



## USC hopes to share 1939 championship title

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

In the world of college football, programs are often measured by the number of national championships they win. When the 1939 Aggies beat Tulane, 14-13, in the Sugar Bowl, they were ensured a place in Texas A&M's football history as the only team to bring a championship home to College Station. The University of Southern California, however, has disagreed with the results of the 1938-39 season. According to a July 27 article in the Los Angeles Times, USC has laid claim to a share of the 1939 national title.

According to the NCAA, which does not name a national champion in football, three teams were ranked atop at least one of the 13 polls. Texas A&M (11-0) ranked number one in 10 of them, while Cornell University (8-0) and USC (8-0-2) garnered two and one, respectively.

"There was a strong calling around here to claim another national championship," said USC Sports Communication Director Tim Tesselone. "We found that there were six other years where USC could claim a portion of the national championship, and we decided after some significant research to claim 1939 as one of our 10 titles."

Tesselone said a ceremony is planned to recognize the surviving members of the 1939 team during an Oct. 16 home game against Arizona State.

USC's claim is based upon winning the 1939 Knute Rockne trophy for being ranked No. 1 by the Dickinson poll, a mathematic system devised by University of Illinois economics professor Frank Dickinson. Over the poll's 14-year run from 1926-40, an average of 3.2 teams were recognized as national champions by the NCAA, including five in 1935.

In 1919, the National Championship Foundation awarded its national championship to A&M's team, which went undefeated and unscored upon. Though A&M is listed along with fellow national champions Harvard, Notre Dame and Illinois, A&M only recognizes the 1939 team as a national championship team.

Tesselone said Aggie fans should not feel slighted by the claim. "I'm not sure why they should be upset," Tesselone

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## Bonfire Memorial dedication set in stone

By Erin Price  
THE BATTALION

As the final touches are being made to the Bonfire Memorial, former and current students remember Bonfire '99 and its victims. Joel Neuber, Class of 2002, has a special connection with Bonfire and said the memorial's dedication on Nov. 18, 2004 will be important for all Aggies to attend.

"I really appreciate the fact that the memorial takes the time to recap the history of Bonfire and what it meant to the students at all Texas A&M," Neuber said.

Neuber said it is important for visitors to understand that Bonfire was not just about the final product, but the work that went into it and the dedication of those, like Bryan McClain, Class of 2002. McClain was Neuber's friend on Squadron 2 and one of the 12 victims of the Bonfire collapse.

"Bryan had such a passion for Bonfire," Neuber said. "He would sneak out of his second story dorm window at night to go work on the stack."

While Neuber did not know the other victims, he said that the individual portals at the memorial will give everyone a chance to get to know the fellow Aggies who gave their lives giving to Texas A&M.

Jack Hildebrand, student body president and senior accounting major, said the dedication day will be a day of respect and honor to the families whose loved ones gave their lives. New students are encouraged to learn about how much students put into Bonfire, he said.

"I would encourage all students to go because this is a tradition of A&M," Hildebrand said. "The symbolism and design of the memorial is really amazing. Aggies should be proud."

The planning for the memorial was a collaboration of designers, students, faculty and especially the victims' families, said Martha Raney, administrative assistant in the Bonfire Memorial Office. Involving the families helped them feel a sense of investment in the final product, she said.

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The Bonfire Memorial, located on the University Polo Fields, will be dedicated on Nov. 18. The memorial was built in memory of the 12 Aggies who died in the 1999 Bonfire collapse, as well as to symbolize the Aggie Spirit.

## Visitors workshop set for Aug. 18

By Emily Guevara  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's International Center, along with the Dean of Faculties, Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society and the Brazos Valley Fulbright Chapter will present the Hosting International Visitors workshop on Aug. 18 in Rudder 701.

Linda Edwards, Interim Director of the International Center, said the workshop is a learning experience for those interested in dealing with people of other cultures.

"We will give our attendees tips and information on culture for their visitor's entertainment and dietary needs," Edwards said.

