

GLBA holds rally to increase awareness

Gathering includes speeches and yells

By MICHELE BRINKMANN

The Battalion

"Beat the Hell Outta Homophobia" was one of several chants shouted by gays, lesbians and bisexuals at the Hands Across A&M rally held Wednesday on the Texas A&M University campus.

"The purpose of this rally was to heighten awareness of a significant number of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students, faculty and staff," said Brian Reinhart, former president of Gay Lesbian Student Services and intern for the A&M Student Counseling Services.

About 20 people gathered around the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue in front of the Academic Building in the afternoon heat to listen to speeches and yells at the first Gay Lesbian Bisexual Aggies (GLBA) rally. The group listened to four speakers and then marched around campus yelling chants and holding hands.

A multi-colored flag was displayed and a bouquet of balloons were tied to the statue, to symbolize the group's unified diversity, Reinhart said.

Gatherers also wore pink triangles, a symbol of gay, lesbian and bisexual pride. This tradition began during World War II in Nazi Germany as a way of identifying homosexuals.

Reinhart was the first speaker at the rally and told the group, "Texas A&M is in the Dark Ages."

Outgoing treasurer of GLBA, Jayson Payne, who attended a gay march in Washington D.C. last weekend said, "We're not fighting against the University, we're fighting against the people's attitudes at the University."

Reinhart also said that a Gay Lesbian Bisexual Former Students Association is in the works.

GLBA sponsored the rally to comply with official Gay Pride Month and yesterday's 24th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in San Francisco, which started the Gay Lesbian Civil Rights Movement.

In order to represent bisexuals, the Gay Lesbian Student Services (GLSS) voted last spring to change the name to Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Aggies.



EDWARD VARGAS/Special to The Battalion

The Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Aggies association march around campus during a rally on Wednesday. They were lead by former president Kim Retting and her friend Tammy Dickerson. They chanted

such slogans as, "Hold hands, not hate," and "Beat the hell outta homophobia," as they marched hand in hand to show their loyalty to each other.

Dinosaur

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present time because they were evolved to live in an environment that doesn't exist anymore."

Varner said the movie was not realistic in its image of "science

run amuck." He said in real-life biotechnology experiments, regulatory agencies oversee all parts of experimentation. There is no evidence of oversight in the movie, he said.

Varner said even if science were able to re-create the dinosaurs, they would not become a popular tourist attraction like in the movie. "There is no even re-

mote possibility of creating a wholesale production like in the movie," he said.

In the past, the public has not been fond of the idea of messing with nature.

According to an Associated Press article, the moves made by Texas A&M to make a maroon bluebonnet last May were not well received by wildflower enthusiasts.

The same sentiment came across in the movie when Jeff Goldblum said, "You shouldn't mess with Mother Nature."

Young said the movie does have some positive results. "It is entertaining and it is raising people's interest in science and biology," he said. Other than that the film should not be taken too seriously, he said.

Fireworks

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"We try to stay within the holiday spirit and confiscate them without having to give out citations," he said.

The fine for the possession of fireworks will be up to \$1,000 this year.

To prevent fireworks injuries, the city of College Station in

conjunction with the College Station Noon Lions Club, Post Oak Mall, KTEX 106 and KBTX Channel 3 will be sponsoring the "Fireworks Extravaganza" at the newly constructed Wolf Pen Creek Park.

Mike Bolton, chairman of the Fourth of July committee with College Station Noon Lions Club, said, "So far it looks like it will be the biggest fireworks display in the Bryan and College Station area, but possibly even in the Bra-

zos County."

In the past years, the City of College Station has been using Olsen field as a site for their fireworks display, while Post Oak Mall conducted their own fireworks display in the mall parking lot.

Bolton said the two sponsors decided to make the fireworks display bigger and better by coordinating this event.

He said 4,000 to 5,000 people attended last year's fireworks

show at Olsen Field.

"We hope that the crowd will be larger than last year," Bolton said.

The coordinators of this extravaganza said the fireworks display is on July 3 instead of the actual Independence day to avoid conflicts with people's schedules.

Bolton said that there will be many games for the children and special performances by Rock A Fellas and the Brazos County Grass.

Program

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teachers ideas on how to teach biotechnology and how to identify additional resources at the local or regional level. It started June 14 and will end July 2. The teachers are provided with on-campus housing during the program.

Dr. Ed Funkhouser, associate head of the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, said the program will continue at A&M for the next two years.

He said the movie Jurassic Park has not effected the perspective of the teachers, but they expect a growth in excitement among the students.

"The teachers are planning on requiring their students to watch the movie and read the book and then decide what is possible and

not possible," he said.

Funkhouser said the teachers had an opportunity to work with two student organizations Wednesday. Labstart and Minority High School Research Apprentice Program, both a part of Texas A&M's Summer Research Apprentice Program, got hands-on experience with the help of the teachers in a laboratory setting.

Dr. Don Pettigrew, one of the scientists coordinating the program, said in a press release, the program will also deal with the ethics involved with cloning. He said he is concerned about students and teachers knowing enough about biotechnology to begin to explore ethical issues.

Biotechnologists have had to deal with misconceptions about cloning for years and, with the wide-spread popularity of Jurassic Park, the public has a renewed fear of cloning, he said.

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