

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

SERVING THE TEXAS A&M COMMUNITY SINCE 1893

Volume 108 • Issue 54

College Station, Texas

www.thebatt.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

Safety firm set to sign on for Bonfire 2002

Texas A&M's Bonfire 2002 planning group is one step closer to a deal with a safety firm, officials say.

The unnamed, New York-based safety firm should sign with the planning group Thursday or Friday, said Steering Committee Facilitator Bryan Cole. A safety firm is necessary for the work of Bonfire 2002 planners to continue.

The planning group was plagued by setbacks after two other safety firms backed out of negotiations this year.

Though the late sign-on will push back timelines for Bonfire planning, Cole said he is still optimistic about the possibility of Bonfire burning in Fall 2002.

Federal grand jury indicts man in anthrax hoax

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted William Oneal Holden of Fair Oaks, Texas, on Wednesday, accusing him of an anthrax hoax aimed at a person he had been feuding with.

Holden, 51, is charged with mailing a threatening communication.

Holden said the mailing was a joke.

Holden could face up to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for the federal offense. He remains free on \$50,000 bond.

PUBLIC EYE

Unemployment rates for Sept. 2001

Houston 5.6%

College Station 1.8%

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 3A

First comes love, then comes graduation

SPORTS

Page 1B

2001 Texas A&M Basketball

OPINION

Page 5B

Between the lines

• University Drive is a dangerous crossing

WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 80° F
LOW 57° F

TOMORROW
50% HIGH 67° F
LOW 48° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

Charges not filed in Tech mayhem

By BRADY CREEL
THE BATTALION

Lubbock County District Attorney Bill Sowder said Wednesday that he will not pursue criminal charges against fans involved in the Texas Tech-Texas A&M post-game brawl Saturday.

"You could conduct a five-month investigation and produce some proof on some folks, but I don't think the circumstances warrant that," Sowder said.

Sowder said Dr. Mike McKinney, chief of staff for Gov. Rick Perry and father of A&M senior center Seth McKinney, will not press charges against Reginald Wallace, the A&M student who hit McKinney in the eye. McKinney received eight stitches.

Sowder said Tech and A&M officials are conducting their own investigations, which are sufficient.

"We will leave it up to the institutions to handle it," Sowder said.

Dean of Student Life Dr. Dave Parrott is heading the A&M investigation. His focus is on the scuffle between McKinney and Wallace, a senior kinesiology major.

Wallace voluntarily spoke with Parrott Tuesday. Students who are forthcoming and open may be treated less harshly, Parrott said, but are not relieved from responsibility for their actions in the brawl.

Generally, in a situation involving a student's off-campus behavior, further investigation is recommended through Student Conflict Resolution Services, Parrott said he did not know whether this incident would warrant sending Wallace through that channel.

"It's too early to say distinctively where this will go," Parrott said. "The young man told me it was a situation that was emotional, he became involved in it and realized that his involvement was unwise. He's doing the honorable thing in coming forward."

Cindy Rugeley, vice chancellor for news and information at Tech, said Tech officials will be examining video tapes from Saturday's post-game melee and are asking students who were involved to come forward.

"So far, seven have," Rugeley said. "We anticipate a bunch more. I don't think any of this is going to lead to expulsions or suspensions."

Rugeley described Tech's investigation as "the most publicized investigation in the world."

"Part of the good that can come out of this is to serve as an educational function," Rugeley said.

Tech administrators are considering three levels of punishment, depending on students' levels of involvement: those who joined the crowd on the field, students who

See TECH on page 6B.

Electric light show



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

The carnival lights for more than 20 rides filled the sky above the Post Oak Mall parking lot Tuesday night. The Wrights Amusement carnival will host rides, games and other activities through Sunday night.

A&M student found dead

Cause of death unknown pending release of autopsy report

By MELISSA SULLIVAN
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student was found dead in his College Station apartment Oct. 30 after a friend reported she had not heard from him in days, College Station Police Department officials said.

Keith Alan Burr, 21, a sophomore physics major from Spring, Texas, may

have been dead for three or four days, said Lt. Rodney Sigler. Sigler said he could not comment on the cause of death pending the release of an autopsy report.

Burr's friend contacted the manager of the apartment complex at 1804 Yellowstone Circle. The manager entered the apartment and called the police when Burr's body was found.

"They walked in, and it was obvious he

was dead," Sigler said.

The Texas A&M Department of Student Life listed Burr's date of death as Oct. 25 or 26. Burr's mother, Janice, was not able to be reached for comment.

