

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

SERVING THE TEXAS A&M COMMUNITY SINCE 1893

Volume 108 • Issue 45

College Station, Texas

www.thebatt.com



NEWS IN BRIEF

Red, White and Blue Out to sell posters, T-shirts

Posters of Kyle Field peeked out in red, white and blue at the Sept. 22 A&M-Oklahoma State game will be on sale at locations on campus today and Saturday.

Posters will be sold at the Memorial Student Center from noon to 5 p.m. today and will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday. Posters also will be on sale Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. at the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

The 17 by 20 inch full-color posters will be sold for \$5 each. The poster features the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band spelling out USA beneath the red, white and blue stands.

Beneath the main photo are additional views of the stands, T-shirt sales, a player's helmet bearing the American flag, a baby wearing stars and stripes and the football team, yell leaders and Reveille VII.

Funds raised from poster sales will be added to the relief funds raised by selling T-shirts for the Red, White and Blue Out. More than \$150,000 has already been raised for the relief effort.

PUBLIC EYE

Amount made from student athletic ticket sales each year \$3 million

TODAY
AGGIELIFE

Page 3
Battle of the Bands

• Five bands battle it out for the AMA competition

SPORTS
Page 7
Ags begin tough road with ISU

• Injured A&M up against tough ISU running game

OPINION
Page 9
Ease anthrax anxiety

• Public must be informed adequately about anthrax

WEATHER

TODAY	HIGH	80° F
	LOW	50° F
TOMORROW	HIGH	78° F
	LOW	48° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

2nd Bonfire lawsuit in two days

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

The family of Chad Powell, one of the 12 Aggies killed in the 1999 Bonfire collapse, sued five A&M administrators and 25 current and former students Wednesday.

The second Bonfire-related lawsuit in as many days, the petition, filed in Tarrant County, alleges that the named

administrators and students were negligent in permitting student participation in a hazardous activity and refusing to take the necessary precautions that would have prevented the collapse.

"A&M must accept responsibility for the conduct that caused the death of Chad Powell," said Geno Borchardt, a Fort Worth attorney representing Greg and Jill Powell, Chad Powell's parents. "They (administrators and students) failed to

carry out certain duties that would have prevented this tragedy from happening."

The defendants include A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland, Bill Kibler, the associate vice president for student affairs and Rusty Thompson, the Bonfire advisor. Also listed are more than two dozen "red-tops" and other student Bonfire leaders from 1998 and 1999 as well as Zachry

Construction Corp., which owned the crane operating at the stack site.

Texas A&M University is not a defendant, Borchardt said, because the Powells are hoping to avoid the financial liability cap on state agencies.

"There's an argument to be made that A&M only is liable for \$500,000 in damages that would be split among all the

See LAWSUIT on page 6.

Professor recounts days as CIA spy

By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN
THE BATTALION

For 31 years, Professor James M. Olson led a double life. He was a case officer in the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

While Olson and his wife, Meredith Olson, also an employee of the CIA, served in the CIA, their family did not know that they were intelligence spies.

"It becomes a way of life, living your cover, it seems natural, and you get good at it. We have to keep it a secret because we won't be an affective spy otherwise," Olson said. "It is also for safety reasons; it is a dangerous profession, and we will be targets because what we do is illegal in every other country."

Olson was born in LeMars, Iowa and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics from the University of Iowa. He continued on to receive his juris doctorate in international law and served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1996, where he earned the rank of lieutenant commander USNR.

Olson joined the CIA in 1969 and served for 31 years in mostly overseas undercover operations in Moscow, Vienna, and Mexico City. He served as an intelligence spy for the U.S. in Moscow for two years and Vienna for eight years during the Cold War.

"Working in Moscow was very difficult and very hostile. My wife and I were under constant surveillance," Olson said.

In Moscow, he served as deputy chief of station, he also served as chief of station in Vienna and Mexico City, and he was chief of counterintelligence at the CIA Headquarters. Olson speaks four languages in addition to English, including French, German, Russian and Spanish.

