"That's (safety) between Residence Life staff and students," Southerland said.

The flag controversy erupted after the Residence Hall Association (RHA), which represents on-campus residents, voted against a resolution at its Oct. 10 meeting requesting Residence Life make an exception and allow students to hang American flags from their windows. The resolution was derailed after opponents said it would be discriminatory to make an exception for the U.S. flag.

Chris Bernard, the RHA delegate who proposed the resolu-

See FLAGS on page 10.

Walking the line



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Emily Granath, a sophomore biomedical sciences major, makes her way through an obstacle high above the ground as her classmates wait below during a beginning venture dynamics class at the high rope challenge course Monday. Students are required to use teamwork to make it through the obstacles in a set amount of time.

StuAct recognizes competitive cheer squad

By MELISSA SULLIVAN THE BATTALION

30 members, 4 alternatives chosen Saturday

Texas A&M introduced a new student organization this year: the Fightin' Texas Aggie Competition Cheer Squad, founded by sophomore journalism major Shannan Johnson.

"I organized this even though there were already yell leaders because there are a lot of women and men on A&M's

campus who want to show their Aggie spirit the best way they know how — through competition cheerleading," Johnson said.

Preliminary tryouts for the 2001-2002 squad were held Oct. 13. Thirty squad members and four alternates were chosen.

Johnson said several people have voiced concerns that the squad wants to

take the place of the yell leaders.

"I know that there are certain people on the campus who are upset about the squad because they feel like we are a threat to the yell leaders," Johnson said. "We both have our own territory and neither of our paths will ever cross unless they want it to. Yell leaders don't jump, tumble, dance or cheer; hence the name yell leader."

Johnson said the Competition Cheer Squad had no intention of taking the yell leaders' places.

"They were here first, and they are part of the tradition of Texas A&M," she said.

The squad will represent Texas A&M at collegiate cheerleading competitions across the nation. They will compete in the National Cheerleading Association (NCA) competition and the American

See CHEER on page 10.

FHK residents to be displaced

By C.E. WALTERS THE BATTALION

More than 400 students will be looking for housing after Hughes and Keathley Halls are closed in December for renovations, Department of Residence Life officials said.

Residents were informed before moving into the halls that they would be required to leave after Fall 2001, said Mack Thomas, assistant director of Housing Assignments and Conference Services. While Hughes and Keathley residents are not guaranteed housing on campus in the spring, Thomas said he expects to find rooms for almost 300 of the residents.

Hughes and Keathley Halls, both part of the

FHK complex that was built in 1964 will be closed in December to undergo renovations that include replacing the air-handling systems in the halls, adding new first-floor study lounges and TV rooms, painting rooms, retiling floors and bathrooms, and new mattresses.

The renovations are "not something you can do with people around," Thomas said.

Fowler Hall will receive similar repairs in the Spring 2003 semester and will close its doors during the renovation period.

The majority of the students who will be displaced are freshmen, said Joseph Medina, FHK president and a sophomore business administration major.

"[Hall] representation will change because in

See FHK on page 10.

Child of ABC News employee infected

NEW YORK (AP) — The 7-month-old son of an ABC News producer has developed the skin form of anthrax after recently spending time in the newsroom, authorities and network officials said Monday.

The boy, the youngest of the four Americans diagnosed with the disease this month, is responding to antibiotics and is expected to recover, ABC News President David Westin said.

"The prognosis is excellent," he said.

ABC is the second major news organization in New York to report an anthrax case in the past three days. Authorities are also investigating a letter that apparently infected an NBC employee with the same form of anthrax last week. Like the boy, she is also expected to recover.

See ANTHRAX on page 2.