

# THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

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## Area trains for possible attacks

By Karen Yancey  
THE BATTALION

The cities of College Station and Bryan, Brazos County and Texas A&M held a mock scenario Tuesday as part of their first emergency response drill involving weapons of mass destruction.

As part of the drill, organizers held a press conference dealing with a suspected case of smallpox at the Hilton Hotel in College Station.

Preparations for the mock scenario included the closing of Easterwood Airport and A&M due to the discovery of two bombs at Baylor University, all done to prepare the city in case a similar scenario happens. The two-and-a-half day exercise is being run by the Texas Engineering Extension Service at A&M and is funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety-Division of Emergency Management.

"The city holds these emergency exercises once or twice a year, but this one is different because it is concerning weapons of mass destruction," said Marilyn Martell, director of public information for TEEEX.

Patti Jett, interim public information manager for the City of College Station, said the scenario is good practice.

"This particular incident is set up to really overload us," she said. "It puts us all to the test to see how we are doing so when a real incident occurs, we have the basic skills."

This drill is only a functional exercise that involves management officials in Bryan-College Station and the University. In a full-scale exercise, ambulances and fire trucks would be sent out on the streets.

Bart Humphries, public information officer for the College Station Fire Department, said preparation for the exercise started several weeks ago. Training classes for city management officials were conducted to help them participate in the exercise.

Jett said the drill uses its own time clock and the discoveries were made early in the morning.

"In game time, the press conference was only two hours after the event," she said.

The press conference consisted of Jett and Humphries standing at a podium at College

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## Iraqis combat crime against women

By Azedeh Moaveni  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Every school day morning five fathers stand guard outside a girls' high school in west Baghdad, making sure their daughters are not kidnapped and raped.

From the opening to the closing tinkles of the school bell, they peer suspiciously into the chaotic street when cars slow down or strangers loiter.

At noon on this day, Mohammed Abdel-Hassan pries his two daughters away from a circle of chatting girls in navy-blue uniforms and takes them home. The next day, five different fathers will have watch duty under the scorching sun, in shifts organized by a newly formed committee of men dedicated to keeping their daughters both safe and in school.

The insecurity that reigns in Iraq is the defining reality of postwar life. But the lawlessness is felt disproportionately by young women and girls who have yet to complete their education.

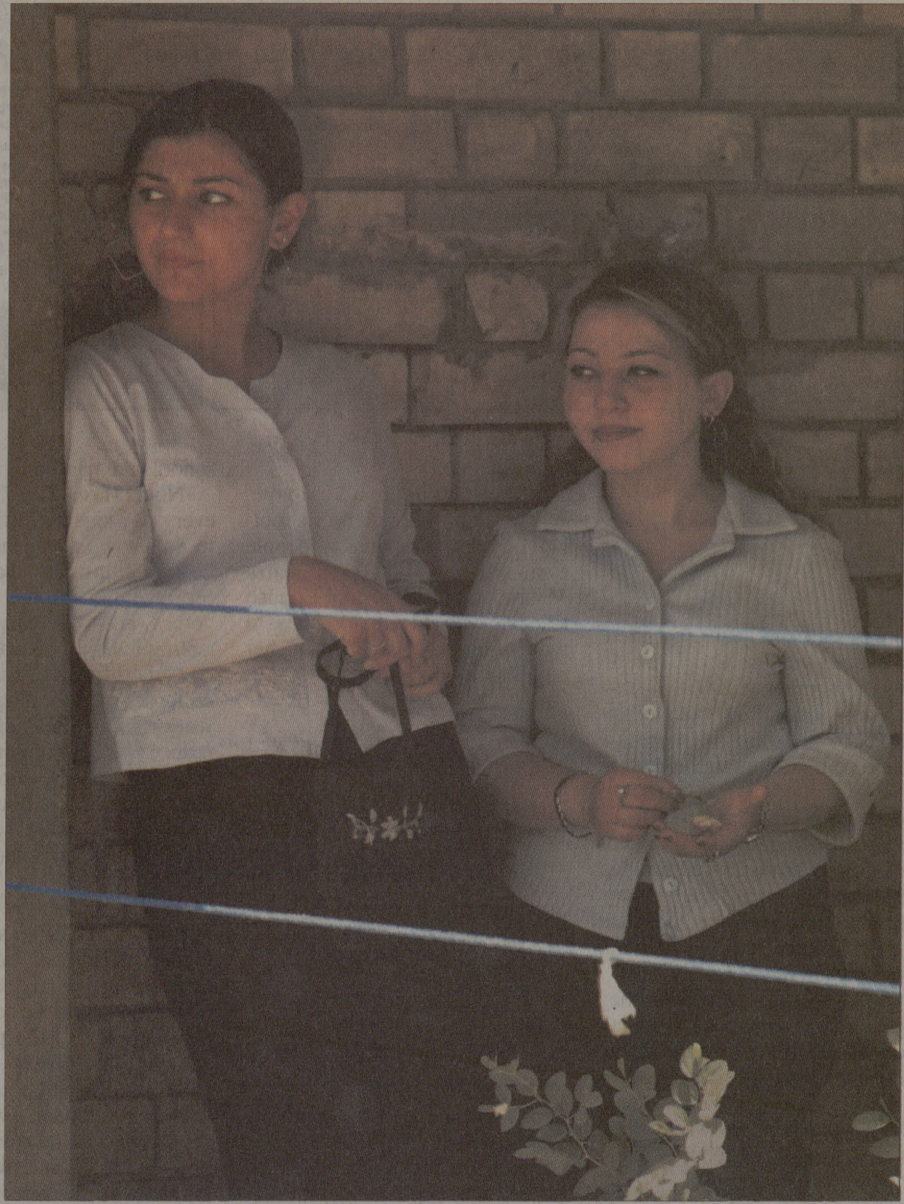
In one of the most secular capitals in the Arab world, where women were until recently a visible and integrated part of public life, females have all but disappeared. Men are the ones doing the shopping, turning up for what jobs remain and helping plan the future of Iraq with the U.S. reconstruction authority.

