

THE BATTALION

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Family donates new Aggie ring to collection

By Andrew Burleson
THE BATTALION

An Aggie ring was added to the Memorial Ring Collection at The Association of Former Students building on Friday. The ring was donated by the family of Diana S. Stepan, a senior petroleum engineering major who passed away in March 1995, two months before her graduation.

"The Stepan family contacted the Association this spring about the donation," said Kelli Hutka,

director of Campus Programs for the Association of Former Students.

Hutka said there are three ring collections at the Association. The original collection was started by J.B. "Josh" Sterns and spans from 1899 to 1964 before the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas became Texas A&M University. Beginning with the Class of 1965 is the Memorial Ring Collection, which contains rings presented by the families of deceased students. The third collection is a set of historically significant rings, including that of the late Gen. James Earl Rudder, who

served as president of A&M from 1959 until his death in 1970.

"During the ceremony (Stepan's) family talked a lot about her love for the University and how much it meant to her to be at A&M. For them it was very special for her ring to be returning to A&M," said Kathryn Greenwade, assistant executive director for the Association of Former Students.

Greenwade said the ring was presented by Stepan's mother Sue, and her sister Patricia, Class of 1998.

In addition to her place in the Memorial Ring

Collection, Stepan's legacy lives on in the petroleum engineering department where she was a student.

Stepan received her degree from the department posthumously in May 1995. Shortly thereafter her classmates started a scholarship in her honor.

Larry Piper, assistant head for undergraduate studies in the Department of Petroleum Engineering, said it takes \$60,000 to fully fund this type of scholarship, and that due to the efforts of Stepan's family and classmates, the scholarship is nearly fully funded.

Arts committee to put sculptures on A&M campus

By Kirk Ehlig
THE BATTALION

By Sept. 1, the MSC Visual Arts Committee will have installed two sculptures by artist Rita Blitt on the Texas A&M campus — one at Cain Park and one on West Campus by the Kleberg Center.

The installation of the sculptures will begin in August and the exhibit will officially open in January, said Tim Novak, interim adviser of the MSC Visual Arts Committee.

Elizabeth Jurewicz, chair of the MSC Visual Arts Committee and a junior speech communication major, said the Visual Arts Committee is a student organization that runs the gallery on the MSC's second floor and helps with the Forsyth Center Gallery. Within the past year the Visual Arts Committee has expanded from artwork to outdoor sculptures, Jurewicz said.

This turned into the organization's outdoor sculpture program, which displays the work of a different artist each year.

