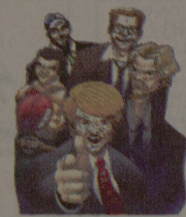


THE BATTALION



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Wrecking Crew returns Aggies defeat Clemson 27-6 Saturday

By Nikki Knight
THE BATTALION

After last week's reemergence of the Aggie defense, Texas A&M football fans saw it in full force Saturday as the Aggies defeated No. 25 Clemson 27-6.

The Aggie defense sacked the Atlantic Coast Conference's leading passer, Charlie Whitehurst, five times and held him to 20 of 36 and 192 yards with three interceptions and a touchdown. Clemson totaled 250 yards on 63 offensive plays for the night.

After a strong defensive first quarter and the Aggies' adjustment to the Tigers' no-huddle offense, a drive started after Aggie redshirt freshman Japhus Brown's interception at the end of the first quarter ignited the A&M offense. A 44-yard rush by sophomore running back Courtney Lewis and an 11-yard pass to junior tight end Boone Stutz highlighted the drive that ended with the first touchdown of the game.

The Aggies scored again in the second quarter with a four-play, 71-yard drive beginning with an intercepted pass by senior Byron Jones

and ending in a 29-yard touchdown run by Lewis.

Clemson's only touchdown came on the next drive and was highlighted by a 15-yard touchdown pass to senior tight end Ben Hall. The extra point attempt by junior kicker Stephen Furr was no good, however.

The Aggies wrapped up scoring in the first half with a 32-yard field goal by junior Todd Pegram. A 99-yard drive in the third quarter, which ended in a three-yard rush by senior wide receiver Jason Carter for a touchdown, tied the school record for longest drive and brought the score to 24-6. Pegram wrapped up scoring for the game with a 36-yard field goal with 8:43 to go in the fourth quarter.

Clemson junior quarterback Whitehurst said he attributed his team's loss to an inability to handle the blitz and four turnovers, compared with A&M's zero. Whitehurst said that even during the Tigers' one-touchdown drive, the team never got a rhythm going.

"We didn't do anything," Whitehurst said. "We could've at least made it a game if we had just shown up."

Clemson head coach Tommy

Bowden said he blamed the loss on numerous missed tackles, protection problems and turnovers.

Bowden said his defense had a hard time against A&M's isolated formation with no backs and concentration on the middle.

Offensively, Bowden said, the team had a hard time with the strong corner blitz by A&M, which was similar to the one it saw last week against Georgia Tech.

"They got us early — that was a schemed thing," Bowden said. "They made us execute the passing game, and we did not do it."

Other key players for A&M included redshirt freshman cornerback Erik Mayes and senior Keelan Jackson, who led the defense with 10 tackles each.

McNeal had a strong offensive day with 129 yards rushing and 307 total yards. Lewis bounced back from an injury that forced him to miss last week's game, accumulating a team-leading 165 yards rushing.

"Last week when I was at home watching the game, I had a little urge to come back out and make a statement that I'm still

See Crew on page 2



JOSHUA HOBSON - THE BATTALION

Junior quarterback **Reggie McNeal** dodges sophomore tailback **Tramaine Billie** for a four-yard gain in the red zone during the second quarter against

Clemson in front of 71,565 people on Saturday at Kyle Field. **McNeal** passed for a total of 178 yards with no interceptions. The Aggies beat the Tigers 27-6.

Gas leak cited as apartment fire cause

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

opening," the report stated. "This hole and the smaller ones appear to have developed over an extended period of time."

Natural gas leakage from pipes caused the July 31 University Apartments explosion that killed two and injured two others, according to a final investigation report released Sept. 13 by the State Fire Marshal's Office.

According to the 17-page report compiled by SFMO fire investigator Harry Bowers, investigators determined that natural gas leaked from holes throughout the piping and accumulated in the apartment, where an unidentified ignition source caused the natural gas to explode.