"There's so little security, and they are vulnerable as girls," said Abdel-Hassan. "We hear rumors constantly of kidnappings and rape."

In fact, the recorded numbers are small, but in a city with few police on the street and where law and order are at best tenuous, even talk of such crimes is enough to stir worry.

The fear of rape in the city is now so widespread that families are rearranging their daily activities around providing security for their daughters. Dedicated fathers such as Abdel-Hassan take personal steps to ensure their safety at school, but many who are unable or disinclined to take on an additional burden are simply opting to keep their daughters at home.

"We decided to give up on this school year entirely," said a man who hires out his services as a driver. He said his daughter's schooling is important to him but that his long hours don't allow him to drive her around himself. "Being safe is more important than being a year behind."



CAROLYN COLE • LOS ANGELES TIMES

College students Shireen Khalil, left, and her friend Mahi, both 21, wait behind a temporary barrier to be picked up by their fathers. "I can't go out-alone anymore, only with my father," Khalil said. "I'm scared of kidnappings."

In Iraqi society, still shaped by tribal norms that define a family's honor by its women's reputations, there is no greater shame than rape. Rapes are only rarely reported, though, because news of a sexual assault would sully a family's name and doom the victim to either marrying her assailant or a stigmatized life of

spinsterhood. Even the word "rape" is difficult for Iraqis to utter; they generally use kidnapping as a euphemism.

With the chaotic conditions in the capital, it's impossible to know the number

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**Mock weapons of mass destruction drill**

- ▶ Two and a half days long
- ▶ Run by TEEEX
- ▶ Funded by the Texas Department of Public Safety
- ▶ Involves the cities of College Station and Bryan, Texas A&M and Brazos County

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: TEXAS ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICES

## University dismantles Grove hangout

By Natalie Younts  
THE BATTALION

A once well-known social gathering place has been demolished due to unsafe conditions.

Only the concession stand and the bleachers remain from The Grove, located west of Simpson Drill Field and south of Albritton Bell Tower, once home to Thursday night yell practices and Ring Dance.

The stage, restrooms and metal building were all torn down, said Jim Reynolds, Memorial Student Center director.

He said he had planned on improving The Grove with upgrades and renovations, but that they never evolved. The existing band shell had to be torn down, he said.

Les G. Swick, the Physical Plant's associate director for facilities, said the stage and restrooms were in such poor condition that it was a good decision to take them down.

"There were tremendous maintenance problems with those restrooms," Swick said. "They failed to satisfy current code requirements, and the

stage was becoming equally dangerous."

According to The Grove Web site, the bathrooms and stage failed to comply with the American's with Disabilities Act.

