



## Flag Room gets face-lift after 31 years of use

By Erin Price  
THE BATTALION

After 31 years of use, the Memorial Student Center Flag Room is finally getting a face-lift and many students are excited about the change.

"It's about time they updated the place," David Gregory, a senior economics major, said. "I practically live there during the school year, and so do many other students."

The "living room of campus" is home to many

students during the school year for relaxing and studying. Gregory said it is no surprise that the Flag Room is undergoing some change.

Steven Hodge, director of special event facilities, is heading up the project that started in May, and said he hopes to finish renovating the "living room of campus" by the fall semester.

"All the furniture and benches were worn out," Hodge said. "We are also putting in new carpet and refinishing the floors."

Hodge said the planning for this project started

in 1999 when University officials began speaking with student organizations like the MSC Council to find out what needed to be done.

"The flags are staying but we are putting in a new base for them," Hodge said. "The globes and lighting fixtures are also staying the same."

Hodge said they are adding tables so students do not have to drag coffee tables around for their laptops. They are adding seven tables, 19 sofas and 45 easy chairs, Hodge said.

The renovation also extends to the hallway and

foyer around the Flag Room, Hodge said. Granite flooring is also being added around the elevator, he said.

"We are looking forward to coming back and seeing the finished product," Hodge said.

Funding for this project came from the student center usage fee and Hodge said the total cost of the renovation is around \$700,000.

Mary Katherine Slocum, a senior communication

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## Playing with fire



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A fire dancer showcases the art of flaming poi swinging at a wedding reception in Navasota Sunday. Poi is the Maori word for a ball attached

to a cord that is swung around the body. The Maori, natives of New Zealand, use poi in choreographed dances and in training of warriors.

## Researchers wish to revisit site of Rudder's heroism

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

The action surrounding Pointe du Hoc on the beaches of Normandy is well known among students of Aggie lore. The heroics of Gen. James Earl Rudder, 16th president of Texas A&M, have vaulted the story to almost mythical proportions, helping to place Rudder on par with figures such as Lawrence Sullivan Ross, J.J. "Pinky" Wilson and Gen. James Hollingsworth.

Rudder scaled the nearly vertical 100-foot cliffs to disable the German guns overlooking the English Channel, sustaining two wounds and losing over half of his famed Ranger company in the process.

Almost 60 years later, a team of researchers from Rudder's alma mater, want to revisit the historic site to find out what it has left to tell us about June 6, 1944.

A&M professors Robert Warden, associate professor of architecture; Mark Everett, professor of geophysics; Richard Burt, assistant professor of construction science; Bruce Dickson, professor of anthropology and James Bradford, associate professor of history comprise the interdisciplinary team.

"The Germans constructed what amounts to a small city at Pointe du Hoc,

with large underground bunkers connected by tunnels," Warden said. "No one knows what is inside these bunkers. We'd like to find out."

The team is seeking permission from the French government through the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to dig at Pointe du Hoc. The ABMC was "established by Congress at the request of Gen. John J. Pershing to honor the accomplishments of the American Armed Forces where they have served since World War I," according to its Web site.

"This is a very interdisciplinary project, the most we've been involved with each other," said Burt, who has previously surveyed Sam Houston's residence in Independence, Texas and the abbey at Valmagne in France.

Burt is a specialist with expertise in digital photogrammetry, a process that allows measurements of a building to be taken from photographs.

"Digital photogrammetry uses a calibrated digital camera to take pictures; by lining up common points you can extrapolate measurements," Burt said.

Burt said he hopes that after the research is completed a complete set of maps would be available to the American

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### POINTE DU HOC REVISITED

Texas A&M researchers wish to investigate the underground bunkers located within the 100-ft. cliffs of Pointe du Hoc.

The World War II Pointe du Hoc Ranger Memorial is located on a cliff eight miles west of the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial.

The monument honors the American Second Ranger Battalion under the command of then-Lt. Col. James E. Rudder.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF: ABMC.GOV  
SOURCE: AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

## Student affairs VP to host open house

By Suzy Green  
THE BATTALION

After a recent relocation and the hiring of a new vice president for student affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will host an open house for students, faculty and staff in Koldus 117 on Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Visitors will be able to tour the office facility, enjoy refreshments and meet the new vice president for student affairs, Dean Bresciani, and his staff.

"We're having the open house because our office is in a new location," said Patty Kelley, an assistant to the vice president for student affairs. "We're eager to show the campus commu-

nity our new suite of offices in Koldus and to give everyone a chance to meet the new vice president."

Bresciani formally began working in his new position on June 28.

"The main purpose of the open house is to show where we've moved to and make people feel comfortable and welcome here," Bresciani said.

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs was previously located on the 10th floor of Rudder Tower. The offices were moved to its current location in June.

"Our new Koldus location is in the ebb and flow of campus,

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## Bush ponders CIA chief

By Terence Hunt  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The White House reserved judgment Monday about whether to establish a Cabinet-level national intelligence chief. President Bush said he was "still taking a good, hard look" at candidates to lead the CIA.

A major reorganization of the intelligence community and creation of a Cabinet-level intelligence agency are expected to be among primary recommendations of the independent commission that investigated the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The commission announced it would release its final report Thursday at an 11:30 a.m. EDT news conference, culmination of nearly 20 months' investigation into the nation's worst terror attack.

"The terrorist threat to the United States has not disappeared since September 11," said Lee Hamilton, the commission's vice chair. "Future attacks are expected. We hope that the president and the Congress study our recommendations with care and act on them quickly."

Bush said he would await the commission's report before commenting. "Some of the reforms, I think, are necessary: more human intelligence, better ability to listen or to see things and better coordination amongst the variety of intelligence-gathering services," the president said. "And so we'll look at all their recommendations."

He also said he was not ready to nominate a new CIA chief to replace George Tenet, who stepped down earlier this month. "Still thinking about it," the president said. "Let you know when it's going to happen. I know there's intense speculation over time, and people get their hopes built up."

He said he was "still taking a good, hard look."

Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin said Sunday he thought there was no need for a Cabinet-level national intelligence chief. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said McLaughlin was speaking for himself, not the administration.

Since its inception in the 1940s, the director of the CIA also has held the title "director of central intelligence." As the nation's intelligence industry grew hugely over the years, however, the director's authority largely was

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## Suicide blast wounds 60 in Baghdad

By Jamie Tarabay  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A fuel tanker rigged as a massive bomb hurtled toward a Baghdad police station and exploded Monday, killing nine people, wounding 60, and leveling a huge section of an industrial neighborhood.

The suicide bombing was the fourth in a string of deadly attacks on police and government facilities in the last five days. Since the new government took power June 28, at least 75 people have been killed in militant attacks.

Monday's blast collapsed the roofs of auto repair shops, destroyed electrical workshops

and crushed cars under concrete and bricks. It tore open a 32-foot-wide crater and damaged buildings hundreds of yards away.

In response to the kidnapping of a Filipino truck driver, the last of the Philippines' 51 peacekeepers left Iraq and drove into Kuwait. The withdrawal has been criticized by other coalition members, including the United States and Australia, as a dangerous capitulation to terrorists.

An Egyptian truck driver also held hostage was freed Monday evening and taken to his country's embassy. Alsayed Mohammed Alsayed Algarabawi was abducted from a truck

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### Explosion kills nine

A car bomb blast rocked a police station in a Baghdad suburb Monday, killing at least nine people and wounding 52.



SOURCE: ESRI