A memorial service was held Nov. 3 in The Woodlands, Texas, and a graveside service was held Monday.

Burr will be honored at the Dec. 4 Silver Taps.

RHA approves resolution supporting Bonfire 2002

By C.E. WALTERS
THE BATTALION

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) approved a resolution supporting Bonfire 2002 Wednesday at their general assembly. The motion was tabled on Oct. 24 so delegates could return to their halls to confer with residents.

The original proposal recommended that the Student Service Fee Advisory Board spend a budget surplus of \$1.1 million to fund Bonfire. Representatives debated on whether or not to amend the

proposition after it was discovered that the deadline for suggestions had passed and there was no possibility of the money being spent on Bonfire.

"This just makes us seem like we didn't get our stuff in in time, which we didn't," said RHA representative and freshman general studies major Amanda Ramos.

While some RHA members expressed concern that the proposal was not strongly worded enough, most felt that not passing the proposal would reflect negatively on RHA.

"I want no part in banning Bonfire," RHA

Technology Director Tom Payne said.

The amended legislation, with all money references deleted, passed with only one dissenting vote, cast by RHA Director of Community Outreach and sophomore business administration major Rachel Fulmer.

"I thought that we should wait for the results of a Bonfire survey before we passed a resolution," Fulmer said.

RHA began a survey of residents on their feelings about Bonfire 2002, specifically targeting freshmen,

See RHA on page 6B.

TKE will file appeal

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

The Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity will file an appeal this week against disciplinary sanctions taken by the University following an investigation into allegations of discrimination, hazing and alcohol violations.

Dean of Student Life Dr. Dave Parrott said the investigation was complete and disciplinary action is pending but declined to discuss the allegations or what penalties were levied against TKE.

Clay Cunningham, a former TKE pledge and junior political science major, filed a complaint in September with Student Life alleging he was removed from the fraternity because he is gay.

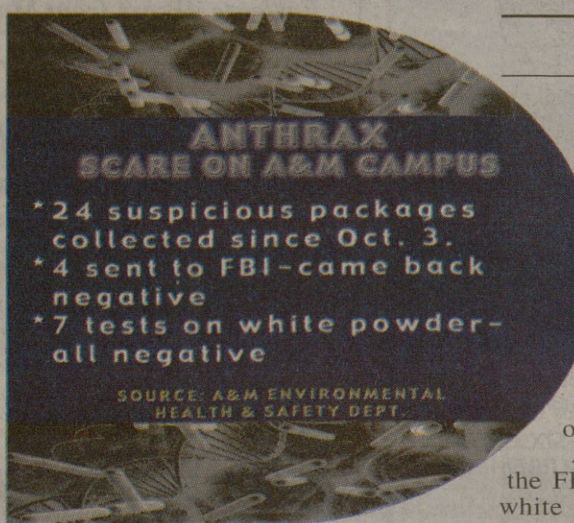
Cunningham said he was asked by TKE rush chairman Patrick Terramiggi if he belonged to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA), a campus organization.

"I told him that I was gay, and he said that if I was a member of TKE that it would ruin their organization," Cunningham said. "It would decimate their pledge class and make them look bad when

See TKE on page 2A.

A&M mail not exempt from anthrax scare

By SOMMER BUNCE
THE BATTALION



ANTHRAX SCARE ON A&M CAMPUS
* 24 suspicious packages collected since Oct. 3.
* 4 sent to FBI—came back negative
* 7 tests on white powder—all negative

SOURCE: A&M ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DEPT.

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

After the death of four people from anthrax in recent weeks, opening mail has left office and mailroom workers across the country cautious and fearful. The Texas A&M campus has not escaped that fear — 24 potentially anthrax-contaminated letters and packages have been given to A&M's Environment Health and Safety Department since the beginning of October, officials said.

All results on packages sent to the FBI for inspection and suspicious white powder sent to Austin's testing facilities have come back negative, said

Environmental Safety Assistant Manager Don Helton.

The University Police Department (UPD) received a phone call Wednesday morning reporting a suspicious package at the Office of the State Chemist. Senior secretary Lori Zboril said she alerted her supervisor when she came across a letter-sized envelope with no return address, the recipient's name misspelled and tape holding the envelope together.

"It was handwritten and very messy," Zboril said. "I didn't open it, but when I gave it to my supervisor, he said it said something about bin Laden."

Business manager Tommie Shrode opened the letter, removing the paper inside partway, and said he quickly determined it was not business-related. Shrode said there was no sign of any powder, just

See ANTHRAX on page 6B.