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'89 Class Council seeks suggestions for gift with spirit

By Tracy Wenkel
 Reporter

The Senior Class Council Gift Committee is encouraging seniors to provide the committee with suggestions for the Class of '89 senior gift.

Class Gift Chairman, Betsy Benson, said the gift committee has combined the push for suggestions with the sale of Elephant Walk T-shirts.

"This, we hope, will help draw attention to the need for students to submit their suggestions for the class gift," Benson said.

The gift committee will promote gift suggestions for the next two weeks. Suggestion forms are available at the senior T-shirt table in the MSC. The forms can be dropped in the suggestion box at the table or at the senior class cubicle in the Student Programs Office.

"The class gift is intended to give something back to Texas A&M that would affect the school, University-wide," Benson said. "We also want the class gift to reflect the spirit of the Class of '89."

Benson, a senior history major from Spring, said the responsibility of coming up with ideas for the gift is the job of every senior, not just the gift committee.

"To make the class happy, everyone needs to get involved," Benson said. "The senior class needs to be aware that they are the ones who have the say in what is given as a gift. They make suggestions and have the final vote in February."

"Awareness is our major concern right now. The class gift is not just something that turns up at the end of the year."

Senior class council adviser Laura Croteau said, "The committee checks into the feasibility of the choices. Can it be afforded? Is it needed? Does it meet the goals of the class gift?"

The gift committee divides the submitted suggestions into categories of endowments, scholarships, statues and

monuments and physical aspects, which is a catch-all category.

Researching each suggestion includes discovering its impact on the University, how much money it will involve and determining how the gift will fit into the University's future plans, Benson said.

"We don't want to build a statue and the next year have a building constructed on the site," she said.

After researching the gift suggestions, the committee will select the five best choices, she said. The choices will be submitted to the class for a vote Feb. 6-10, 1989. The gift will be announced in April at the Former Students Induction Banquet.

"My goal is to have the senior gift before graduation so the seniors can see their gift," Benson said.

Benson has been preparing for her position for more than a year. She sat in on the Class of '88 gift committee meetings during her junior year, which she said helped her make necessary contacts with people on-campus, as well as learning the procedure by which the Class of '88 selected its gifts.

"The experience helped me to gain an understanding of the magnitude of the project at hand," Benson said. "I prepared for this job all last year, and I feel ready for it."

Class gifts are important and lasting tributes from each class to the University, she said. Some class gifts that remain on campus now include the Fish Pond (Class of '32), Military Walk markers (Class of '36), and the west gate World War I memorial marker (Classes of '23, '24, '25, and '26).

"Money is raised throughout all four years," Croteau, who has advised senior classes for two years, said. "But the majority of the money is earned during the senior year with two Howdy dances, Ring Dance and the senior T-shirt sales."

Benson said the total budget of the Class of '89 will not be known until after Ring Dance.

Dispatcher held call in fire that killed five

DALLAS (AP) — One of the victims in a weekend house fire that killed five people called the emergency 911 number, but a dispatcher held the call for more than half an hour, police said Tuesday.

Police Chief Mack Vines said the 911 call was received at 10:31 p.m. Sunday, but that the dispatcher could hear only sounds of a child screaming and pounding.

The call was given a "Priority One," but when the call was turned over to a civilian dispatcher, he held it, believing whoever was on the other end had hung up, Vines said.

Fire trucks responded to the fire in south Dallas at 11:07 p.m. after a neighbor called and reported smoke coming from the house.

Killed in the fire were Mary Graham, 75; two of her grandchildren; and two of her great-grandchildren, officials said.

Vines said the dispatcher who held the call resigned before the police chief had a chance to fire him. Vines said it was unclear whether any of the victims would have lived if help had been sent quicker.

"I don't know what type of contribution our failure to direct the unit to the scene could have played in this case," the police chief said.

"It's difficult to say, obviously, because we don't know the time of death, the time or origin of the fire. But we are an emergency center, and we are compelled to dispatch people on an emergency basis."

Deadbolt locks apparently hindered escape for Mrs. Graham and her granddaughter, Latrece Faggett, 13, who were found in the living room near the front door, fire officials said.

Keys found on the floor fit the deadbolt lock to the residence's back door, and keys to the front door were found in Mrs. Graham's purse, officials said.

The other victims from the fire were Terrence Faggett, 17; DeMarcus Faggett, 2; and Sierra Faggett, 17 months. Terrence and DeMarcus were found in a front bedroom, and Sierra in a hallway, authorities said.

