

Monday, November 6, 1989 1989

**Heads up!**

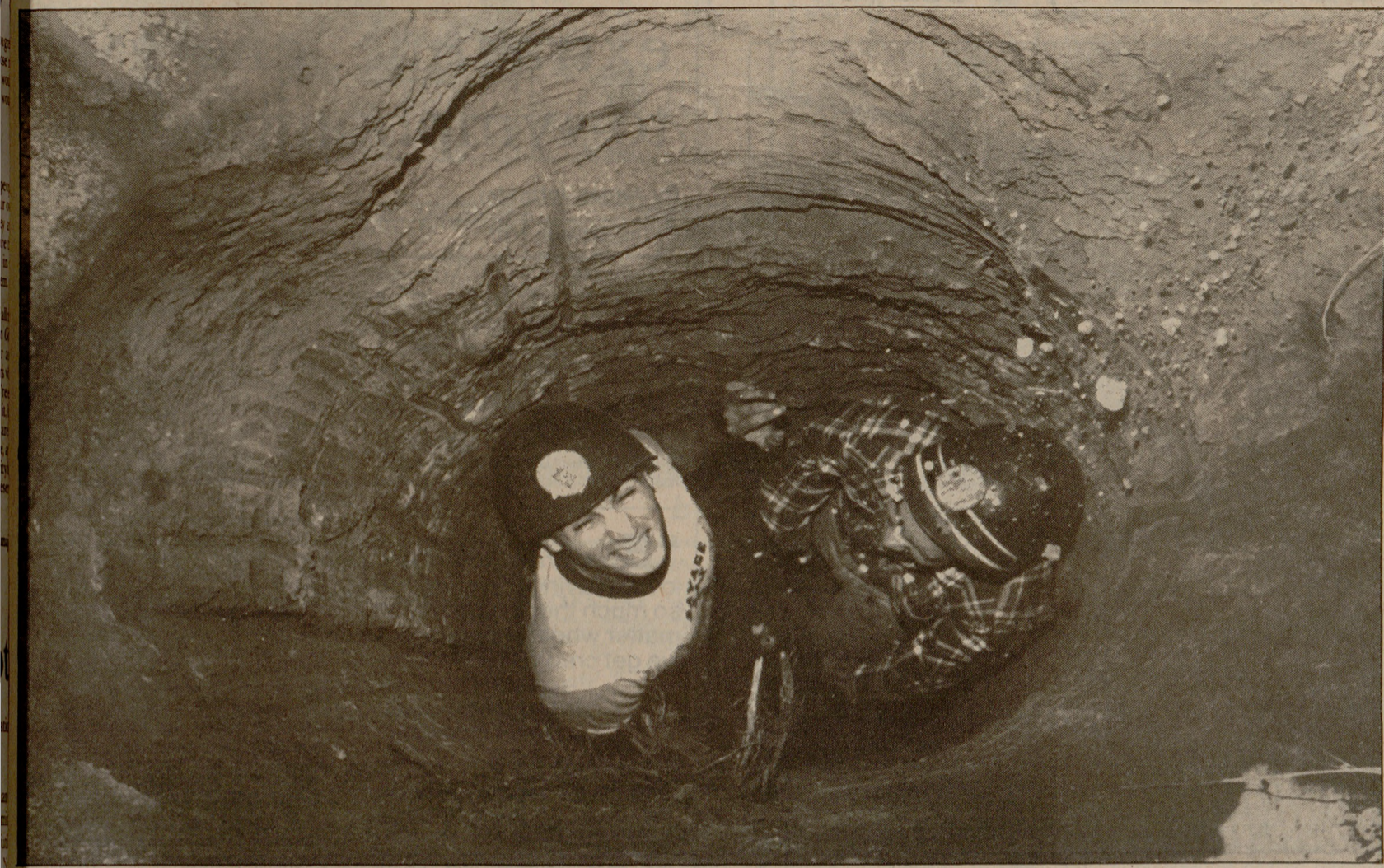


Photo by Kathy Haveman

Senior redpot Carlos Thomaz (left) looks up from the bottom of the 15-foot deep hole that was dug for the bonfire centerpole at

Duncan Field, while fellow redpot Steve Moore gets dirt dumped on his head from the shifting feet of onlookers above.

## Group offers help to students against animal dissection

By Pam Mooman  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Sometimes standing up for something can mean standing out from the crowd.

In 1987, Jenifer Graham refused to dissect a frog in her biology class. Her California high school lowered her grade from "A" to "C". Graham took the school to court and eventually testified before the California legislature. On the grounds of her testimony, a bill was passed allowing students to refuse to dissect animals in class.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund has helped Graham's mother set up a national hotline to advise students who object to dissection on the courses of action they can take.

