

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Faculty Senate suggests degree program changes

The Faculty Senate recommended several curriculum changes to undergraduate and graduate programs in several colleges Monday.

The senate recommended new undergraduate courses in aerospace engineering, biomedical engineering, mechanical engineering and dance.

If approved by Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, civil engineering will withdraw seven undergraduate courses and mechanical engineering will drop five.

There would be six new graduate-level agricultural economics classes, in addition to new classes in computer science, geology and civil engineering.

A new College of Education degree plan was also recommended. This plan will provide a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies as well as math and science specialization with a middle-grades teaching certification.

Committee narrows Bonfire designs

By SOMMER BUNCE THE BATTALION

In a closed meeting Monday afternoon, the Bonfire 2002 Steering Committee met with representatives from Turner Construction and CBM Engineers and narrowed the 16 potential Bonfire designs to six.

The six designs will be studied by safety consultants from Turner, who will return to campus next Tuesday to share a progress report with the committee. After Turner has examined the construction, safety and cost elements of each proposed

design, the steering committee will choose the three most viable designs and post them on their Website for student review, possibly by Nov. 26.

After students have had a chance to provide feedback, the steering committee will meet again and choose the final design to present to Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen. Depending on how long Turner reviews the safety aspects of the designs, Bowen could announce as soon as Jan. 15 if Bonfire will burn in 2002, said steering committee facilitator Bryan Cole in a previous interview.

Steering committee member Robert

Strawser, an accounting professor, said five of the 16 designs CBM presented to the committee did not meet Bowen's parameter that all logs must touch the ground. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, said that the designs were rough at this point.

"Talking about the designs would be premature now," said Kibler, who stood in for Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland at Monday's meeting. "The designs are still too rough to do justice in describing. When [Turner]

See BONFIRE on page 2.

POSSIBLE TIMELINE FOR BONFIRE 2002 DESIGN
Nov. 26 - Student viewing of 3 final designs
Dec. 15 - Steering Committee chooses 1 design
Jan. 15 - Bowen decides on design for Bonfire 2002

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION

Bush: WW II created legacy



By CHRISTINA HOFFMAN THE BATTALION

The notion that Americans should never take for granted the freedoms of the United States stands out as the greatest legacy of World War II, said former President George Bush Monday.

Bush and nationally acclaimed author and historian Stephen Ambrose were keynote speakers Monday at the conference titled "World War II and Its Legacy." The conference is sponsored by the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation and will continue today.

Ambrose talked about the air war out of Italy during World War II that involved the B-24 bombers and what the legacy of World War II can teach Americans. The air war in Italy has been criticized as unnecessary, but it played a critical role in saving the world, Ambrose said.

"It's a widely stated charge that big bombers were a waste, maybe small fighters should have been used," Ambrose said. "What the allies did was critical to victory."

Ambrose said it was a strategic bombing campaign because it exhausted German oil production, damaged German transportation and forced Germany to use more manpower for repair rather than leave men available for ground forces.

World War II showed that the American spirit could accomplish victory and make the world a better place, Ambrose said. He exemplified the American spirit with stories about the Navaho Indians, Japanese-Americans, African-Americans and others

See SPEECH on page 2.

Flight 587 crashes in NYC



WILLIAM C. LOPEZ • AP

A New York City firefighter walks by the remains of a car and house that were destroyed in a fire caused by the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 Monday in the Queens borough of New York City.

The jetliner crashed minutes after take off en route to the Dominican Republic, landing in the waterfront neighborhood, engulfing homes in flames.

Jetliner plows through Queens, destroying homes



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

NEW YORK (AP) — A jetliner en route to the Dominican Republic broke apart minutes after takeoff and crashed in a waterfront neighborhood Monday, engulfing homes in flames and sowing initial fears of a new terrorist atrocity. All 260 people aboard were killed, and at least six others were reported missing on the ground.

"All information we have

currently is that this is an accident," said Marion Blakey, chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board. If there was an explosion on the plane — and many witnesses heard one — it was probably caused by a catastrophic mechanical failure, investigators said.

American Airlines Flight 587, a European-made Airbus A300, left Kennedy Airport at 9:14 a.m., 74 minutes late

because of security checks put in place after the World Trade Center attack, according to American Airlines chairman Don Carty. It took off into a clear blue sky.

Three minutes later, it spiraled nose-first into the Rockaway Beach section of Queens — a middle-class neighborhood, 15 miles from Manhattan, that had lost

See CRASH on page 5.

Hockey team wants ice in Expo center

By ROB PHILLIPS THE BATTALION

The proposition of an ice-skating facility at the \$18 million Brazos County Exposition Center received favorable response from panelists and area residents at a public forum Monday night.

Last November, voters approved funding to build the Expo center. One possibility on the ballot was building

an ice skating rink inside the center. Dr. Charles Wiggins, a political science professor at Texas A&M, began organizing potential rink users in the community, forming the Brazos Ice Coalition. Wiggins also organized Monday night's forum.

Wiggins raised public support for building a sole-purpose ice facility while a professor at Iowa State University in the 1970s. He said believes that an interest in

hockey should be taken advantage of in Bryan-College Station.

"There's a lot of potential users in town," Wiggins said. "We've just got to provide them with a facility and then develop the program."

The new ice facility would be a convenient location for potential users such as the A&M Department of Health and Kinesiology, the University's Student

See ICE on page 5.

B-CS groundbreaking held for veterans complex, memorial

By C.E. WALTERS THE BATTALION

As the American military continued its war on terrorism Monday, veterans of past wars were honored during recognition of Veterans Day.

Bryan and College Station city officials shoveled the first dirt during

Monday's groundbreaking ceremony for the Veterans Park and Athletic Complex and Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial.

The city of College Station originally bought the 130 acres of land with a bond, renamed the land Veterans Park and donated 12 acres for a monument in the park. Craig Carter, president of the

Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial Committee, said the veterans' memorial is a much-needed addition to the Brazos Valley.

"In 1997, I was asked to dedicate a Vietnam monument in Indiana," Carter said. "When I came back, I realized we didn't have a war memorial."

The selection of a monument was

similar to the process that will lead to the selection of a Bonfire memorial, said P. David Romei, chairman of the design committee. More than 100 contestants entered designs that were narrowed down to 10 and then three. The final three contestants were each given \$4,000 to work on their design.

See MEMORIAL on page 2.

PUBLIC EYE

The Department of Recreational Sports is the largest student employer on campus with 1,100 students

1,100 students

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

Page 4

Achoo!

• Students battle finals, sickness

SPORTS

Page 7

Where did all the offense go?

• Aggies in search of production

OPINION

Page 11

Get off the warpath

• Texas school districts should change offensive mascot names

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 78° F LOW 58° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 78° F LOW 58° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com