

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Ticket distribution for UT game on regular schedule**

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, student tickets for the Nov. 23 football game against the University of Texas will be drawn this week. Seniors picked up tickets Monday, juniors Tuesday, sophomores pull today, freshmen Thursday and classes Friday. The ticket office is open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

**Remembrance of Bonfire '99 on display in Forsyth**

A 1999 Aggie Bonfire pictorial remembrance goes on display at Forsyth Center Galleries in the Memorial Student Center today and will be open for viewing through Nov. 23. Sponsored by the USC, Student Government Association and the Corps of Cadets, the display will showcase photographs, books, magazines and videos from the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse and the public reaction to it, as well as a history of the 90-year-old tradition. Visitors to the exhibit will also have the opportunity to share written comments.

## PUBLIC EYE

In 1999-2000, more than **5 million** students nationally borrowed **\$40 billion** for college. That's three times the amount of 1990. Source: USNews.com

## TODAY

**AGGIELIFE**  
Page 3  
**When Harry met Aggies**

• Harry Potter craze hits students, teachers and theaters in B-CS

## SPORTS

Page 5  
**Ags await UT in 'second season'**

• After OU loss, Aggies look for better bowl bid

## OPINION

Page 11  
**RED CROSSING the line**

• Red Cross should have donated more money to victims' families

## WEATHER

TODAY  
HIGH 78° F  
LOW 58° F  
TOMORROW  
HIGH 78° F  
LOW 58° F  
FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

# ResLife probes renegade Bonfire

By BRANDIE LIFFICK  
THE BATTALION

Rumors of a possible off-campus Bonfire built by residents of Hotard Hall were investigated by the Department of Residence Life, said Ronald Sasse, director of Residence Life. "We have heard various rumors and went to the hall staff," Sasse said. "They spoke with residents, and came back and told us that there was no such thing going on. We have to trust what they tell us." As a result of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, which killed 11 students and one

former student, Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen announced that Bonfire would be postponed until November 2002. "My decision is based on the simple truth," Bowen said in a press conference

*"We just have to trust what they tell us."*

— Ron Sasse  
director of Residence Life

in June 2000. "I will do what is best for the University and its students. I will do what is right, even though my decision could be judged as tough on the students."

A group composed of both current and former students, Keep The Fire Burning (KTFB), was formed last fall in response to Bowen's decision. KTFB announced that they were planning an off-campus Bonfire.

University officials, the Student Senate and other student organizations openly denounced the group's intentions. "The University will do everything in its power to stop students from taking

this course of action," said Cynthia Lawson, executive director of University Relations, in a released statement. "We are doing everything we can to educate the students and discourage them from becoming involved in this effort."

In October 2000, KTFB cancelled plans for a November Bonfire. Founding member Will Clark said the group ran out of time to find an insurance company to cover workers and they also lacked financial backing.

"We were just going till we couldn't go anymore," Clark said in a January 2001 interview. "And God knows we wanted to build this thing."

## Bush, Putin to meet in Waco

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — President Bush, back at his beloved ranch for the first time in two months, said Tuesday he could not wait to give Russian President Vladimir Putin "a taste of rural life here in Texas."

That taste was shaping up to be more like a heaping plateful, as Bush planned to give his Russian counterpart the full treatment on his 1,600-acre ranch — a tour of its seven canyons and creeks on his four-wheel-drive John Deere "Gator," and a chuck-wagon dinner of meat and potatoes and pecan pie.

"I can't wait for him to get to see Texas," Bush told local TV reporters after Air Force One touched down in his home state.

The president and First Lady Laura Bush came straight from the president's several hours of White House talks — on the war, nuclear arms cuts, missile defense and more — with Putin and the Russian delegation.

Bush said the dialogue on these things will continue.

See BUSH on page 2.

## Remembering a tragedy



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION  
Forsyth Center Galleries Curator and Registrar Cory Arcaek and Student Body President Schuyler Houser look through Bonfire memorabilia to use in the presentation and design of the Bonfire Pictorial Remembrance. It will be on display in Forsyth from Nov. 14 to Nov. 23.

## Northern alliance overtakes Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghans brought their radios out of hiding and played music in the streets, savoring the end of five years of harsh Taliban rule as the northern alliance marched triumphantly into Afghanistan's capital Tuesday. Diplomats sought U.N. help in fashioning a government for the shattered country.

