

THE BATTALION

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Deadly drink
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Fire marshal reports on University Apartment fire

By Emily Guevara
THE BATTALION

In a statement released Friday, the State Fire Marshal's Office said a natural gas leak caused the explosion and resulting fire at the University Apartments of Texas A&M on July 31, 2004.

The statement said the leak was from an exterior service line serving the U-1 building.

"We cannot confirm the ignition source of the fire at this time, however, it has been determined that the fire was accidental in nature," said Jerry Hagins, spokesman for the Texas Department of Insurance.

The gas from the exterior leak came into the building through a ventilation screen into the pipe chase and then into Apartment U-1 J, according to the statement.

Hagins declined to comment on whether the explosion was the result of poor maintenance.

"These are the preliminary results, and the final report will answer questions such as that," Hagins said.

Graduate student Saquib Ejaz's 4-year-old daughter, Lamiya Zahin, and Ejaz's mother, Rabeya Chaudhury, died as a result of injuries sustained in the explosion and fire.

Ejaz said he has seen this preliminary report but he is waiting for the final report.

"Even if the whole report is out, I do not want to relive that nightmare," Ejaz said. "Maybe someday, but reading the whole report is very painful for me."

He said his wife is making daily visits to the hospital.

"Her physical therapy may last for six months, and the whole recovery process may last for two years," Ejaz said.

Ejaz's wife Lufthansa Kanta was pregnant

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Suspected bomb found on Northgate Sunday

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

A suspicious package, suspected to be a "pipe-shaped bomb" was found in front of Shadow Canyon on Northgate Sunday morning, prompting the College Station Police Department's (CSPD) bomb technicians to be called to the scene, said CSPD Police Chief Ed Feldman.

The bomb technicians later determined the package contained no explosive materials and posed no threat.

"I sent one of my employees to clean out the trash from the planter's boxes outside, and as he was cleaning them out, he found a device," said Cory Cassel, owner of Zapatos on Northgate. "I told him to put it back, and because it looked suspicious we called the cops."

Cassel called the CSPD around 10:30 a.m., and officers arrived shortly before 11 a.m. CSPD diverted traffic from Uni-

versity Drive heading toward Wellborn and called in members of the CSPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

"We found a device that had several plastic tubes, and as a precautionary measure we diverted traffic and evacuated the area," Feldman said.

There were no reported injuries, and the device did not explode. Feldman told The Battalion that the device is now in the custody of CSPD and has been placed in a special containment vessel and moved to a remote location.

Feldman said no threats had been reported to the CSPD in regards to the incident and that he did not believe it was linked to terrorism.

Double Daves' Northgate Manager Joe Adair declined to comment, but he did confirm

that no specific threats had been made at that establishment.

"We were just passing by, and suddenly a cop comes up to

"It was just cops everywhere, and traffic was an absolute mess."

— David Jarrard
resident of
Tradition on Northgate

us and says 'You can't go this way,' and so we had to backtrack in order to get home," said David Jarrard, a junior accounting major and a resident of Tradition at Northgate. "It was just cops everywhere, and traffic was an absolute mess."

Cassel said he felt the incident affected his business severely.

"We had about five customers in the restaurant at the time, and so we locked the front door, and we had them leave out the back," Cassel said. "We just lost a whole bunch of business, I mean we were shut down from 11 a.m. to 2 (p.m.), and that's the entire lunch crowd."

'Tribute in Light'



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

The "Tribute in Light" illuminates the sky on Fifth Avenue in New York City Saturday night. The tribute marks the third anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center that killed 2,973 people. The lights are composed of two

banks of 44 lights each that shone between Murray and Vesey streets in Battery Park near Ground Zero. The lights on the Empire State Building were extinguished for a minute of silence at 9:11 p.m.

Gates 'mingles' with student leaders

By Lacy Ledford
THE BATTALION

A&M President Robert Gates shared his personal tips for success with student leaders Thursday at Melrose Apartments in the first-time event "Mingling with the President."

The event, organized by Andrei Duta, assistant lecturer in group communications and Melrose management gave students the opportunity to dine with the president while gaining insight from his personal and professional experience. The idea for the program "Mingling with the President" was conceived more than a year ago, after Duta briefly crossed paths with Gates at faculty convocation.

"He fit my description of success: service to many," Duta said.

Duta said he would like to continue this program in the future with other speakers.

In his address to the students, Gates stressed the importance of hard work, saying that simply working 9-to-5 won't cut it.

He said to be successful, one should be a problem solver, rather than a problem maker or giver.

"What will set you apart from others is when you go to your boss and say, 'I have a problem, but I think I have a solution,'" he said.

