

State and Local

A&M Chapter of NOW, redpots meet, discuss bonfire problems

By Lee Schexnaider
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Chapter of the National Organization for Women trekked to the bonfire site Wednesday to discuss the tensions concerning women and the bonfire.

They were concerned about the treatment of two female Aggie land photographers at the bonfire Oct. 30.

The photographers said they were verbally and physically harassed while trying to photograph the bonfire.

A group of five women and one man from NOW worked at the bonfire Wednesday hauling logs for a brief time before stopping to have a discussion with some of the redpots and other bonfire workers present.

Cara Clark, a senior sociology major and a member of NOW, said that she enjoyed the work and felt the action will help the situation.

"We wanted to exercise our right to participate fully in school activities," she said.

Dede Whitley, vice president of NOW and a junior history major, said that after the meeting she felt the situation had improved.

"I feel a whole lot better about everything," she said.

"I think there are a lot of misconceptions," she said.

Sammy Samfield, president of the local chapter of NOW and a senior animal science major, also said later that she thought the meeting went well.

Whitley said NOW will sponsor a forum, tentatively scheduled for



Photo by Sam B. Myers

NOW members help Corps members lift logs at bonfire Wednesday.

Wednesday at 11 a.m., for the redpots at Rudder Fountain.

Samfield said the forum will be a good thing for both groups.

She said she was impressed by the spirit of cooperation between the groups.

Malinda McMurry, a member of NOW, said the meeting at the bonfire was a surprise to her.

"It's not exactly what I expected," she said. Bonfire is the last remaining bastion of male dominance on campus, McMurry said, stopping to

talk between trips of helping to carry logs.

Steve Lawton, a redpot and senior mechanical engineering major, said that anyone who wants to work at bonfire is welcome.

But he said that people can't expect to come out and do complex jobs immediately.

"You have to show you're willing to work hard," Lawton said.

"You have to have your face known by working out here," he said.

He also said that many times people will have wrong information about what goes on at bonfire.

"Hopefully, the more information that comes from, say the redpots, (the more the information) will clear up the misconceptions," he said. Scott Fosdal, a bonfire worker and a senior political science major, said that one of the main problems is changing attitudes of people.

He said that many times a group that thinks a particular way has to move on through the University so that new people who are used to new ways of doing things can become established.

Lawton said people who have problems at the bonfire site should contact a redpot to have the matter cleared up.

Laura Gilliland, a stack worker and a junior physics and Russian major, said that she was glad members of NOW had come and talked to the bonfire workers.

"It was great," she said. "They were more open minded than we thought."

Names of 2 Texans added to memorial of Vietnam War dead

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid swirling snow, the names of two Texans whose lives were taken by the Vietnam War officially joined the list of American dead etched into the granite wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in ceremonies Wednesday.

The names of Navy Cmdr. Valentin George Matula of Hallettsville and Army Sgt. Jesus Lopez Ramos Jr., of San Patricio were among 24 Vietnam casualties from across the country recently added to the grim roll call, bringing the total U.S. war dead list to 58,156.

The new names were overlooked when the list was originally prepared or died of their injuries later, a spokesman for the National Park Service said.

Ramos died of injuries just last year, 22 years after he received them and was left an invalid. Matula was killed in a plane crash off the coast of Vietnam, but outside the official combat zone and so had not been considered a war casualty.

Family members of the dead military men stood in the blowing snow, which was accompanied by crackling thunder, and listened to tributes by comedian Bob Hope, Ted Koppel and Jack Smith of ABC News, and singing groups Alabama and the Judds.

Rosa Briones, a half-sister of Ramos, furtively crossed herself when an announcer read his name.

"It's very hard for me to come up here," the 37-year-old Dallas woman said. "Those who died can't talk about what happened. So I guess this is doing the talking for them."

Ramos was the only soldier in his patrol to survive an ambush on March 26, 1965. He was found under a carpet of dirt, surrounded by the bodies of his comrades and suffering from severe head and internal injuries that

left him incapable of speaking or leaving a hospital bed for 22 years, Briones said.

She said her half-brother's hospitalization split the family because some relatives visited him only once during the 22 years he was institutionalized. Three half-brothers joined her at the dedication ceremony.

Matula, 41, died when the reconnaissance plane he was piloting slid off the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Independence on July 20, 1965. Also killed was the co-pilot, Navy Lt. Carl Eugene Gronquist of Pensacola, Fla.

The officer's 32-year-old son, Mark Matula, who was 9 when his father died, said, "They were landing on the USS Independence and the plane caught the arresting cable and the cable popped."

"They tried to give it full throttle but it didn't have enough power to take off and it went off the end of the carrier into the sea. To be honest, I don't know the actual cause of death."

His sister, Pam Elmondorf, 37, of Austin, joined Matula at the wall to honor their father, who is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

"We're very proud that his name has been added," Matula said. "All I've done is write letters. He's the one who made the sacrifice and I'm glad he's going to be honored."