American jets still prowled the skies in the south, seeking out convoys of Taliban fighters retreating toward Kandahar, the Islamic militants' last major stronghold. Strikes also targeted caves where members of terror suspect Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network were thought to be hiding.

Alliance troops celebrated the capture of the prize they had been fighting for since they were driven out by the Taliban in 1996. A small number of U.S. troops were on hand to advise them.

The dizzying cascade of events in Afghanistan turned the opposition into the country's chief power overnight — and brought to the forefront the issue of ensuring that it shares power. The United States and its allies want a government that includes groups the ethnic minorities that make up the alliance and the Pashtuns, the country's largest ethnic group.

The alliance leaders said they had deployed 3,000 security troops across Kabul to bring order — not to occupy it — and insisted they were committed to a broad-based government.

The alliance foreign minister, Abdullah

See KABUL on page 6.

## Morales seeking Democratic Senate bid

AUSTIN (AP) — Victor Morales, the high school geography teacher who drove his white pickup truck to a stunning primary victory in 1996, formally announced his new campaign for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, joining a growing Democratic field.

"I still have my truck," he said of the Nissan that now has 230,000 miles on it. "It wasn't a gimmick. I drive it now because it's totally paid for. Fiscal conservative."

The grandson of Mexican immigrants, Morales was the state's first Hispanic U.S. Senate candidate in 1996.

He waged a populist campaign and waylaid the political establishment with his upset win over U.S. Rep. John Bryant of Dallas. He went on to lose to Republican Sen. Phil Gramm but captured 44 percent of the vote against the seasoned incumbent. He also waged a losing campaign for Congress in 1998.

Gramm is resigning at the end of the

current term.

Morales is just one of several Democrats on an already crowded Senate ballot. Former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk is among the favorites, with U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen of Houston and former Attorney General Dan Morales also planning campaigns. Austin attorney Ed Cunningham already has announced he is running in the primary.

See MORALES on page 2.

## Anthrax found in eight State Department locations

Officials say letter is assumed to be in mail rooms or pouch bags, will be found

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials said Tuesday they believe an anthrax-filled letter that has yet to be found sickened a State Department mail handler, a theory bolstered by traces of anthrax in eight spots in the building where he worked.

The State Department said it would begin hunting through three weeks' worth of unopened mail, searching for a letter that could advance the anthrax investi-

gation. It was not clear why that search had not yet begun, given that health officials have long suspected that an undiscovered letter was to blame.

"We have to assume that, one, there is a contaminated letter of some kind in our system, and second of all, that we will eventually find it in one of these mail rooms or pouch bags," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

More than two weeks ago, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said it was a virtual certainty that another letter was lurking undiscovered. But on Tuesday, the State Department said it did not begin looking sooner for another letter because officials were not yet convinced one existed.

For its part, the FBI said it did not press for a quicker search because it doubts that a letter will be found even once they start looking, an assumption disputed by both the State Department and the CDC.

Also Tuesday, the last of six people to survive inhalation anthrax came home after 25 days in a suburban Washington hospital. Leroy Richmond, a postal worker at the city's contaminated central facility, said he was

See ANTHRAX on page 6.

## Greenspan receives award from Enron

(AP) — Maybe they will call it the Dinegy Prize next time.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was in Houston on Tuesday night to pick up the Enron Prize for Distinguished Public Service, an award named for the teetering energy company that is being bought by rival Dinegy Inc. for about \$9 billion.

At one point, Greenspan expounded on the values of ethicalism to the Rice University crowd while CEO Ken Lay, whose company has been blasted on Wall Street for concealing transactions with entities run by the company's chief financial officer, looked on.

"My experience is that it really works to be as ethical as possible as one knows and to define one's values in a very succinct and important way," Greenspan said when asked by a pending college graduate about venturing into the work world.

Lay, in his first major public appearance since the merger announcement, was met with warm applause and made some brief congratulatory remarks.

No mention was made of Enron's current woes or Lay's decision earlier in the day to waive about \$60 million he would be due as the merger closes.

Past winners of the Enron Prize, awarded by the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice, include Colin Powell, Nelson Mandela and Mikhail Gorbachev.