ALDF, founded in 1979, is a national network of more than 250 lawyers. It uses legal action to save animal lives and prevent suffering in laboratories, on farms, from trappers and sport hunters, in homes and in classrooms.

ALDF's Students Against Dissection Hotline is its latest effort to promote animal rights. The number is 1-800-922-FROG (3764). The hotline advises students of their legal rights when they object to dissection. When necessary, Joyce Tischler, executive director of ALDF, will refer callers to local lawyers who can help them defend their rights not to dissect.

While California students in kindergarten through high school have legal support to refuse to dissect, the rights of college students have not been as clearly defined. But ALDF believes that the First Amendment gives all students the right to refuse to dissect.

The hotline also gives students guidelines for negotiating with college officials. ALDF's free booklet,

"Objecting to Dissection: A Student Handbook," gives students an eight-step plan to help them refuse to dissect. The booklet, available to hotline callers, also lists teaching aids that are alternatives to dissection.

Dr. Gary Joiner, Texas A&M's Director of University Laboratory Animal Care, said that while dissection is a valuable teaching method, other alternatives are available.

"If you're preparing for a career in surgery, dissection would be a lot

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more important to those people than to a general biology student," Joiner said. "You get a better perspective."

"I've never seen a picture that could show you the same inter-relationship as doing an actual dissection."

"(But) a good videotape will take you a long way."

Joiner, however, said dissection of embalmed animals has drawbacks.

"I think you've got a distortion in color of tissue," he said. "Everything gets real hard and stiff."

This is why veterinary students study a progressive-type curriculum, he said. They advance from dissection of embalmed animals to dissection of fresh animals and then to surgery, he said.

Joiner said that historically, A&M has not had a big problem with stu-

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## Department recognizes work of student leaders

Texas A&M student leaders were rewarded Saturday morning with coffee and pastries at a Student Leaders' Coffee for the work they do throughout the year.

"We wanted to give recognition to students who volunteer time and effort to the 650 clubs and activities that make A&M activities and programs possible," said Rena Sardo, coordinator of

the coffee, which was sponsored by the Department of Student Activities.

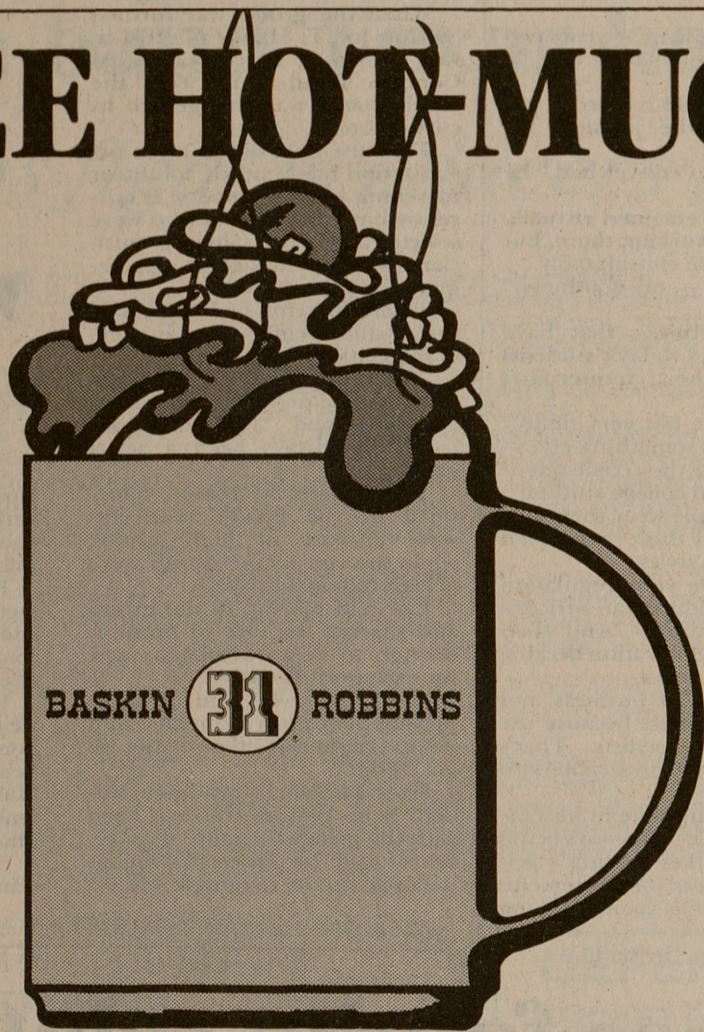
Student groups represented at the coffee ranged from the Corps of Cadets to various sports entities such as track and field and baseball. Reveille V also attended.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for Student Services, said he thinks the coffee, which was

held in the MSC, was an important event because it gave student leaders and their parents the opportunity to mingle with students and staff members from other organizations.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we have the finest University in the world," Koldus said. "If it weren't for student leaders this probably wouldn't be possible."

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