

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

**Man in custody after fleeing police in truck**

DALLAS (AP) — Officers were given the instruction to use deadly force against a driver of a stolen tractor-trailer who eluded authorities for more than 90 minutes by cutting across highways and weaving through neighborhood streets.

Along the way, the truck caught fire, sending billows of black smoke into the air and fiery tires rolling into traffic Wednesday afternoon. Because of the danger to motorists, police officials authorized tactical unit officers to shoot to kill to stop the man during the chase, said Dallas Senior Cpl. Chris Williams.

**Judge's decision on Exxon Valdezangers Alaskans**

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A federal appeals court's decision to throw out a \$5 billion punitive-damage verdict against Exxon stemming from the nation's worst oil spill sparked anger among Alaskan fishermen and prompted the governor to consider intervening. In its ruling Wednesday, the court said some damages were justified to punish the company for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, but decided the \$5 billion was excessive.

### PUBLIC EYE

**Number of citations given by PTTs in September**  
**10,017**

### TODAY

**AGGIELIFE**  
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• Geoff Spahr band comes to Harry's

### SPORTS

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**Ags down Team Ezybonds**  
• 96-78

### OPINION

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**The veil of secrecy**  
• MSC should not operate behind closed doors

### WEATHER

**TODAY**  
40% HIGH 67° F  
LOW 48° F  
**TOMORROW**  
20% HIGH 69° F  
LOW 48° F  
FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

## Bonfire safety firm chosen

### Turner Construction agrees to join planning of tradition for 2002

By SOMMER BUNCE  
THE BATTALION

New York-based Turner Construction agreed Thursday to provide safety services as part of the Bonfire 2002 planning team.

The signed contracts are going through Texas A&M reviewing boards and should have final approval Monday, said Bonfire 2002 Steering Committee Facilitator Dr. Bryan Cole. Assuming the A&M reviewing board signs the contract, Turner repre-

sentatives will meet with design firm CBM Engineers of Houston to review the 16 designs and present them to the steering committee, Cole said.

The steering committee will then choose six designs for the engineering and safety firms to concentrate on, and from those designs select three finalists for the student body to review. When students can view the designs will depend on how long Turner reviews the safety aspects of each design, Cole said.

If the safety firm completes its work and meets with the steering committee

before Thanksgiving, students will see the designs on the committee's Website beginning Nov. 26, Cole said. If the firm takes any longer, the designs will not be posted until the second week of January.

"If they can get it done safely and correctly within that amount of time, then we can proceed this semester," Cole said.

Students will have two to three weeks to review the designs either way, Cole said. Once students have had ample time for feedback, the steering committee will chose the final design for Bonfire.

University President Dr. Ray M.

Bowen is expected to consider the committee's recommended design and decide in January if Bonfire 2002 will become a reality. If it takes longer for the final design to be presented to Bowen, Cole said Bowen's decision and all the steps to implement the planning for Bonfire that would come after it would be delayed.

But Cole said he is optimistic now that a deal with Turner is pending.

Negotiations with Turner have taken more than a month to come to fruition.

See SAFETY on page 2.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Ball kicks off at Reed Arena

By GISELLE WALLACE  
THE BATTALION

More than 1,500 students are expected to celebrate Texas A&M's 125th anniversary in grand fashion at the 125th Birthday Ball.

Organized by the 125th student committee, the ball is part of an effort to include students in the year-long celebration of 125 years of A&M history.

"This dance will give students a chance to celebrate their school," said Veronica Saenz, chairperson of the 125th committee and a junior finance major. "There will be free admission to students, and the food is free also."

The ball, which will be held from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Reed Arena, requires tickets for admission, which are available at the MSC Box Office.