HOUSTON (AP) — The defense attorney for a man convicted of raping a 74-year-old woman said the prosecutor's use of DNA fingerprinting evidence was devastating to his case.

Jurors in State District Judge A.D. Azios's court took three minutes Monday to convict Henry Lee Bethune, 32, and then sentence him to the maximum of life in prison and \$10,000 fine.

The three-week trial marked the first time a Houston judge admitted DNA evidence for a criminal proceeding.

It was shown that there is only a 1-in-700-million chance that someone other than Bethune left a semen stain on the woman's mattress Jan. 16.

Bethune's attorney, Moe Sanchez, spoke as if he was left in an impossible spot to thwart the mountain of irrefutable

What's Up

Wednesday

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting about exchange programs and Denmark international studies at 3:30 p.m. in 251 Bizzell West.

AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY: will have a pizza party at 7 p.m. at Mr. Gatti Skaggs Center.

HISPANIC BUSINESS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 144 Blocker.

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

AGGIE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 5 p.m. in 144 Blocker.

BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE: will meet at 8 p.m. in Rudder. Check in screen for the room number.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES: will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church.

TAMU SPORTS CAR CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE: chairmen will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/NEWMAN: will have a mid week break at 7:30 p.m. at the student center.

CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD: will discuss birth control at 9 p.m. in Lounge in the quad.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES SEMINAR: Applications for the 1989 Speakers Series are available through Nov. 22 in 208 Pavilion.

STUDENT YOUTH FUN DAY: Applications for counselors and coaches are available through Nov. 18 in 211 Pavilion.

STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

Thursday

FACULTY FORUM: will present "The Anthropical Cosmological Principle: Evidence for a Designed Universe" at 12:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

BETA ALPHA PSI: will have a professional meeting with Price Waterhouse at 2 p.m. at the Hilton.

TAMU ROADRUNNERS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

ETA KAPPA NU/NATIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY: will discuss the electrical engineering graduate program at A&M at 8 p.m. in 103 Zachry.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: call the center at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: will have a happy hour from 5 p.m. at Bombay Bicycle Club.

MSC OPAS: presents "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.

STUDENTS WITH ALTERNATIVE PHILOSOPHIES: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

A.I.A.S.: will meet at 7 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.

BLACK AWARENESS COMMITTEE: will have a fall fashion show at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS: Dr. J. McMasters of Boeing Commercial Aircraft will speak about the aerodynamic nature at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: Dr. Juan Valdes will speak about "International Technology Transfer: The MIT-Argentina Project" at 8 p.m. in 704 Rudder.

FISH CAMP: applications for chairpersons will be accepted through Nov. 18.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDermott, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

In Advance

MSC Hospitality sponsors auction

MSC Hospitality will hold a lost and found auction **Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.**

Items that have been in the MSC lost and found for at least six months will be auctioned. Among items to be auctioned are sports equipment, clothing, jewelry, notebooks, books and calculators.

Bonus gifts, to be presented to some auctioned items, include: 3C Bar-B-Q, Benning's, Fajita Rita's. Gift certificates for Chico and Western Sizzlin' Steak House also will be given.

Proceeds will be used for MSC Hospitality community events.

DNA fingerprint evidence cinches rapist's conviction

testimony put on by prosecutor Rusty Hardin, much less fight off Hardin's request for a maximum sentence.

"It's devastating," Sanchez said. "That population data bank information — 1-in-700-million — just kills you. The defense bar better get ready."

Using the semen specimen from the woman's mattress, workers at the New York firm of Lifecodes compared it with DNA extracted from a blood sample a court order forced Bethune to give.

X-rays of strands of DNA from the two samples showed an uncanny likeness, even down to minute details.

Bethune maintained he was home with a friend talking and watching television when the woman was assaulted at her nearby home.

"The DNA just cinched it," jury fore-

man Stan Curry said of the issue of thune's guilt.

The trial's outcome was welcomed by survivors of Lucy Parson, also killed, who was beaten to death in her home Jan. 12.

"This has been the happiest day of my life," Parson's daughter, Reesa Curry said. "No punishment would have been sufficient as far as I'm concerned, this is the maximum."

Bethune is not charged with the murder of Parson or with the Dec. 4 killing of Lillie Fluckinger, 65, by police Sgt. James Yarbrough said he was leading suspect.

"We suspect him of those murders and eight to 10 rapes," Yarbrough said. Sex assault charges, however, are pending against Bethune in a Jan. 1987 attack of another 74-year-old victim.

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