The artist the committee first worked with was

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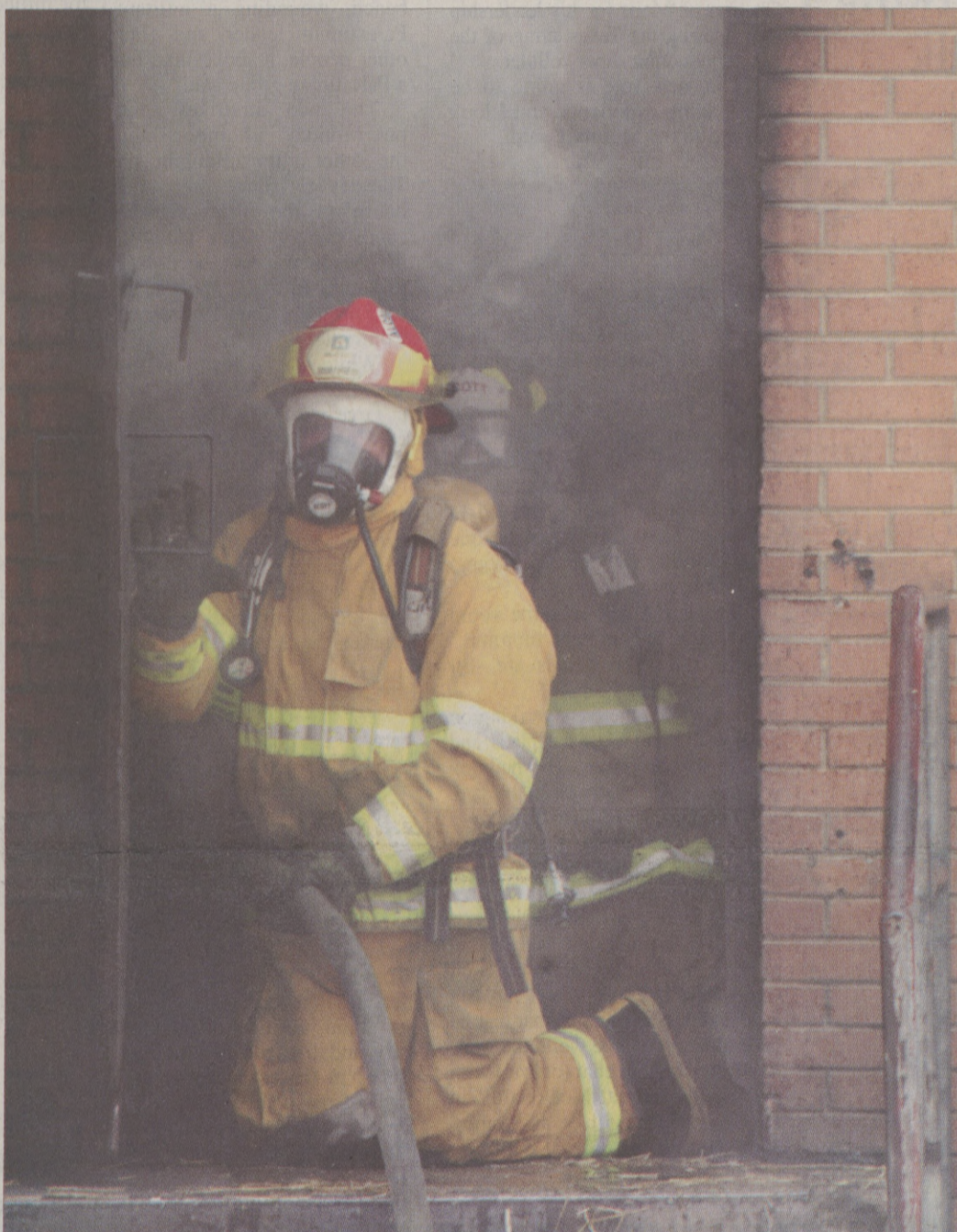
New Art on Campus

The MSC Visual Arts Committee will install two new sculptures by artist Rita Blitt.

- One will be in Cain Park and one will be on West Campus near the Kleberg Center
- The Visual Arts Committee is working to expand its displays of artwork inside the MSC to outdoor sculptures
- Blitt draws on influences from Eastern European and Asian Cultures
- The goal of the Visual Arts Committee is to spread art awareness throughout the campus and the community

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SOURCE: ELIZABETH JUREWICZ

Backdraft



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

An Alcoa-Rockdale firefighter emerges from a smoke-filled apartment training station after extracting a victim. Alcoa produces the aluminum powder used in the

fuel for NASA space shuttles. Firefighters from around the world converge on the Brayton Fire Training Field and this marked the 42nd Industrial School session.

McDonald's supersizes old facility

By Erin Price
THE BATTALION

Jake Merrick, a senior marketing major, drove down Southwest Parkway last week to get his usual dollar-menu double cheeseburger and "McValue Fry." To Merrick's surprise, his McDonald's was a leveled mass of concrete and he was forced to go somewhere else to satisfy his hunger.

"I was very upset and wondered where my McDonald's went," Merrick said. "I admit, I eat there at least four times a week, and this was a huge shock for me."

Bill Leonard, president of Be & De Construction, is heading up the project on Southwest Parkway and Texas Avenue. He said maintenance and air-conditioning costs were high, and rebuilding was the restaurant's best choice. The demolition occurred on July 7, and the company is hoping for an 80-day project completion, Leonard said.

The company is planning to feature College Station's first wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) McDonald's, where customers can use laptops or hand-held devices to surf the Web, Leonard said. Starbucks and Border's Bookstores have similar systems for their customers, he said.

Jack Hoover, project manager of restraint and development for the McDonald's Corporation, said the new building will have a "Hill Country" feel to it. Every 20 years the company likes to redo its old buildings and this one was outdated, he said.

"The new building will be very unique with an aluminum roof, rose siding and limestone

See McDonald's on page 2

McRubble

The McDonald's at Texas Avenue and Southwest Parkway has been torn down to be rebuilt as one of the country's new high-tech Mickey D's.