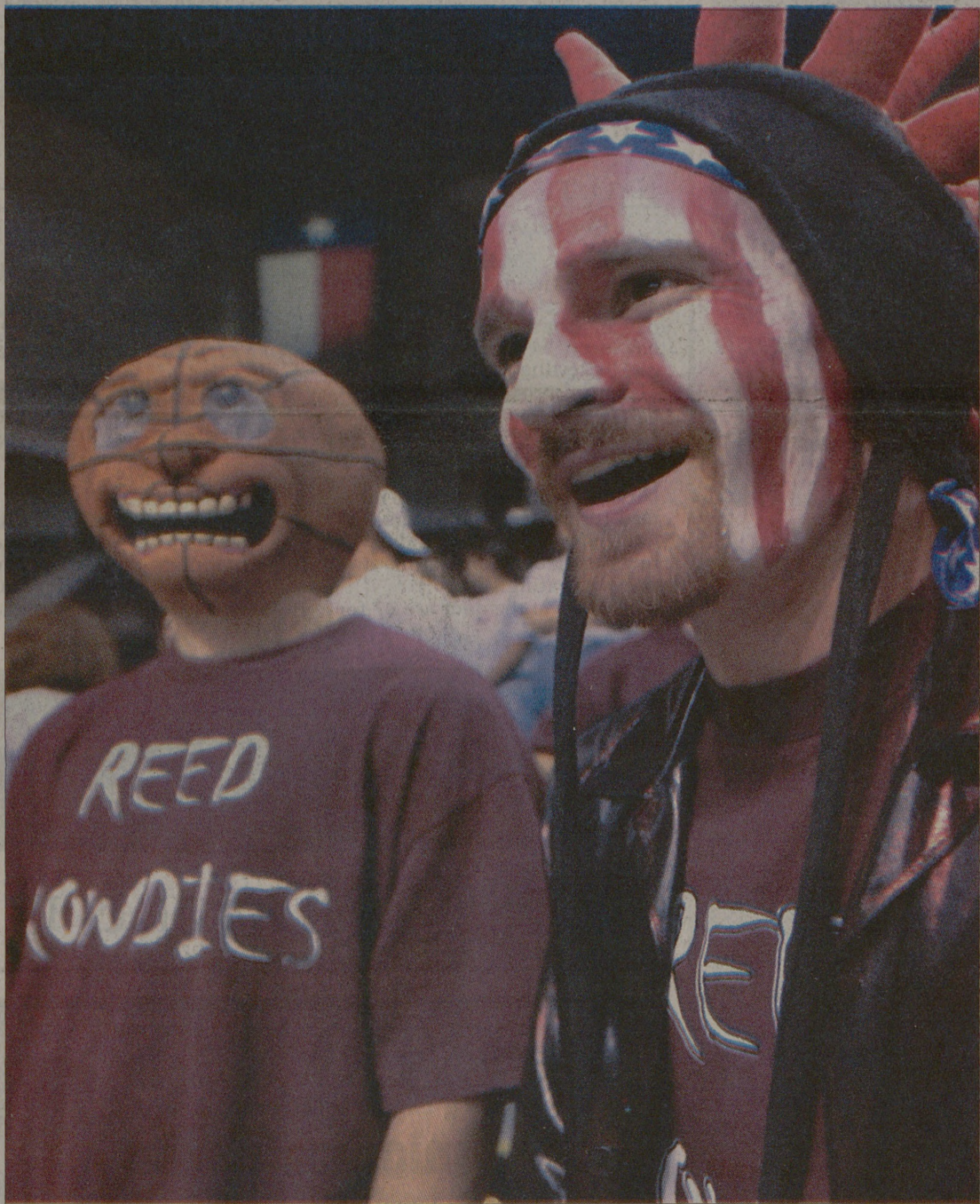
Students are advised to dress in semi-formal attire, which includes a black-tie option for men and cocktail dresses for women.

The ball's theme will be "Tradition of 125 years and the Future to Come," said Devin Howard, an organizer of the event and a senior accounting and finance major.

"There will be a speaker at the dance as well as a short video of the history of Texas A&M University," Howard said. "Artifacts will be displayed as well, including pictures of the Academic Building in its early years."

The dance will have two DJs, and the decorations will be maroon and white, Saenz said.

### Reed Rowdies



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Chris Hawkes, a senior journalism major (left) and Matthew Stubbs, a sophomore landscape architecture major, both Reed Rowdies, yell on the front row during the first half of the basketball game Thursday night. Texas A&M played Australia at Reed Arena. See Basketball story on page 5.

## 'Heroes' program to honor B-CS veterans

By MELISSA SULLIVAN  
THE BATTALION

With a combination of dancing, music and theater, the Brazos Valley Troupe and the city of Bryan will present "Heroes" in honor of American war veterans and Texas Task Force One Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Bryan Civic Auditorium.

Texas Task Force One is an urban search-and-rescue team based in College Station that participated in the recovery efforts in New York City last month.

The program not only coincides with Veterans Day, but is also the two-month anniversary of the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

"This promises to be one of the most fun-filled family activities ever in the Brazos Valley," said Mark Sterling, Brazos Valley Troupe artistic director. "It is a day to bind together, celebrate our country and honor those who have made it the great nation that it is today; those who put their life on the

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— Mark Sterling  
Brazos Valley troupe artistic director

## Texas A&M's Shooting Starr

By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Douglas P. Starr, a distinguished professor of journalism, has experienced a life full of journalism, military service and education — all while building a family with his wife Millie and his five children.

Starr came to A&M in 1986 as chairman of the Department of Journalism. He stepped down in 1998 to teach full time.

He focuses on teaching journalism students how to gather information, analyze facts and write the truth, Starr said.

### Douglas Starr landed happily in journalism

Starr received his bachelor degree from Louisiana State University and later earned his masters in 1970 and his doctorate in 1972 from Florida State University. He served in the Coast Guard Reserve for 20 years, served in World War II and the Korean War, and worked as a professional journalist for 15 years.

During World War II, he spent 21 months in the South Pacific, participating in bombardments, battles, landings and air raids while earning 13 battle stars. While serving in the Korean War, Starr fought in the Navy's longest siege, the Siege of Wonsan Harbor, earning two battle stars.

Starr said he has no regrets about his

service in the war, what he did or what he had to do.

Starr learned much of his journalism expertise through years of study and day to day experiences working as a newsman for The Associated Press in New Orleans, La., Jackson, Miss., and Tallahassee, Fla., as a copy editor for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a reporter for the North Baton Rouge Journal and Opelousas Daily World.

Starr worked as a journalist during some important historical time periods in the United States.

"I was in Mississippi when the Supreme Court outlawed segregated schools, and I was involved with a lot of friction from the blacks and the whites," Starr said. "It was a tough go-about all along, but it was a great time to be a reporter, because as a reporter

See STARR on page 2.



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