"This is the first year they are opening up (the workshop) to the employees of the cities of Bryan and College Station and the Chamber of Commerce of Brazos Valley," said Kim Fox, administrative assistant of the International Center. "In the past this workshop has only been available to faculty or staff at A&M."

Edwards said hosting an international visitor is challenging due to various cultural and dietary differences, thus it is important to think about these things before hand.

"You have to do your homework and be prepared," Edwards said.

Fox said the workshop will provide attendees with specific information on how to host visitors including how to welcome them, set an itinerary, serve the appropriate food and various other protocols.

"The University reaches out to the international community and brings them here to show them A&M, and it is important to keep culture in mind when hosting them," Fox said.

Barry Biggar, president and CEO of the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitors Bureau, will be one of the speakers at the workshop.

"I will overview and outline what it is we have available here in the Brazos Valley that international faculty and students can take

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## See-saw



DAVE MORRIS • THE BATTALION

Junior animal science major **Brian Hayes** uses a circular saw to cut pieces of fiberglass to be used for window sills at the Casablanca apartment complex Monday. **Hayes** also performs other duties around the complex, including painting and installing appliances.

## TCE: improve safety at home

By Andrew Burleson  
THE BATTALION

The Texas Cooperative Extension released a list of home safety guidelines Thursday.

The list contains several precautionary measures that individuals may take to improve the safety of their homes.

The list includes suggestions to discard all out-of-date medications, make sure that every level of the house has at least one smoke detector and to inspect each detector monthly, to install non-skid mats in bathtubs, keep the edges of carpets tacked down, keep a fully operational and inspected fire extinguisher in the kitchen and have a fully-stocked first aid kit on hand at all times.

Janie Harris, extension specialist for Housing and Environment, based the list on the results of several books and research studies, including "Safety and You" by Nancy Harvey Steorts. Harris' job is to review literature relating to family safety and make this knowledge available to the public.





Though the full list of safety precautions includes many items targeted at protecting children, Linda Anderson, communication specialist with Texas Cooperative Extension, said the information is pertinent to college students as well.

"Safety in the home is safety in the home. (College students) may not need to worry about keeping plastic plugs in electrical outlets, but they still need to know how to handle chemicals, how to deal with fumes from chemicals, how to use electricity properly and so on," Anderson said.

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### Safety Checklist

The Texas Cooperative Extension has published list of steps to make homes safer.

-  Discard out-of-date medications
-  Keep a fully-operational fire extinguisher in the kitchen
-  Keep emergency telephone numbers, including poison control, near each telephone
-  Have a fully-stocked first aid kit on hand at all times

For a more detailed checklist go to <http://fcs.tamu.edu>

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SOURCE: JANIE HARRIS, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Couple's daughter dies in University apartment explosion

By Brian D. Cain  
THE BATTALION

An international student's family was severely injured in a blast Saturday evening that shook the Texas A&M campus.

The parents of doctoral student Saquib Ejaz came to A&M on their trip from Bangladesh to visit his wife, also a graduate student, and their four-year-old daughter, said Executive Director of University Relations Cynthia Lawson. The

family was staying at the T-row apartments near Hensel Drive when their apartment exploded and erupted into flames, though Ejaz was not at the site when the fire occurred.

"The four family members were transported to St. Joseph's Hospital. Three are now listed in critical but stable condition at the burn unit of John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, which is one of the top burn units in Texas," Lawson said. "The couple's daughter died Monday morning."

Lawson said there is a memorial being planned for the girl, but as of yet the details of when the service will be have not been decided.

Bart Humphries, public information officer of the College Station Fire Department, said many details of the cause of the fire are still unknown.

"The state fire marshal's office has wrapped up the physical part of the investigation, but they have not issued information about the exact cause of the explosion yet," Humphries said.

Lawson said A&M officials are conducting an

apartment-by-apartment safety inspection to ensure the safety of on-campus apartment residents.

"There is also a backhoe digging up several inches of soil containing bits of broken glass in the surrounding area for safety reasons," Lawson said. "The glass is embedded in the soil from the apartment windows being blown out by the blast."

For more information, see A&M President Robert M. Gates' letter to the residents of University Apartments on page two.