

# How many Aggies died in WWI?

By CHERYL HICKMAN

Apparently there is some confusion on the exact number of Aggies who gave their lives in World War I. There are 54 plaques on trees around the drill field to commemorate these men. However, there are 52 names on the stone memorial set in the median on Main Street. The University Archives report that 53 Aggies were killed in the war, while the book, "A Centennial History of Texas A&M University," by Dr. Henry C. Dethloff, reports that 49 men died. Finally, according to campusology, information about

A&M that the freshmen cadets must memorize, there are 55 Aggies killed. Markers were originally dedicated as "A Tribute to the Memory of the Sons of the College Who Fell in the World War for the Cause of Political Liberty and Social Justice" on March 2, 1919. Live oaks were planted for the men on Feb. 23, 1920. The line of trees started on the Rudder Tower side of Hart Hall and continued by Bizzell Hall and down Lamar Street to the corner of Lamar and Main Street. The markers were six-inch square, two-foot high obelisks

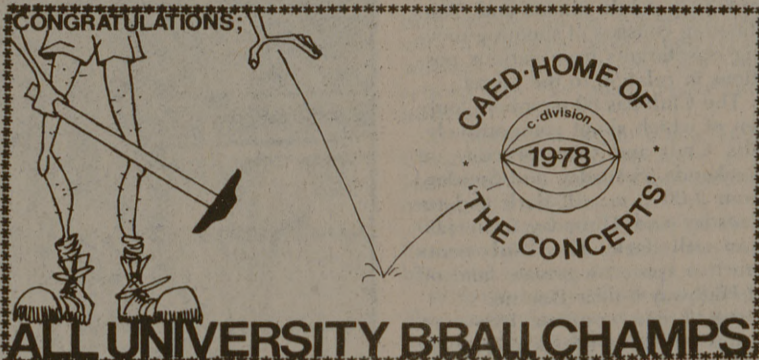
placed in the ground beside the trees. Brass plated inscribed with the man's name, graduating class, site and date of death were set in the stone. However, time and vandals eroded and broke the limestone and removed the plaques from many of the markers. In 1971, the 15 markers by Hart and Bizzell halls were moved to the drill field by the pledges of Alpha Phi Omega (APO), a national service fraternity. APO also began investigating the possibility of replacing the old memorial stones with plaques set on the trees. However, no one seems to know exactly when these plaques were actually put up and the old

markers removed. Some say the work was done five or six years ago while others say it was longer ago than that. In 1975, three of the trees were killed when a road construction crew putting in a new sewer system exposed the roots of those trees. The three trees were replaced last fall, and plaques were put on them. As to the confusion over the number of men killed, the names in the archives and on the trees and stone memorial vary. W.H. Abney and J.W. Butts have trees dedicated to them, but they are not listed on the archive records and their names do not appear on the stone memorial. L.S.R. Suber has a tree in his name, and he is

listed in the archives, but his name is not on the stone memorial. B.F. Wright is listed in the archives and on the stone memorial, but there is not a tree for him. J.H. Burford is listed in the archives, but is not on the stone memorial. And there is a tree dedicated to a J.H. Barford. Then there is a A.B. Hays whose name appears on the stone memorial, but who is not listed in the archives and does not have a tree dedicated to him. Names are not given in "A Centennial History of Texas A&M University." It only states that 49 men died.

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# Debate meet held; Baylor wins title



By CONNIE BURKE  
Should cops be able to wiretap homes of suspected mafia bosses at all? Should local police, the FBI, the CIA and similar agencies be given greater freedom to investigate and prosecute felony crimes? That is what debaters tried to resolve at the Southwest Conference Debate Tournament held Saturday in Rudder Tower. All the schools in the Southwest conference were invited but only those schools with active debate programs participated, said Dr. Dorothy Kim, coordinating director of Debate and Forensics. Four universities participated. Baylor University won the Southwest conference championship, the University of Houston took second place, Texas A&M University came in third place and Texas Tech took fourth place. Baylor's Michael Shelby and Becky Perkins were the only debaters to give a losing performance. "This is the first year in 12 years that the tournament has been held at Texas A&M," Kim said. "Since the debate program has not been very active. This year the University has hired more Ph.D.'s for its Speech Communications program and now there is more participation. Another reason for the lack of student participation is that debate is very time-consuming. "We spend 10 hours a week in the library researching cases," Shelby said. "Right before the fall semester starts, during the summer, we spend four days out of the week researching in the library." Each school brought two team members. Usually both teams present an affirmative and a negative case in tournaments. However, in this tournament, each school

brought two teams, one debated only from the affirmative viewpoint and the other team debated only from the negative viewpoint. Each team debated all three of the opposing cases from the other schools. David Dally and Scott Brown were the student coordinators for the tournament. Debate teams consisted of Michael Shelby and Becky Perkins; and Eric Copeland and Jeff Perkins. "About 20 active students are on the debate team," Kim said. "These are students that I think have much potential and are highly motivated." "I think the students did well considering this is their first year of college debate and they were debating varsity debaters from top debate programs (Baylor and Houston) in the southwest. "April 20-23 I'm going to judge in the National Debate Championship in Denver. Next year I hope that we will be participating in this tournament," Kim said. A debate course will be offered in the fall. It will be found under speech communication and is called Debate 343. This is the best starting point for anyone wanting to get started in debate, Kim said. "This year the University didn't give any debate scholarships because there is no speech communications major here," Texas A&M debater Shelby said. "Next year, we will get several scholarships and will be recruiting debaters out of high school." Not all debaters are political science majors. Two debaters on the teams are electrical engineering majors. Some debate for fun, while others debate to help them get into law school, Shelby said.

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