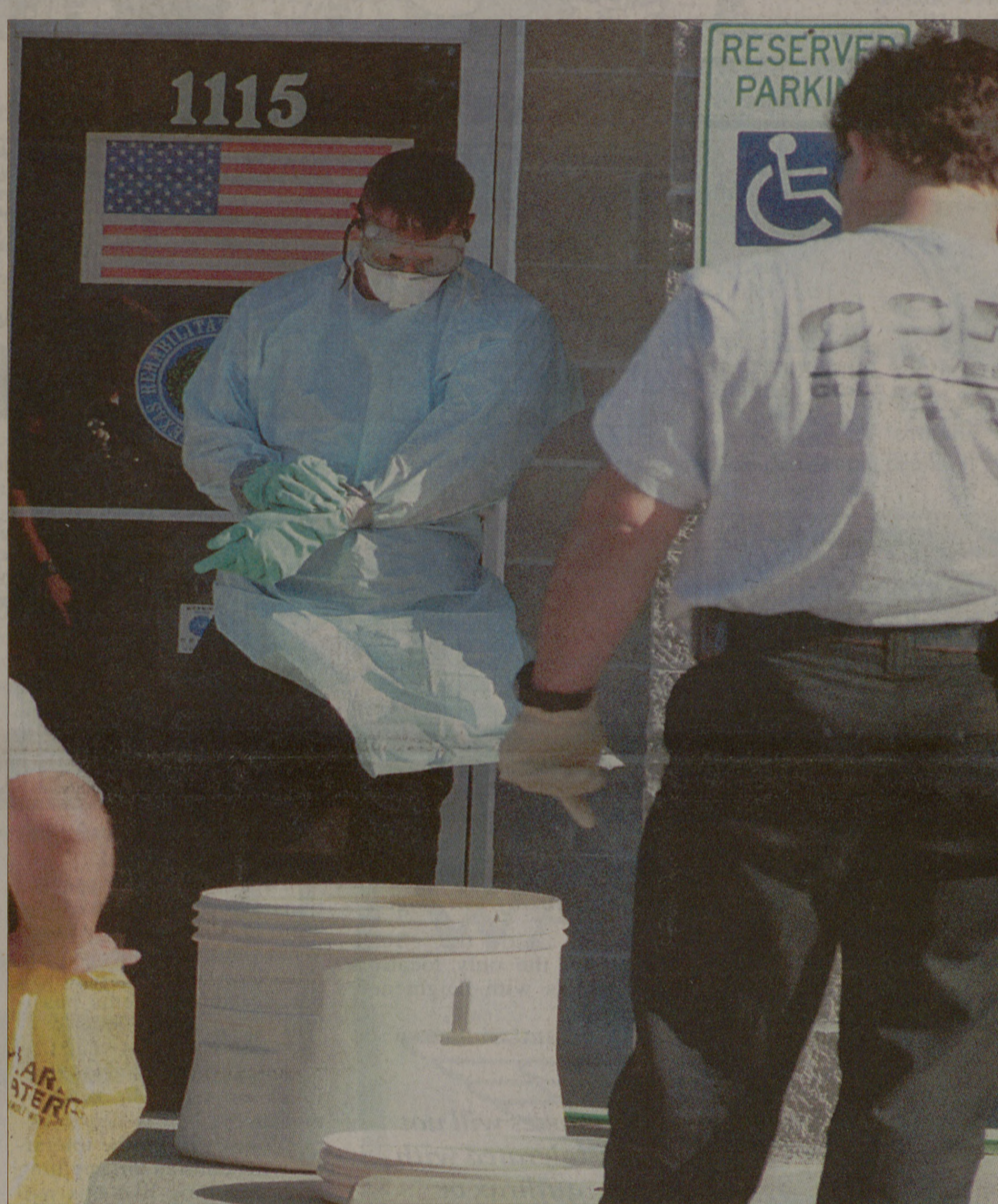
His extensive list of awards and recognitions include Recipient of the Intelligence Medal of Merit, the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, the CIA Medal of Honor, the Counterintelligence Excellence Medal, the Donovan Award and several other distinguished achievement awards.

His involvement as the chief of counterintelligence put him in contact with most major spy cases that involved the U.S., Olson said.