- McDonald's Corporation felt the building had become outdated
- The new McDonald's will be equipped with wireless Internet so that customers can surf the Web while enjoying their food
- The improved building will have a game room with arcades targeted at older age groups
- Jack Hoover of the McDonald's Corporation said the new building will have a distinct "Hill Country" look

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PHOTO COURTESY OF: DAVE MORRIS

SOURCE: JACK HOONER, MCDONALD'S CORP.

Professor appointed to Mitchell Heep chair

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

Professor of physics at Texas A&M Peter M. McIntyre has been appointed to the Mitchell Heep Chair in Experimental High Energy Physics.

Physics Department Head Edward Fry said he was pleased with the decision.

"(McIntyre) has a wealth of creative ideas, and he is a great choice for the chair," Fry said.

Joseph Newton, dean of the College of Science, said he can't think of anyone better for



MCINTYRE

this position.

"McIntyre is an international expert, and he is well qualified for this position," Newton said.

McIntyre conducts research in accelerator technology, experimental high-energy physics, superconductivity and biophysics.

"I personally enjoy the combination of what I do," McIntyre said.

McIntyre has researched and developed many devices, including one that destroys bacteria such as anthrax and E. Coli and produces high-energy electron beams that break down dangerous organic molecules in water.

"This new approach drops costs (of using the device) by a factor of 10; (the device) had not been affordable until now," McIntyre said.

He has also invented a way to produce electric power from nuclear fission in a reactor that is stable and cannot melt down, he said.

"Being appointed to this position gives me a margin of funds that enables me to follow my ideas," McIntyre said.

In 1973, McIntyre received his doctorate from the University of Chicago. Before coming to A&M he was an instructor at the University of Chicago and an assistant professor at Harvard University.

"I thoroughly enjoy teaching," McIntyre said. McIntyre came to A&M in 1980 and has been a physics professor for the past 22 years. He has held

See Professor on page 2

Berger quits Kerry campaign as parties seek edge in probe

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser Sandy Berger quit Tuesday as an informal adviser to Democrat John Kerry's presidential campaign after disclosure of a criminal investigation into whether he mishandled classified terrorism documents.

Berger's decision came as both parties sought to use the investigation to gain political advantage or control damage.

Republicans said the probe raises questions about whether the former Clinton administration official was trying to hide embarrassing materials from the public. Democrats questioned why disclosure of a months-old investigation came just before Thursday's release of the final report by the commission investigat-

ing the Sept. 11 attacks.

The report is expected to be highly critical of the government's handling of the pre-Sept. 11 terror threat.

"So is this about Sandy Berger, or is this about politics?" asked Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

Former President Clinton also weighed in, telling reporters at a Denver autograph session for his book "My Life" that "it's interesting timing."

Berger served as national security adviser for all of Clinton's second term. "I know him. He's a good man. He worked his heart out for this country," Clinton said.

The Justice Department is investigating whether Berger committed a crime by removing from the National Archives documents about the government's anti-terror efforts and notes that he took on those documents. Berger was reviewing the materials to help determine which Clin-

ton administration documents to provide to the Sept. 11 commission.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, told reporters the case was about theft and questioned Berger's statement attributing the removal of the documents and notes to sloppiness. Along with putting documents in his coat and pants, Berger acknowledged removing some documents in a portfolio. He returned most of the documents, but some still are missing.

"That's not sloppy," DeLay said. "I think it's gravely, gravely serious what he did, if he did it. It could be a national security crisis."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said he was "profoundly troubled" by the allegations, adding that Berger "has a lot of explaining to do."

Lanny Breuer, Berger's attorney, said his client has offered to cooperate with investigators. He said the decision to step aside from the Kerry campaign

was done because "Mr. Berger does not want any issue surrounding the 9/11 commission to be used for partisan purposes."

Deputy Attorney General James Comey would not comment on the investigation other than that in general the Justice Department regards takes "very, very seriously" allegations of mishandled classified materials.

"It's our lifeblood, those secrets," Comey said.

The documents involved have been a key point of contention between the Clinton and Bush administrations on the question of who responded more forcefully to the threat of al-Qaida terrorism. Written by former National Security Council aide Richard Clarke, they discuss the 1999 plot to attack U.S. millennium celebrations and offer more than two dozen recommendations for improving the response to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.