

Blood registration begins today

by Kathy Breard
Battalion Reporter
Preparations for the Aggie Blood Drive, which will be Oct. 25-28, begin today at Texas A&M University with registration for the Aggie Blood Drive Contest.

The Living Bank, an organization which provides organ transplants to people in need, will be working in conjunction with the Blood Drive.

The goal for the Blood Drive this semester is 5,000 units of blood, which would break previous records for Texas A&M. Last spring, approximately 3,500 units were collected.

"Last spring was the largest spring drive ever," said Suzanne Alexander, Blood Drive Chairman for Alpha Phi Omega.

The Blood Drive — which is a joint service project of Omega Phi Alpha, Student Government, and Alpha Phi

Omega — is sponsored by the Wadley Blood Bank in Dallas. This year, Texas A&M will receive a plaque commemorating 25 years of donations and service.

Texas A&M provides the location and the service for blood donors, and Wadley provides refreshments for donors and advertising material.

Wadley will have locations to give blood at the Memorial Student Center, Sbsa Dining Hall, the Commons and in front of the Academic and Agency Building.

To encourage participation, the clubs will sponsor the Aggie Blood Drive Contest, which awards kegs of beer to the student organizations which donate the most blood.

Potential donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, have no history of hepatitis, no present illness and must not be taking any prescription medication.

Budget cuts raise cost of OPAS shows

by Kathleen Hart
Battalion Reporter
Patrons of Texas A&M's Opera and Performing Arts Society will not have to pay more for tickets this semester, but performers will cost OPAS more this year because of governmental and corporate budget cuts.

James Randolph, executive director of the Memorial Student Center, says the Reagan administration's cuts in funding for the National Endowment for Arts — which provides money to some dance companies — has forced some companies to charge more for their performances to cover costs.

In addition, Randolph said, corporate cuts have also affected the performing arts industry. He said Bell Telephone supported a program called "Orchestras on Tour," but be-

cause of cuts, the program no longer will be supported after the 1982-83 season.

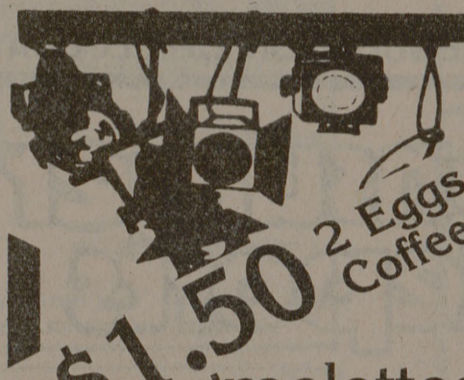
Randolph said OPAS anticipated the cuts two years ago and began to investigate the possibility of obtaining private contributions to compensate for them. He said they formed a corporate donor program and received \$30,000 from corporations in the Bryan-College Station area.

Randolph said OPAS also would like to establish a \$500,000 performing arts en-

dowment called the MSC Enrichment Fund. He said the fund — which former students and MSC participants will contribute to — is in the planning stage and will take at least five years to become final.

Randolph said ticket prices meet only 60 percent of the performance costs, but OPAS does not want to raise the prices. Contributions from students and local patrons have helped prevent the raising of prices.

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Bonfire expensive; fund-raisers planned

by Stephanie Fondy
Battalion Reporter
Construction of the Aggie bonfire is not only a time-consuming activity but an expensive one. The 1981 bonfire cost about \$10,000 to construct.

Duke Bonilla, senior finance adviser, says he expects this year's bonfire to cost even more because of increased costs of bonfire equipment.

Funding for the bonfire comes from Texas A&M University, fund-raising activities and donations.

This year the University provided \$5,500 for bonfire expenses. This money comes from the Memorial Student Center bookstore profits fund, which is divided among recognized stu-



organizations and the junior bonfire coordinators. A major fund-raising activity this year is the Bonfire Barbecue, which will be Saturday in the Grove. The barbecue will honor Thomas R. Parsons, former Corps Commandant and director of security and traffic at Texas A&M. Bonilla said Parsons, who is retiring in January, is being honored because of his support of bonfire while at Texas A&M.

Tickets for the barbecue are \$5 for students and \$7.50 for others. They may be purchased in the MSC.

The money raised for bonfire is used to insure the trucks and tractors which haul wood and to buy fuel for them.

Another major expense, Bonilla said, is fireproofing the roof of Duncan Hall and other buildings near the bonfire site. The money also covers payment to fire department workers who are present the night of bonfire. The money also is needed to purchase bailing wire, rope and other items for the bonfire.

Correction

In a story about diamonds in Aggie rings printed Wednesday, The Battalion quoted Kenny Martin as saying, "They tend to wear down easily and within a couple of years they need to be replaced." Martin's quote refers to the prongs that hold diamonds and not to man-made diamonds. Martin, owner of Future Heirlooms Jewelry, said his store does not sell man-made diamonds. The Battalion regrets the error.

dent organizations each year. The Association of Former Students also donate money to bonfire.

Bonfire donations from former students and local businesses are down this year, Bonilla said. "The donations are less this year because of the economy and the other activities will have to bring in more money to compensate," he said.

Bonfire fund-raising is done by women's dorms, student

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