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by Scott McCulloch

Warped



Snuffed Eternal Flame getting summer repairs

By KAREN GILES
Reporter

Although the Eternal Flame has been snuffed, it's not the end of its eternity.

The Eternal Flame, the Class of 1983's gift as a symbol of its burning spirit for Texas A&M, is out of commission this summer for more than mechanical reasons.

Mark Bradley, a Class of '83 building construction graduate, said he was very disappointed in its condition. "Theoretically it's finished, but I thought it looked like a mess. I felt like I could do a good job fixing it up because I had the opportunity to work on it."

Bradley said he received approval to renovate the black granite pyramid.

Gerry Albanese, one of Bradley's co-workers, said he and Bradley first noticed that the pyramid didn't look exactly like the proposed idea.

"Jim Vandenberg, a corps friend of mine, designed a sketch of the final project, and this (the completed project) doesn't look quite the same," Albanese said. "Then we noticed that the plaster was chipping, so we got in there and scraped away at it. It really looked bad."

The pyramid is a 12-point pond structure containing four fountains, symbolizing the 12th Man, but this is

hard to detect since all but two of fountain's nozzles have popped out and the sparkling white concrete-ish looks like plastic, Albanese said.

Besides the structure's unsightly general appearance, Bradley said also had major problems with its sign. "It wasn't engineered exactly right. I think the contractors, as the class officers, were in a hurry to get the construction done. Now we will have to be worked on most of the summer."

Inside the bronze bowl, resting atop of the pyramid, maroon and white tile has been laid and the side is planned to be covered with concrete designs.

Ags study 16th-century ship

By HOLLY ROBINSON
Reporter

A 16th-century Spanish ship, which sank off the Turks and Caicos Islands in the Bahamas, is being analyzed by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University.

The 55 to 65-foot ship was either a Spanish exploration or cargo ship, and may have sunk less than 30 years after Columbus sailed to the New World, project director Don Keith said.

Keith said pieces of ceramics and the design of artillery pieces as well as the location of the ship confirm that the ship is Spanish.

The ship might have been a heavily armed merchantman, which was salvaged almost immediately after sinking, or a salvage ship carrying guns for scrap iron, he said. Since most of the artillery was stored, however, Keith said the ship probably was a cargo ship.

The ship carried two mid-sized



A worker cleans artifacts from the 16th-century Spanish ship which is being analyzed by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University. Photo courtesy of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology.

cannons, 17 smaller swivel guns, crossbows and shoulder arms.

facts shows that the ship probably ran aground on reefs and sank almost intact, spreading its contents over about two square miles.

Keith said the distribution of artifacts

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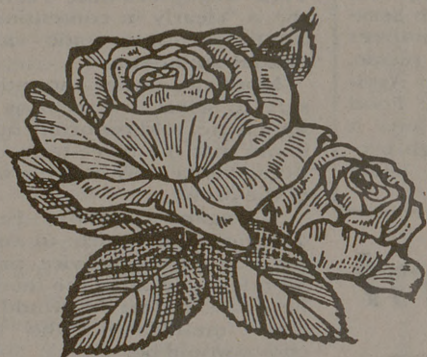
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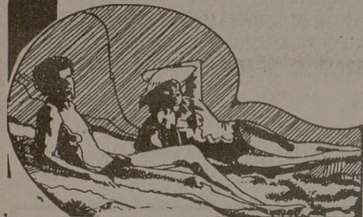
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