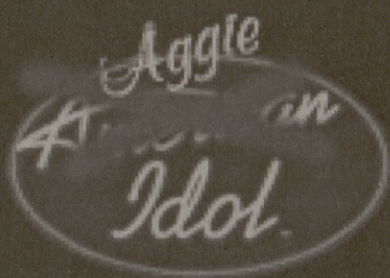


The place to be  
this Friday for

Do YOU HAVE  
WHAT IT TAKES?



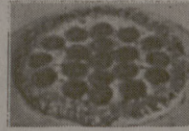
Become the first *Aggie Idol*  
and win \$300, plus a special  
guest appearance singing at  
MSC Town Hall's Variety  
Show on Parent's Weekend!

The contest begins at 9:30pm in the  
flagroom, come early to sign in.



FREE PIZZA

in the 12th Man  
starting at 9pm



midnight drawing for \$250  
must be present to win

For more information contact 845-1515

FRIDAY NIGHT

FEBRUARY 21

IN THE MSC

IN THE BASEMENT

9PM TILL 1AM

Free Bowling

Free Billiards

Free Dance  
Dance Revolution

Free Popcorn  
& Soda

Arts & Crafts

Must  
Show  
A&M ID  
at  
Check-in  
locations  
around the  
MSC

## Kentucky factory fire injures 26

By Roger Alford  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORBIN, Ky. — An explosion and fire at a southern Kentucky insulation factory injured 26 workers Thursday morning, at least 11 of them critically.

Firefighters continued to battle the blaze for several hours before fire officials announced that 95 percent of the blaze had been contained.

The cause of the explosion at CTA Acoustics was not immediately known; state labor inspectors were being sent to the site.

Authorities shut down a 13-mile stretch of nearby Interstate 75 for about an hour because of concerns that smoke from the plant contained hazardous chemicals.

But Jim Tomaw, legal counsel for CTA in Corbin, said there were no hazardous chemicals in the plant, which makes acoustical and thermal insulation products for the industrial and automotive industries.

"We don't feel there is any great danger to the public," said Joe Bradshaw, emergency management director for Knox County.

Tomaw said 150 of the company's 561 employees were in the plant at the time of the explosion, which happened near an oven where raw fiberglass is manufactured.

"Everybody saw a huge fireball, and everybody started running out," said CTA worker Roger Bales. "There was smoke and dust everywhere."

All of the employees were accounted for, said Elizabeth Ash, a spokeswoman for the Madison Heights, Mich.-based company.

The injured, many with severe burns, were taken to at least five hospitals in the region.

Dr. George Liu, a general surgeon at Baptist Regional Medical Center in Corbin, said at least eight of the injured had burns on more than 80 percent of their bodies.

"We prepare as physicians for disasters — I have never seen this," Liu said. "The best thing people can do is pray for these people."

The Corbin hospital had received at least 15 patients, and said 11 were in critical condition. Some were being transferred to burn centers at the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington and Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Baylor student indicted for murder

WACO, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against a former Baylor University student accused of killing his parents and 17-year-old brother.

Ryan James Frazier, 19, once an Eagle Scout, was indicted on a capital murder charge Feb. 11. The Victoria County District Attorney's Office on Wednesday filed a notice seeking capital punishment.

Firefighters found the bodies of Daniel Frazier, 53; Sally Frazier, 50; and John Michael Frazier, 17, on Dec. 13 in their Mission Valley home, about 10 miles northwest of Victoria.

Preliminary autopsy results showed that they and the family dog were stabbed to death before the house was set on fire.

Ryan Frazier was arrested a few days later. He remains jailed in Victoria County in lieu of a \$1 million bond.

this Sunday, February 23rd at 11am  
at the First Baptist Church of Bryan...



When the Fork  
in the Road  
Forks Again  
-making Decisions  
of Integrity

Visit [www.fbcbyran.org](http://www.fbcbyran.org)  
for more info on the GAP class,

for Graduate Students & Young Professionals.  
...a part of Compass Ministries to young single adults

### In response to Nicholas Neumann's 2/18/2003 article.

College Station, TX February 20, 2003: The Texas A&M University Residence Hall Association (RHA) was shocked and chagrined by Nicholas Neumann's opinion article. RHA wishes to clarify any fallacies or misconceptions that Mr. Neumann placed in his article.

Mr. Neumann alleges that the internal matters that RHA has passed this year are "unimportant". However, in order for an organization such as RHA to grow, administrative measures are not only necessary, but are crucial. The story of the passed resolution this semester is a perfect example of RHA representing on-campus students. The resolution to release students from classes for Muster began in a Hobby Hall Council meeting. There, a student voiced concern of not being able to attend Muster due to a late lab. This concern was voiced by the Hobby Hall president in a resolution that is currently on its way to President Gates.

Mr. Neumann stated that the RHA Board of Directors (BOD) "contains more than 20 positions." This is absurd. There are exactly thirteen appointed BOD positions listed in our bylaws. There was a resolution concerning removing voting rights from the BOD, which Mr. Neumann alleges "failed because those who would have had their voting rights removed voted on the resolution." The Directors' vote was divided; furthermore, voting records show that even if the BOD had not voted, the bill would not have passed.

The business casual dress code was received well by a majority of the Residence Halls. However, RHA feels this issue was exhaustively discussed last semester, and was only brought up in the article to stir up waters long since passed over.

Mr. Neumann is correct in the statement that RHA is "an appropriate forum" for on-campus residents to voice their opinions and concerns. He claims this is not happening. The example of the Muster legislation proves that his claim is untrue. Individual Hall Councils have the responsibility to bring the concerns and opinions of their residents to the General Assemblies to notify RHA of those concerns. RHA has been working with each hall individually through roundtable discussions, liaisons, and Presidential Dinners to aid them in this responsibility. It is hardly RHA's fault for a lack of legislation.

RHA has represented the on-campus population on the Fall Activities Council, Student Advisory Board to the Vice President of Administration, and the Student Leadership Advisory Council, to name a few. Furthermore, RHA's right to request that a hall council's account be frozen is well justified. If a Hall Council is not active within RHA and the on-campus community, why should they receive funds from that community?

Mr. Neumann alleges that if a Hall Council does not send two delegates to Exec-N-Rec, a leadership retreat, "it faces the penalty of not being a recognized student organization next year." This statement is ludicrous. Student Activities offers many opportunities for student organizations to attend the appropriate meetings to be recognized. The purpose of Exec-N-Rec is not recognition, but to develop leadership skills and increase networking between Hall Councils. This allows Hall Councils to put on better programs. Also, if Mr. Neumann, or any Battalion reporter, was at the RHA General Assembly on February 12th, they would have learned that RHA is taking a large financial burden by subsidizing the cost of the expected 150 attendees by \$10 per person.

RHA does in fact serve the residence halls, even Clements Hall. If Mr. Metcalf cannot recall a single thing RHA has done for his hall, he need only look at last year's RHA Hall of the Year plaque presented to Mr. Neumann's Hall Council. Also, resolutions concerning Keathley Beach and the green space behind Clements were passed by RHA, and those concerns were carried to the administration. That is representative government. That is what RHA is all about.

John Casares '03 - RHA President

Guy Faith '04 - RHA Vice President of Administration

Suzanne Hill '02 - RHA Vice President of Operations

Chris Mahaffey '04 - RHA Vice President of Relations

Rex Williams '03 - RHA Vice-President of Programs