Gates reminded students that they will sometimes fail, but success depends on how that failure is handled.

"Leaders are people (who) stand up, dust themselves off, and say, well, that wasn't very much damn fun — I don't think I'll do that again," he said.

Gates also revealed the heart of his personal vision for A&M.

"I believe (A&M) is a unique American institution that can and should be one of the handful at the very top of the universities of the United States," Gates said.

Gates said what makes A&M special is that it will be the only university on the top rung of among American universities that has a heart as well as a brain.

"It places importance on values, family, loyalty,

Gates' 10 Keys to Success

A&M President Robert M. Gates recommends these tips to students who wish to become successful leaders.

- 1 Be good at what you do
- 2 Work hard
- 3 Take risks
- 4 Be a problem solver, not a problem maker
- 5 Be respectful to everyone
- 6 Tell people what they need to hear, not what they want to hear
- 7 Be loyal and if you can't be - leave
- 8 Be willing to admit you've made a mistake
- 9 Have a vision
- 10 You will fail - whether you succeed depends on how you handle failure

BRANDI DUNN • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: PRESIDENT ROBERT M. GATES

patriotism, character, a sense of tradition and spirit," Gates said. "If A&M did not have the unique tradition of spirit and culture, we would just be another big education factory. There are a bunch of them in the country, including over in Austin."

Gates, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, concluded by saying A&M and the CIA had more in common than either would like to admit.

He said both believe they are not understood by anybody else, have a strong sense of their contribution to this country and possess a high sense of pride in their

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A&M EMS calls decreasing

By Matthew Wilkins
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M may be on track for a third subsequent year of decreases in emergency medical assistance calls, according to new data released Friday by the Student Health Services.

"The University has been actively involved in trying to reduce risk campus-wide," said Assistant Director Scott Draper.

Whether the decrease can be attributed to those efforts remains unclear, Draper said.

Draper said students are aware of the 9-11 emergency telephone number. The Student Health Service made presentations this year at orientations for undergraduate, graduate and international students, and earlier this month the Vice President for Student Affairs Dean Bresciani e-mailed a memo to all students reinforcing the information.

"We've become more intentional about our marketing efforts

for the Student Health Service and EMS in particular," Draper said.

EMS transportation is provided at no cost to students other than the mandatory \$55 per semester Health Center Fee. The fee has not been increased since 2002, when the unelected Student Service Fee Advisory Board pushed a \$5 hike, despite objections by the Student Senate.

Mark McCaig, a senior marketing major and president of the student advocacy organization Aggie Watch, said the fee represents a good value at its current level.

"The Student Health Service is a prime example of an organization that provides quality services without needing a fee increase," McCaig said.

If it were not covered by the Health Center Fee, EMS would cost students more than \$500 per incident, according to EMS Coordinator James Gibson. The fee covered \$257,394 in EMS transportation for students last year.

Cowboys shut out in Aggie home opener

By Ryan Irby
THE BATTALION

You only needed to look to the skies on Saturday to notice it was going to be a dismal day for somebody. Just before kickoff, dark clouds loomed over Kyle Field in an ominous fashion, and for the Wyoming Cowboys (1-1), those clouds never lifted.

The Texas A&M Aggies (1-1) blanked the Cowboys 31-0 in a game that saw the re-emergence of the Aggie defense, which scored 10 points off turnovers, grabbed three interceptions and had a blitzing scheme that destroyed a potent Cowboy offense that put up 53 points last week.

Maybe it was the return to Kyle Field, maybe it was the pre-game entrance that included a solemn "battle-cry" drum cadence from the Aggie Band, or perhaps it was the inspiration from the Junction Boys who made a halftime appearance that sparked a victory. Whatever it was, the Aggies should find more of it.

A&M looked like a completely different team than the one that suffered an embarrassing 41-21 loss to No. 14 Utah just 11 days ago.

"This came at the right time," said A&M head coach Dennis Franchione. "It's very tough to get a shutout in college football."

A&M held the Cowboys to only 181 yards of total offense on 62 plays, including -3 yards rushing, a historical number that conjures up images of Wrecking Crew defenses past. In total, the Aggies held the Cowboys to 2.9 yards per play, and -0.1 yards per rush.

"Give (A&M) a lot of credit. They were tough," said Wyoming head coach Joe Glenn. "We didn't execute mentally or physically.



EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Aggie freshman Kerry Franks beats junior Wyoming cornerback Brandon Bell on a long pass late in the fourth quarter to move the Aggies ahead 31-0.

We felt going into the game that we had some stuff that would work. But we had a couple of penalties that took away momentum. We just have to execute better, throw the ball sharper and

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