Portable buildings at The Grove currently house the Department of Student Life's Conflict Resolution Services, and Adult, Graduate and Off-Campus Student Services. The Department of Residence Life is also in a portable building. The departments are currently in trailers, waiting until the planned residence life and student service

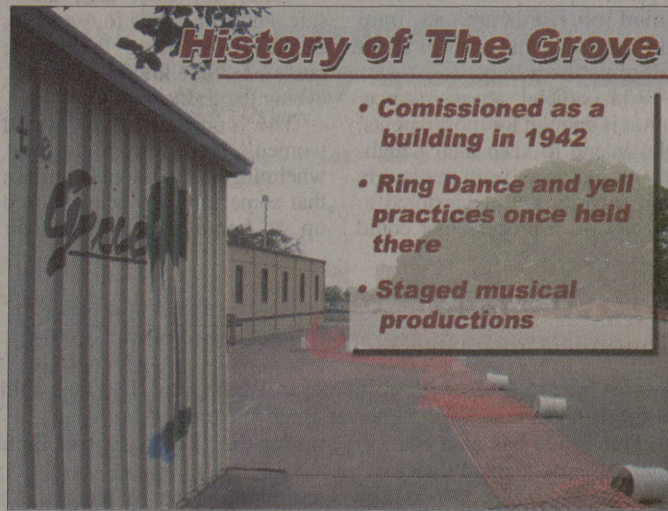
building, located by Haas Hall, is completed.

Former students who spent numerous nights at The Grove recall that movies shown at The Grove were once a major event.

Betty Cook of Hurst, Texas, said her father was an agricultural economics professor from 1957, when Cook was in fourth grade, until the late 1970s, so she was always on the A&M campus.

"It was packed the night they showed the movie about the

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RUBEN DELUNA & TERESA WEAVER • THE BATTALION  
SOURCE: MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

### History of The Grove

- Comissioned as a building in 1942
- Ring Dance and yell practices once held there
- Staged musical productions

## Israel attacks militants, peace promises dwindle

By Ibrahim Barzak  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel sent helicopters to kill a senior Hamas political leader in the crowded streets of Gaza on Tuesday but failed, leaving two other Palestinians dead and 27 wounded. The missile attack threatened to rekindle a cycle of violence and wreck a new U.S.-backed peace effort.

The strike against Abdel Aziz Rantisi drew a reproach from President Bush, who said he was "deeply troubled" by the violence, and vows of vengeance from the Islamic militant group, which threatened new suicide bombings and attacks on Israeli political leaders.

Hours after the attack on Rantisi, five homemade rockets fired from Gaza landed in Israel, the Israeli army said. Israeli helicopters and tanks responded by firing on an area in northern Gaza, killing three Palestinians, including a 16-year-old girl.

Two other Palestinians were killed Tuesday by Israeli soldiers in

southern Gaza.

Palestinian officials angrily accused Israel of sabotaging their attempts to persuade Hamas and other militant groups to stop attacking Israelis. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas called the strike a "terrorist attack." Still, Egyptian mediators were going ahead with an attempt to secure a Hamas ceasefire.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the strike, saying it complicated efforts by Abbas to halt violence.

Annan's spokesman Fred Eckhard said the secretary-general will go to Washington on Wednesday for talks on the peace blueprint with Secretary of State Colin Powell and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. The talks will also cover Iraq, Eckhard said.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made clear Israel would not restrain its troops from retaliating against militants, despite U.S. efforts to push forward the peace plan, inaugurated by Bush, Sharon

### Three Palestinians killed, 30 wounded

Israeli tanks and helicopters fired toward a residential neighborhood in the northern Gaza Strip on Tuesday.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI AP

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## Old Ags make new memories

By C.E. Walters  
THE BATTALION

Separated by distance, attitudes and several generation gaps, current and former students are finding a way to come together and share the Aggie spirit.

Aggie Hostel, a program that allows former students to return to Texas A&M, was conceived as the basis for a Master's degree thesis in 1988, said Rosella Garcia, class programs coordinator in the former student programs department of the Association of Former Students.

The annual program was held June 2 to June 6, with 37 attendees and 21 hosts.

Sixteen years after its conception, the program is getting positive feedback from organizers and attendees.

"(It's) an incredible event to see these two generations exist as one," Garcia said. The program allows Aggies ages 60 and older to return to A&M for a week and attend classes and lectures that students attend, she said.

The attendees, called Hostlers, also attended evening events such as banquets and Ring Dance. They stayed in the Southside modular residence halls Eppright and Wells.

The program costs \$600 for a single person or \$1,100 for a double. The cost pays for everything, including food and lodging.

This is the first year that the program age limit was lowered from 65 to 60. Former students are informed of the program through flyers and class newsletters.

Trey Tarwater, a junior speech communications major, spent the week with two other students escorting a group of five around campus.

Tarwater, a first-time host, said he spent every morning waking up early trying to beat his Hostlers to breakfast, but said he could not.

Tarwater said he got involved in the program because of advice from a member of the Class of 1986.

The program required a great deal of his time throughout the week, but he does not regret it, he said.

"(The Hostel was) one of the best experiences I've ever had at A&M," he said.

Jennie Walsh, who attended the program with her husband Don, received a Master's degree in sociology from A&M in 1966 and a Ph.D. in education in 1971.

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