The new names have been inscribed as close as possible to where they should appear in chronological order by date of casualty, park service officials said. The memorial's V-shaped granite walls were designed with a limited amount of blank space to accommodate additional names.

An estimated 20 million people have visited the memorial since it was dedicated five years ago.

Clements relies on Dallas hometown for board choices

AUSTIN (AP) — Nearly a third of the people appointed by Gov. Bill Clements during his first 10 months in office to major state boards and commissions are from Dallas, the governor's hometown.

"It is clear that the Dallas-Fort Worth area was not really represented when we came into office, and we're trying to balance that out," appoint-

ments secretary James Huffines told the *Dallas Morning News*.

"On a lot of boards, Houston had the vast majority of appointees, and we hope over the next four years to get an even balance on all these boards," Huffines said.

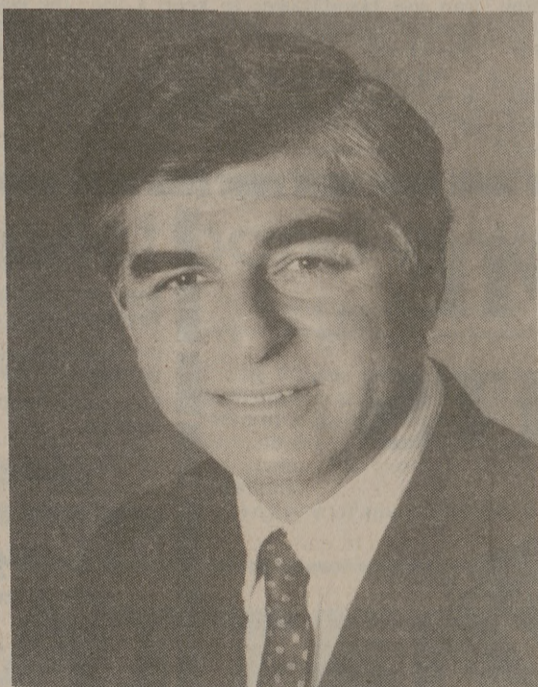
Clements' predecessor, former Democratic Gov. Mark White of Houston, also relied heavily

on people from his hometown in making appointments, according to the newspaper's review of White selections during his term.

White named Houston residents 30 percent of the time to spots on 19 major state boards and commissions. Fifteen percent of his appointments to the same panels came from Dallas.

Decision '88 The Presidential Series

presents



Governor Mike Dukakis

Meet
"The Duke"

Democratic Presidential Candidate
in a nationally televised address

Friday, November 13 3:15 pm

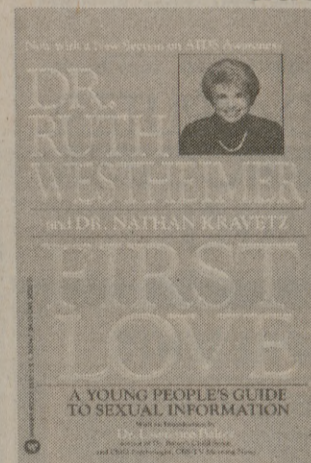
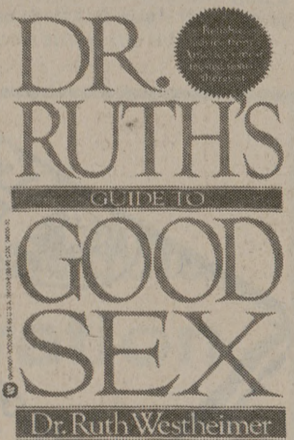
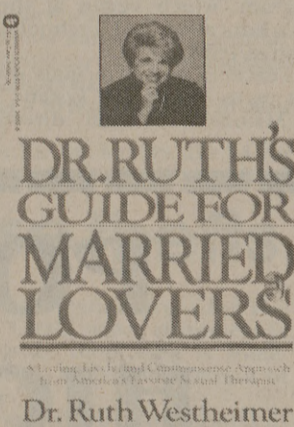
Rudder Theatre
Free Admission

This program is presented for educational purposes, and does not constitute an endorsement for any speaker.

An Invitation to MEET DR. RUTH in the Patio Bookshop

Friday, Nov. 13th
3:50 to 4:30 p.m.

and have your books personally autographed.



All in a Lifetime 17.95
Guide to Good Sex 4.95
First Love \$3.50
Guide for Married Lovers \$3.95

ALL IN A LIFETIME
An Autobiography by
Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer
with Ben Yagoda

Photo by Ken Nahoum

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Westheimer earned her doctorate in the Interdisciplinary Study of the Family from Columbia University and is an Adjunct Professor at New York University. Dr. Westheimer also gives lectures at colleges and university across the country and has a private practice in New York City. She is married and the proud mother of two grown children.

