

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wood fire casts smoky pall over Houston, not smog

HOUSTON (AP) — The smoky haze that blanketed parts of Houston all weekend was not smog, but smoke from a wood mulching facility in northwest Harris County, which has been burning since last Tuesday.

The blaze at the 20-acre woodpile, which Harris County Fire Marshal Fred Windisch said is 60 to 80 feet deep in spots, was under control Sunday but continued to burn. The smoke, which resembled a thick fog in some parts of the Houston area throughout the weekend, was not considered toxic. However, it was an nuisance on what otherwise would have been a clear day, and it was recommended that people with breathing problems use caution.

Developments Sunday related to anthrax cases

- Trace amounts of anthrax discovered in five more Senate offices in the same building where letter containing the bacteria was opened Oct. 15.
- Decontamination crews clean another post office in the Trenton area, even though final results of anthrax tests there were incomplete.
- Postal officials move Washington's central post office to another building after finding widespread anthrax contamination.

PUBLIC EYE

Number of citations issued by PTTS for October 2000

11,545

TODAY AGGIELIFE

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Helping the Hungry
• A&M participates in National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week

SPORTS

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• Lack of offense spells disaster in 31-10 loss

OPINION

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'Sounds like Hell!'
• Aggies should sing first verse of 'War Hymn'

WEATHER

TODAY
HIGH 79° F
LOW 55° F

TOMORROW
HIGH 80° F
LOW 55° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

Top-10 policy for colleges same

By NONI SRIDHARA
THE BATTALION

As the College of Business, College of Architecture and College of Engineering at Texas A&M continue to grow, the University is not revising a policy that guarantees the top 10 percent of high school seniors automatic admission into their first college of choice.

Under Texas law, all public universities must admit those students ranking in the top 10 percent of their graduating class.

However, the law does not specify that students must be allowed into the college of their choice.

Recently, the Red McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas-Austin (UT) became the first of the university's colleges to break away from the policy, and more recently, the UT College of Communications followed suit, according to an Oct. 23 article in *The Daily Texan*.

Joseph A. Estrada, associate provost for enrollment at Texas A&M, said that although there is

some concern about A&M's larger colleges, students in the top 10 percent of their high school class will still be admitted into their college of choice.

"We are a little bit concerned about the College of Architecture and College of Business having the top 10 percent dominate the college," Estrada said. "We are closely monitoring these numbers, but at this level or juncture, we are not going to make any changes to this rule."

See PERCENTAGES on page 2.

Percentage of students admitted under Texas top-10 percent law

College of Architecture	80
College of Engineering	70
College of Business	70

Source: Associate Provost for Enrollment

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Wings



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Visitors at Wings Over Texas, an exhibition of remote-controlled model aircraft, inspect some of the planes participating in this year's show. Model enthusiasts from across the state brought their planes, some worth thousands of dollars, to the Hearne Municipal Airport to show off their skills as craftsmen and pilots.

1 year later: Bush won

(AP) — A vote-by-vote review of untallied ballots in the 2000 Florida presidential election indicates George W. Bush would have narrowly prevailed in the partial recounts sought by Al Gore, but Gore might have reversed the outcome — by the barest of margins — had he pursued and gained a complete statewide recount.

Bush eventually won Florida, and thus the White House, by 537 votes out of more than 6 million cast. But questions about the uncounted votes lingered.

Almost a year after the cliffhanger conclusion, a media-sponsored review of the more than 175,000 disputed ballots underscored that the prize of the U.S. presidency came down to an almost unimaginably small number of votes.

The new data, compiled by The Associated Press and seven other news organizations, also suggested that Gore followed a legal strategy after Election Day that would have led to defeat even if it had not been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Gore sought a recount of a relatively small portion of the state's disputed ballots while the review indicates his only chance lay in a course he advocated publicly but did not pursue in court — a full statewide recount of all Florida's untallied votes.

See BALLOTS on page 2.

Senate resolution could be repealed

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

The Bonfire resolution passed by the Student Senate Oct. 31 is in limbo after opponents of the resolution filed a complaint alleging supporters violated procedures in bringing the resolution to a vote.

The resolution reaffirmed students' support for Bonfire and urged A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen to do everything necessary to ensure Bonfire burns next year.

"It's pretty shady when a group like Pro Traditions can railroad its agenda through without regard to senate rules," said Paul Jackman, a senator and senior aerospace engineering major, who filed the complaint

with the Student Government Association Judicial Court.

The judicial court held a hearing Nov. 7 to consider Jackman's allegations and senate officers' responses, and it will reach a decision Tuesday. If the court finds senate procedures were violated, the resolution can be repealed.

See SENATE on page 10.

A&M conserves millions in energy expenditures

By JUSTIN SMITH
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M recently has formed a committee on energy conservation to combat the rising cost of natural gas and electricity.

Chairing the group will be

Dr. Ronald Haden, dean of the College of Engineering, but the committee includes members from organizations and departments across the University.

"We have only had one meeting so far, but our objective will be to not only save the University money, but do it in a healthy and

safe way," said Chris Meyer, director of the environmental health and safety department.

Charles Sippial, vice president of administration, said the University has already begun implementing conservation measures with a continuous commissioning program in that buildings

across campus are examined for inefficient energy usage.

"There hasn't been a building we have checked out which we weren't been able to make it run at least 10 percent more efficiently," said John Bryant, a program leader and construction science professor.

These changes have already resulted in a savings of \$10 million to \$12 million and only cost about \$500,000 to implement, Bryant said.

Bryant said sometimes a thorough cleansing of the system and keeping doors closed

See ENERGY on page 10.

Women's soccer wins Big 12

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Linsey Johnson scored the game-winning goal as the No. 8 Texas A&M soccer team beat the No. 11 Texas Longhorns 1-0 on Sunday to claim the 2001 Big 12 Soccer Championship.

Johnson's goal broke what was a defensive battle between A&M and the Big 12 regular-season champion Longhorns and earned her the Offensive Most Valuable Player award for the tournament.

The goal came on an unusual play. Senior midfielder Michelle Royal fielded a UT clear and took a shot at the UT goal. Her shot bounced off

the crossbar, directly to Johnson at the edge of the goal area. Johnson kicked it immediately and her shot also hit off the bottom of the crossbar. However, the ball fell just inside the goal line to put the Aggies ahead.

"I was just in the right place at the right time, I guess," Johnson said. "It was real exciting, and I think it helped ease a lot of pressure."

Despite scoring the winning goal, Johnson gave credit to the A&M defense for holding UT scoreless.

"The initial shot was a pretty good shot," said Texas head coach Chris Petrucelli. "When it goes off the bar, who knows what is going to happen and they got on to it first."

See SOCCER on page 10.

Afghan opposition claims Taliban in full retreat north

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan (AP) — Opposition forces claimed to have the Taliban on the run across much of northern Afghanistan on Sunday, as the ruling Islamic militia abandoned stronghold after stronghold in a withdrawal south toward the capital, Kabul.

The foreign minister of the northern alliance, Abdullah, claimed the opposition had seized half the country in the past two days and dealt the Taliban a severe blow as a fighting force. U.S. officials warned that a counterattack was possible.

As Taliban fighters fled south, President Bush urged the opposition not to take Kabul before a new, broad-based government could be formed.

However, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld acknowledged

See RETREAT on page 2.