

Local

Newcomers supervised at weekend bonfire cut

Preparations for the Aggie bonfire continue this weekend as students are scheduled to cut at a site across from Texas World Speedway on Highway 6.

Signs will be posted along the highway giving directions to the site, Al Link, junior head civilian for bonfire, said.

"This is a chance for Off-

Campus Aggies and people who haven't gotten a chance (to cut) to come out, be under closer supervision and get an idea of what bonfire is about," he said.

"It's almost a classroom situation. It will be a good time to have fraternities and the Off-Campus Aggies out there."

Cutting will take place Saturday and Sunday and will begin about 8 a.m., he said.

The center pole for bonfire will arrive Monday and will go up Oct. 23 around 4 p.m.

Cutting days also are scheduled for Oct. 24 and 25, Nov. 1 and Nov. 7 and 8.



Staff photo by Becky Swann

Listening for the beat

Texas A&M Emergency Care Team member Martin Haas, an engineering technology senior from College Station, takes Kyle Riddle's blood pressure in the MSC Wednesday after-

noon. Riddle is an accounting senior from Denton. Emergency Care Team members will be checking blood pressures in the Memorial Student Center today, also.

Sat. Oct 17
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun Oct 18
12 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Pleistocene Era to be featured

Lectures to begin today

By NANCY WEATHERLEY

Battalion Staff
The third annual anthropology lecture series will present "Topics in Pleistocene Extinctions" beginning Thursday.

The series, which will run through December, is sponsored by the Department of Biology, the Graduate College and the anthropology program.

The Pleistocene Era is generally thought to have ended about 10,000 years ago when the last glaciers receded during the Ice Age. Scientists think the age began between one million and three million years ago.

D. Gentry Steele, research assistant in sociology and anthropology and one of three Texas A&M speakers in the series, said the Pleistocene Era has always interested biologists and anthropologists because many species became extinct at its end.

"The Ice Age ended the Pleistocene Era, and animals such as the woolly mammoth, giant cave bears and giant sloths became extinct," Steele said. "Scientists want to find out what caused their extinction; was it environmental changes or was it due to man's hunting patterns?"

Steele, who will speak on man's

hunting strategies and the effects of his hunting, said the series of lectures are key to answering these questions.

The first two lecture series were restricted to campus-related topics between faculty members active in anthropological work, Vaughn M. Bryant Jr., head of the anthropology program, said.

"The first series covered a variety of topics, such as field research faculty members were involved in," Bryant said. Research involving Texas A&M has included sites in Mexico and the reconstruction of a 1554 shipwreck off the coast of Texas.

The second series went into theoretical problems faculty members were concerned with, he said.

"This new series is the first time we have gone to experts not associated with Texas A&M," he said.

Bryant said the guest speakers are being brought to Texas A&M through funds in the departments sponsoring the event.

The series mainly serves to satisfy man's curiosity about the past, he said.

Bryant, who is scheduled to give a lecture on changes in climates in Texas and New Mexico during the Pleistocene Era, said he will examine some 30,000 years

of change in vegetation in the Texas area.

"Changes in vegetation patterns help scientists to understand how Indians in certain areas depended on available resources for food," he said. Vegetation changes affected animal supply because animals are dependent on vegetation as their food sources.

"We can look at hunting patterns Indians used to see how they moved from area to area as food resources changed due to climate changes," Bryant said.

A current theory maintained by some scientists is that the earth is in a non-glacial period now, but in 10,000 years, could return to an Ice Age similar to the one that ended the Pleistocene Era.

"We are living in the Holocene Era during a non-glacial period," Bryant said. "By studying the vegetation changes that occurred during the Ice Age, we can study current vegetational changes to see if we might go into a glacial period in the future."

Eileen Johnson, from Texas Tech University, is scheduled to begin the series Thursday at 2 p.m. in room 204C of the Sterling C. Evans library. She will speak on environment and cultural interaction of the southern plains in the late Pleistocene and early Holocene Eras.

Friday at 2 p.m., Robson Bonnichsen, from the University of Maine, is scheduled to talk on the technological repertoire of ancient man in the new world.

Fred E. Smeins, professor of range science at Texas A&M, will discuss Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. similarities of contemporary east African large mammal populations, such as the modern elephant, to animals which became extinct during the Pleistocene Era.

November 18 at 2 p.m. in 502 of

Rudder Tower, Ernest L. Lilius Jr., from the University of Texas, will examine late Pleistocene vertebrate communities the southwest.

Bryant will discuss climate Texas and New Mexico during late Pleistocene Era, Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 2.

Paleoindian hunting patterns for the genus Mammuthus includes the woolly mammoth will be the subject of discussion Jeffrey J. Saunders, of the State Museum, Nov. 20 at 2 p.m.

Steele will speak on human predator-prey relationships, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.

Thomas R. Vandevender, the University of Arizona, scheduled to end the series day, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m., will speak on southwestern environment during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene Eras.

All lectures, except the one by Lundelius, are scheduled, 204C in the Sterling C. Evans library.

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