"During the Cold War, I worked with many courageous Russians who risked their lives, not for money, but because they believed in American values and believed in fighting against communism. I admire and respect them. Many were betrayed by Americans who reported them to the KGB and had them arrested and executed," Olson said. "That kind of betrayal in the CIA was very personal because they in effect murdered heroic Russians."

Olson said his career was very rewarding because he was defending the interests of the U.S. and those who believe in American values.

See OLSON on page 2.



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

College Station firefighter Chad Phillips suits up to remove a suspicious substance from the office of the Texas Commission for the Blind and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission on Welsh Avenue Thursday.

Employees find unknown substance

By JON NIVEN
THE BATTALION

Employees of the Texas Commission for the Blind and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission were evacuated from their offices in College Station Thursday afternoon when an employee noticed a white granular powder in a package of white copy paper.

The College Station Fire Department responded to the call at approximately 2:15 p.m. and immediately evacuated the 10 employees who

were in the building and sealed it off.

When the building was clear, fire fighters went in to retrieve the substance. They took a sample for testing and stored the rest of the material, said College Station Fire Department Public Information Officer Bart Humphreys.

"The call was handled like any other hazardous material call," Humphreys said. "We followed protocol for the response."

When the firefighters had the substance secure, they took precautions for their own safe-

ty. The department set up two plastic swimming pools in front of the building and filled them with a diluted bleach solution that was used to decontaminate the fire fighters.

The sample of the hazardous material the firefighters took was taken immediately to the Texas Veterinarian Medical Diagnostic Lab on the campus of Texas A&M University. It will take 72 hours to receive results from the tests.

The substance could be taken to the Texas Department

See SCARE on page 2.

Hobby backs public service

Former Lt. Gov. speaks at Forsyth

By MELISSA SULLIVAN
THE BATTALION

The best way to get involved in public service is to join a campaign, former Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby said in an address at the Forsyth Gallery Thursday night.

Hobby received his first major appointment to government office at the age of 27, serving as Senate parliamentarian and was elected lieutenant governor in 1972.

He won re-election in 1974, 1978, 1982, and 1986, serving longer than any lieutenant governor in Texas history.

"He usually gets what he wants," said Dr. Howard Balanhoff, a public service professor at Southwest Texas University. "He never cared about anything but what was best for Texas. He was re-elected because people trusted him and he trusted them."

Hobby was born in Houston and after graduating from Rice, served four years in the United States Navy.

Hobby has devoted his life to public service in his country, state and city as a naval officer, parliamentary expert, policy maker and an university regent, Balanhoff said.

"The biggest problem I see is revenue structure," Hobby said. "We have a state law which says we can't levy state taxes, although you have to in order to apply for state aid. So if it walks, looks and talks like a duck, then it is a duck."

Hobby said Texas in general is a poor state and ranks below the national average for income. He added that Texas has had governors and other officials who are "arithmetically challenged."

See HOBBY on page 2.

Bush Library has heightened security

By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN
THE BATTALION

The George Bush Presidential Library and Museum has heightened security and installed new security measures to ensure the safety of visitors, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Metal detectors and X-ray machines were installed Oct. 15 to examine bags, backpacks and purses, at the behest of the National Archives, which oversees the museum, said Brian Blake, director of public relations for the Bush library.

All packages entering any

facility, even those delivered by Federal Express and United Parcel Service also will be scanned, Blake said.

The University Police Department (UPD) increased the number of security officers assigned to the museum. There also is an increase in the number of unmarked units that frequently patrol the area, said Bob Wiatt, director of UPD.

"I am in contact, on a regular basis, with the FBI and all local law enforcements, and they are in contact with everyone else including the CIA," Wiatt said. "Anything that may

impact us, I will be notified and the information will be shared."

Also, the circle drive in front of the bush library is

blocked off at 5 p.m. to decrease traffic, Blake said.

See BUSH on page 2.

Added security at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

- Everyone entering the library and museum will have to go through metal detectors
- All packages that enter the building will be X-rayed
- Increase in the number of security guards patrolling the areas

Information provided by Bob Wiatt of UPD and Brian Blake, PR director for the Bush Library and Museum. CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION