

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy, cooler

HIGH: 58 LOW: 40

Aggies Against Bonfire organize; pro-bonfire group attends meeting

By Bob Krenek
Of The Battalion Staff

Aggies Against Bonfire held an organizational meeting Thursday in front of the Academic Building and were met by a larger group of pro-bonfire students who also wanted to make their opinions known.

Alex Jordan began the AAB meeting by outlining the purpose of the group.

AAB wants to advance, rather than hinder Texas A&M, Jordan said.

"We believe bonfire is wasteful, both of resources and manpower and that it exhibits ignorance to the rest of the world," he said. "We believe it goes contrary to the values an institute of higher learning should have."

One member of the group said he has contacted the Texas Forestry Service about planting trees to replace those cut down for bonfire.

Jordan emphasized that nothing is expected to happen right away.

"We realize we cannot stop it this year or even next year, but it's something to work at," he said.

Jordan also said he wanted students to realize that AAB is not against A&M in any way.

"We just think bonfire is shameful and it is something we need to take a hard look at," he said.

Many members of the group said they support using the wood for a more constructive purpose. One of the most popular suggestions was to use the wood to keep the homeless warm in the winter.

Several members of the pro-bonfire group said the wood would be destroyed even if it were not burned at bonfire.

Bonfire, they said, serves a use-

ful purpose by providing students with a way to release tension, learn to work as a group and meet people.

Jordan raised the issue of finding alternatives to bonfire. One idea the group is working on, he said, is a party on the night of bonfire that would offer an alternative way to celebrate without wastefulness.

The immense waste caused by bonfire is a central issue, Brian Skipworth said.

"The people that work on bonfire are working to waste," he said. "They are a good group of people, and they are working very hard. I just feel it would be better if they worked towards something else. I think some questions need to be raised about why we are doing this."

One member of the pro-bonfire group suggested AAB form another group to cut trees in the Spring and give the wood to the homeless. Many voiced support of this idea and said they would aid such an effort. Several in the crowd advised AAB to offer an alternative to bonfire rather than try to eliminate it.

"I think this was a really good thing," Jordan said after the meeting. "I'm glad these people came, even the people for bonfire. It's good to hear other views, it's an educational process. That is why I am here."

"I don't look down on anyone who goes out there," he said. "I just think they may not know about the world situation or may not care."

Skipworth wanted to say the group is pro-A&M.

"We think this is a great school and we want to make it better," he said.

In that aspect, he felt the meeting was very productive.

"We heard a lot of good suggestions here tonight from both

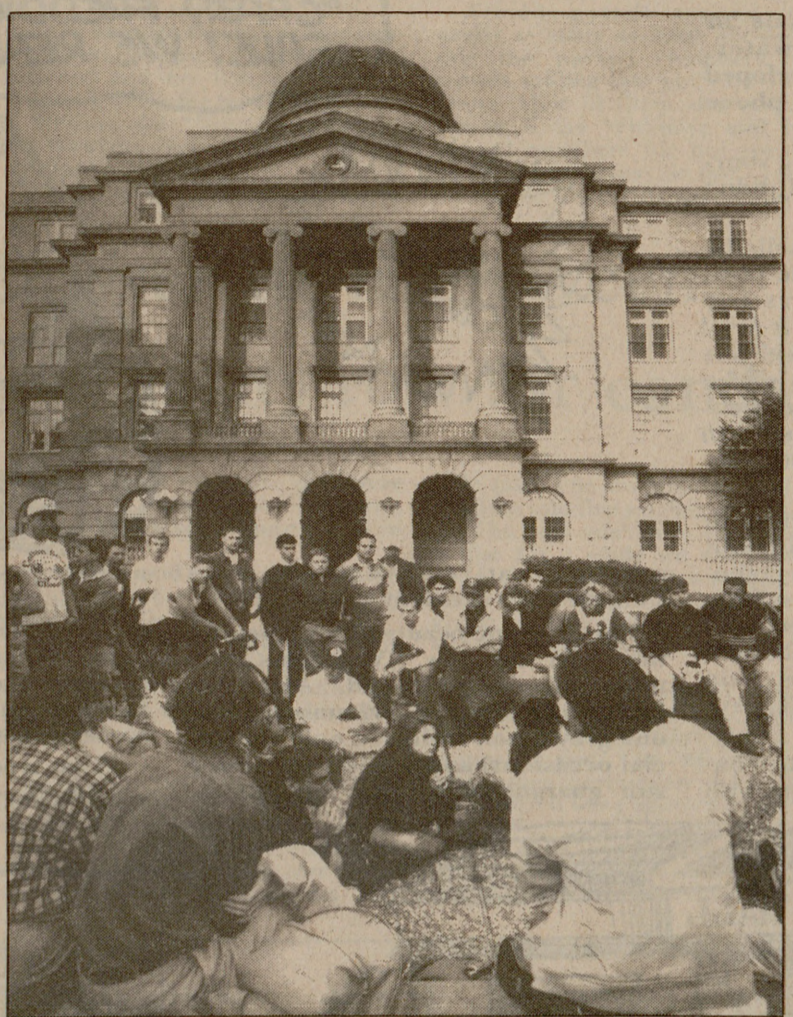


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Protestors of bonfire share opinions with supporters of the tradition share opinions outside the Academic Building.

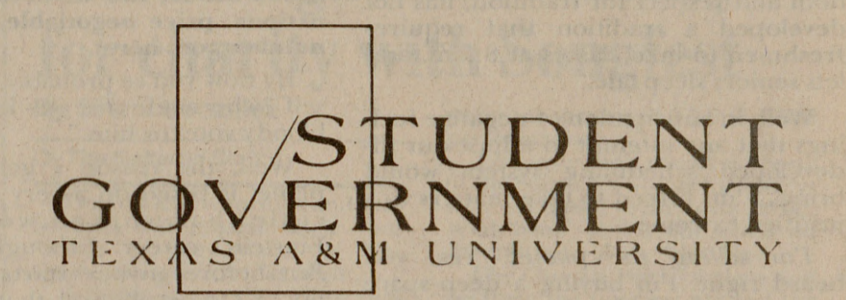
groups," he said. "This was a very positive experience."

Still, he holds his views as strongly as ever, he said.

"I just think bonfire is ignorant, wasteful and hazardous to the environment," he said.

"This is part of higher education," he said, "to question things around you."

Senate, MSC forum work to secure debate of governor hopefuls



By Michael Kelley
Of The Battalion Staff

As the 1990 gubernatorial candidates begin hitting the campaign trail, the Texas A&M Student Senate, in conjunction with MSC Political Forum, is working to bring the candidates to A&M. The two student organizations are setting up a debate among the candidates for governor to inform students about candidates' stances on issues dealing with higher education.

The senate endorsed the debate in its meeting Wednesday night because the governor has a great impact on higher education.

Also during the senate meeting, Clevenger commented on the present status of A&M's efforts to bring the George Bush Presidential Library to A&M. He said that the U.S. Archivist and his executive assistant visited A&M last week and has informed A&M officials that a decision on the library's location will be made within two to three weeks. Clevenger said that the chances of A&M getting the library are "very good right now."

Dr. Herman Saatkamp, Jr., Speaker of the Faculty Senate, spoke on deficiencies in services provided by the Sterling C. Evans Library. He called it an issue that must be worked on by both the faculty and

student senates because of the complimentary negative effect the situation has on both groups.

"We are at the turning point to improve our library in order to prepare us for the 21st Century," Saatkamp said.

A committee of the faculty senate has been working on a proposal to help improve the collections holding facilities of the library. Saatkamp cites a lack of space and the rising costs of books and periodicals as reasons for this problem. Possible solutions are being prepared for presentation to President Mobley on the issue.

Saatkamp will be touring the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. to learn more about possible high-technology procedures that are being used in library management today. This includes storage of data and information on laser disks. He leaves Thursday morning.

Student Body President Kevin Buchman addressed problems with the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Buchman meets every two weeks with the Health Center Advisory Committee to air concerns over problems that students are experiencing with Health Center services.

He encouraged any student who has a complaint about the Health Center to contact him so that he may relay the information to the advisory committee. The Student Government phone number is 845-3051.

Residents urge community to march for war on drugs

By Cindy McMillian
Of The Battalion Staff

Bryan-College Station residents will take to the streets Saturday to alert the community about the local drug problem and publicize the ef-

forts of Our Unity and Recovery War on Drugs.

The group's acronym, OUR War on Drugs, was created to symbolize that the community must work as a whole to solve the drug problem.

Citizens will gather and march from Bryan City Hall to Sadie

Thomas Park, carrying signs with anti-drug slogans north on Texas Avenue and east on Martin Luther King Street.

The march will end with a rally in the park and a speech by Louise Bias, mother of the late Len Bias, a Boston Celtics recruit who died from

a cocaine overdose in 1986.

Marsha Herring, of the march coordinating committee, said the march is intended to be a community-wide event.

"The drug problem in Bryan-College Station is not just a Bryan prob-

lem or a College Station problem," she said.

"It is neither a white nor black problem, it is a community problem that in some ways impacts us all.

"For too long, people in the community have waited for someone or something else to pick up the banner and fight the battle."

"We are attempting to empower the residents of the community to act to take back the streets," she said.

Mary Mattingly, executive director of the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse, said the event was planned in response to the "community's outcry for help."

She said members of the community want to take back their streets from drugs and drug dealers, and she thinks such a victory is possible.

The day's activities will begin at 1200 Ridgedale (Mockingbird Run Apartments) at 9 a.m. with a Prayer Band.

A short program making Ms. Bias an Honorary Citizen will initiate the march, which will begin at 10 a.m. and end in Sadie Thomas Park with guest speakers Ms. Bias and Beverly Davis, director of the 'Texans' War on Drugs.

Refreshments will be provided at the park by Gath's Chicken and More and McDonald's.

The public is invited to attend a reception for Ms. Bias at 4 p.m. at Lincoln Center, located at 1000 Eleanor Street in College Station.

Law enforcement agencies also will be present for the day's activities, and marchers can take time to learn about Citizen Watch groups and neighborhood protection rights.

The march is coordinated by BV-CASA, HCA Greenleaf Hospital, United Missionary Baptist Church of Bryan and the Brazos County NAACP.

Wiatt encourages reporting date rape, says saying 'no' with force is essential

By Kelly S. Brown
Of The Battalion Staff

Two weeks after Leslie and Ted met they went on their first date. All Leslie knew about Ted is that she liked him — that was enough. By their second date a physical relationship had begun. Leslie knew Ted wanted it all, but she wanted to follow a slower path. No reason existed for Leslie not to trust Ted.

When his advances were furthered, she pulled away. He pulled tighter. The next thing she knew, it was over with. She had become another statistic of date rape, and he

was out the door. She would see him again, though.

She saw him every time she closed her eyes. She saw him around campus and in class, but never in the courtroom.

Leslie represents the majority of women who are date or acquaintance

PART 1 OF A 2 PART SERIES

raped — their silence is what makes them this majority.

Authorities estimate more than 50 percent of rapes go unreported, and the few that are reported go unpunished because most women don't press charges.

Bob Wiatt, director of security at

the University Police Department, said there's nothing the authorities can do if the victims who are assaulted don't come forward and report it.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, with UPD, said one out of every 10 rapes are reported, while victims range from the very young to the elderly with those between 18 and 24 (college age) being the majority of victims.

"It's not just women who are raped — it's men too, and people don't realize this," he said.

While sexual assault, or rape, is just a flash in the headlines to some, its prevalence is far more reaching than what we see in print and what people want to believe.

There's no telling how long date rape has been committed on the A&M campus and it's difficult to verify how frequently it occurs, but no one can deny its presence — especially its victims.

Between September 1988 and Au-

See Date rape/Page 14

Corps invites women athletes to dinner to promote sports

By Holly Becka
Of The Battalion Staff

The Corps of Cadets will host members of Texas A&M's women's athletic teams at a 6:20 p.m. cross-dine today in Duncan Dining Hall.

Corps public relations officer Clay Whitaker said this cross-dine will benefit all attending.

"A guy in one outfit has a girlfriend who is on the volleyball team and they wanted to invite the whole team to dinner," Whitaker, a senior marketing major said.

"We decided to do it on a Corps level and invite every women's athletic team," he said.

"A lot of those girls are really busy with their sport and probably don't know a lot about the Corps, and we can show our support for what

they're doing," he said.

Amy Brown, a senior speech communication major who is a student worker with the athletic department, said women athletes have been trying to increase campus awareness in their sports this semester.

"The cross-dine is another way to help increase awareness in women's sports," Brown, who helped coordinate the event, said.

"It's something that's fun, but it will also promote women's athletics," she said. "The athletes see it as a way to get more students involved and aware and promote their sports."

Whitaker said he was glad to see women's athletics being promoted.

"We go to All-U Night and R.C. Slocum stands up there and talks

about the football program, and then Coach (Lynn) Hickey stands up and talks about women's athletics," he said.

"Everybody claps and everything, but the turnout at (women's athletic events) just isn't there," he said. "The support is not what it should be. Maybe this (dine) will increase awareness, or at least get more Corps members to attend women's games."

Brown said about 110 women will eat dinner with the Corps members.

The Corps hosts women's dorms and sororities in Duncan periodically throughout the year, but this is the first time Corps members have had a cross-dine with the women athletes.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Right on target

Archery Club members Jason Lowery, Eric Brumlow and Victor Vega take aim at the target during a practice session by the Zachry parking lot. The group practices there every day.