The report states that investigators Eric Hurt, College Station Fire Department assistant chief and fire investigator, and Steve Smith, the College Station Fire investigator, discovered several leaks in the piping, including a one-foot jagged hole in the exterior piping leading into the apartment. In the report, investigators said this hole, like others discovered in the piping, had signs of corrosion.

"This hole had a jagged end with layers of corrosion staggering to the

According to the report, investigators also discovered several leaks within the apartment that allowed the gas to seep in and accumulate.

"In the opinion of the College Station Fire Marshal's Office, the large hole located in the underground pipeline near the pipe-chase air vent opening and the leak at the water heater leaked enough natural gas that would be drawn into the chase with the fresh air needed for the combustion process of the water heaters to be the primary cause for the release of fuel for this fire," the report stated.

According to the report, the question of why natural gas did not accumulate in explosive quantities in adjacent apartments remains unanswered.

"The reason for this may never be known," the report stated.

Since this blast, University officials have replaced all external gas lines in University Apartments.

See Fire on page 8

Report Recap

The Texas State Fire Marshal's Office released a final investigation report about the cause of the July 31 University Apartments fire.

- Cause of fire deemed accidental
- Holes throughout internal and external piping caused natural gas leakage
- One-foot long corroded hole discovered in external piping
- Several leaks discovered within apartment U1-J, where explosion occurred
- Holes believed to have developed over a long period of time

BRANDI DUNN - THE BATTALION

SOURCE - STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Fallen Aggie finally comes home

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

Central Vietnam's scenery can be described as breathtaking — rolling mountains, lush greenery and the occasional stream dictates the view of the region.

For 36 years, this was the site of 2nd Lt. Donald Matocha's grave, on Dong Ma Mountain. It wasn't Matocha's home, though, just a temporary resting place until the fallen soldier could return to the United States.

On Sept. 18, Matocha's burial view changed to the rolling hills and large pecan and pine trees of Smithville, Texas. Matocha had finally come home.

"For years, we kept up hope that we would be able to find him," said Matocha's oldest sister, Loretta Eiben. "And today, this chapter is closed."

Matocha excelled in school, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Smithville High before enrolling at Texas A&M in 1963.

"It's always fun and interesting when you get the chance to watch someone you know and care for grow up into a productive citizen," said Smithville mayor Renee Blaschke. "When he left, he was so determined to do well in school. And of course, we knew he would."

Matocha wouldn't disappoint his supporters in Smithville.

He graduated in three-and-a-half years with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Some of Matocha's classmates jokingly say they owe their college degrees to him.

"(Matocha) was very quiet but also very smart," said Mickey Batsell, a friend and classmate of Matocha. "People knew they could ask him for help because he would do anything for his buddies."

Upon graduation, Matocha enlisted with the Marine Corps and was immediately commissioned as a lieutenant. He visited his family once more before he was deployed, on his way out of town, he made sure to stop and shake the hand of every business owner on Main Street. It would be the last time for more than 30 years that residents of Smithville would see him again.

On April 5, 1968, Matocha was leading his platoon on a reconnaissance mission on Dong Ma Mountain. As the men approached a ridge line of the mountain, heavy enemy fire rained on the soldiers. The group was able to hold off long enough to be rescued by a chopper, but Matocha, the first casualty of the short battle, had to be left behind due to the volatile environment, said Stan Sellers, a Marine who witnessed Matocha's death.

"One of the greatest honors for a Marine is leading other

See Aggie on page 8

Regents explore improvements for A&M

By Emily Guevara
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Board of Regents did not declare a chancellor, despite extensive deliberation over candidates in a closed session on Thursday in the Memorial Student Center.

In addition to selection of the chancellor, the board discussed areas of the campus that needed attention to accommodate more students and to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines.

"We're going to do a little bit more due diligence, that is check backgrounds and so forth, and out of that, I would expect we'll go forward in the next two weeks," said Vice Chairman Erle Nye on Friday.

Once a finalist is named, Nye said, state law requires a 21-day period before the board can actually hire the person.

"The 21 days is simply to make the public aware, and if somebody knew

something bad, I guess they could bring it forward in that period of time," Nye said.

Sometime after the 21 days, Nye said the regents would call a board meeting, giving three days notice, and deliberate and vote on the finalists in the open session.

"So I think in a matter of five or six weeks, we'll have a chancellor," Nye said.

On Friday, the board heard a report on findings and recommendations for Kyle Field improvements and on the athletic facilities master plan at A&M.

Tim Donathen, executive director of facilities planning and construction for the A&M University System, said he presented a progress report to the board on the facility condition assessment of athletic facilities starting with Kyle Field.

"We gave them an update as to the findings," Donathen said. "We haven't set a firm budget or schedule for accomplishing it yet. We were looking for board input and reaction, and we're waiting for

the Athletic Department and the University to make some decisions about what pieces they want to pursue first."

These pieces include general functional improvements to things such as handicap accessibility and the number of toilet facilities, along with life safety code issues, changes such as increasing the seating capacity of Kyle Field and building an indoor multi-sport practice facility, Donathen said.

"I would say there are some long-term safety and ADA issues at Kyle (Field) that we're going to need to address sooner rather than later," said A&M President Robert M. Gates.

Donathen said the State Fire Marshal's Office had reviewed Kyle Field and other University facilities and pointed out areas that need attention.

"The University and Athletic Department

See Regents on page 2

Campus remembered for historic architecture

By Luke Jackson
THE BATTALION

Sixteen distinguished buildings on the Texas A&M campus were recognized for historical importance to A&M heritage and for being models for the Campus Master Plan in a ceremony held outside the Recreation Center on Saturday.

"These 16 buildings all embody the character of Texas A&M University," said Executive Vice President and Provost David Prior.

The Campus Master Plan is set to take place over the next 40 years at A&M and would greatly increase the size and scope of the A&M campus. "As part of A&M's Campus Master Plan, these 16 buildings' markers illustrate the quality of people that came before us and how they still inspire us today," said A&M President Robert M. Gates.

The Jack K. Williams Administration Building was built in 1932 in honor of Williams, the 17th president of Texas A&M. It faced the then-new Highway 6 to symbolize the shift from train-to-automobile travel. Other buildings recognized include the Chemistry Building,

which was built in 1929 and has Mexican-American influence in its color schemes and ornamentations, Nagle Hall, which was built in 1909 and is one of the oldest buildings at A&M; Bolton Hall, where, on Nov. 24, 1921, William A. "Doc" Tolson, Class of 1923, and Harry M. Saunders, Class of 1922, produced the first live play-by-play football game broadcast on the radio in the nation (A&M vs. Texas); and the YMCA Building, which was financed by students, alumni and the John D. Rockefeller Foundation.

Construction of future buildings on campus is said to be based on these distinguished buildings.

"What's great about the Campus Master Plan is that it recognizes buildings on campus that model for future buildings, and we intend to create a harmony amongst new buildings by drawing inspiration from the old ones," Gates said.

The celebration of the historic significance of the buildings will celebrate A&M's emphasis and continuation of tradition.

"Of all the universities in the world, Texas A&M has the heart of tradition in it," said Director of Historic Resources Imaging Laboratory David Woodcock.

AGGIELAND ARCHITECTURE

Sixteen historically significant buildings were honored in "The Campus Remembered" dedication on Saturday.

• Nagle Hall (1909)	• Chemistry Building (1929)
• Academic Building (1912)	• Hart Residence Hall (1930)
• Bizzell Hall (1912)	• Cushing Library (1930)
• Bolton Hall (1912)	• Civil Engineering (1932)
• Sbisla Dining Hall (1913)	• Williams Administration Building (1932)
• YMCA Building (1914)	• Scoates Hall (1932)
• Pavillion (1917)	• Halbouty Building (1932)
• Francis Hall (1918)	• Animal Industries Building (1936)

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SOURCE - ROBERT M. GATES, TEXAS A&M PRESIDENT