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MTV series' debate hits home

Beavis, Butt-Head cause local concern

By Jacqueline Mason

THE BATTALION

Recent allegations that MTV's cartoon series "Beavis and Butt-Head" sends a negative message to children has local officials taking sides on the issue.

Incidents of children setting fires after watching the prime time series depicting two teenage boys preoccupied with dangerous stunts have been reported across the country.

In Moraine, Ohio, a 2-year-old girl was killed after her 5-year-old brother set fire to their family's house. The mother of the boy said the show influenced her son to start the fire.

MTV reported that what happened in Moraine was a tragedy, but maintained that the cartoon was not responsible.

While the network has not taken the series off the air, it has modified the content of some episodes, and is developing new ideas for future programs.

Josie Peacher, president of A&M Consolidated High School's PSST (Parents Supporting Students and Teachers) organization, said she assumes most parents would think the cartoon is offensive.

"Beavis and Butt-Head" does not teach good moral standards to the audience of young kids it is geared toward, she said.

"Basically, I don't think it is a good program for them to watch," she said.

Although Peacher allows her two teen-age children to watch the show, she will not let them buy or wear a "Beavis and Butt-Head" T-shirt. She said even the name of the show is offensive.

Douglas Godwin, Texas A&M Early Childhood Education professor, said it is hard to measure the influence of shows like "Beavis and Butt-Head" on children because children are exposed to so many other variables.

But considering the time children spend watching television,

these shows become a strong modeling instrument for them, he said.

"Television is an increasingly powerful socialization tool," he said.

Godwin said both parents and the media should convince each other that shows like "Beavis and Butt-Head" send a bad message to children and should possibly be kept off the air.

"I think what we need is to persuade the adult population that we owe something to the next generation," he said.

But censorship by the government should be a last resort, he added.

Regular episodes of the cartoon are now shown from 9:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. (two episodes back to back) Monday through Friday.

Some of these episodes are re-runs while some are new, none of them containing any references to fire.

"We feel the steps we are taking are the proper ones," an MTV statement read.

Grad Camp to offer graduate crash course in Aggie tradition

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

The gap between graduate students and student life at A&M might be bridged through the creation of Graduate Camp, a new program set to begin next year.

Grad Camp is designed to teach incoming graduate students about the traditions and spirit of A&M and offer the students resources that might help during their graduate studies.

Student Body President Walker came up with the idea last spring and enlisted two upper students, Mark Dumas and Steven Faw, to help him project.

Walker said Grad Camp will help graduate students adjust to Texas A&M.

"Many times graduate students come to Texas A&M knowing nothing about the university," Walker said. "Grad Camp will help them feel like they belong to A&M just as much as an undergraduate student does."

Dumas said both the and the University lose the graduate student connection.

"When graduate students don't understand the traditions or student activities, they lose out on all of what A&M has to offer," Dumas said.

"The boys have always been a big supporter of MDA and have always been so gung-ho about it," she said.

The majority of donated money will help fund research programs and purchase equipment for handicapped children in the Brazos Valley area.

"We still have a lot of research to do in regards to what we can do to help these children."

See Camp/Pa

Haunted House to hit The Globe

Fraternity sponsors seventh annual event to benefit MDA

By Carrie Miura

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M chapter of the Kappa Alpha fraternity will celebrate Halloween two days early this year by sponsoring its seventh annual Haunted House to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) on October 29.

Bill Wilder, Kappa Alpha member and director of the haunted house, said he hopes this year's haunted house is a success.

"We would like to donate at least \$10,000 to MDA, to improve the haunted house overall, and to get the community to come out," he said.

The haunted house will be set up like a maze and each room will have a different theme. The proceeds from the Haunted House will go to the MDA.

This year the 12-room haunted house will be located in The Globe, a College Station dance club.

"We had a tough time to find a place for the

haunted house, but The Globe came through for us," Wilder said.

Advance tickets to the haunted house will cost \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. At the door, tickets will sell for \$5.

Jace Aran, senior Kappa Alpha member, said the haunted house is a great way for the fraternity to work together to support MDA.

"It's a good thing for us to come together and work for one purpose that is a very worthy cause," Aran said.

Laura Massey, the Brazos Valley representative for MDA, said the Kappa Alpha fraternity has been a great help in fighting muscular dystrophy.

"The boys have always been a big supporter of MDA and have always been so gung-ho about it," she said.

The majority of donated money will help fund research programs and purchase equipment for handicapped children in the Brazos Valley area.

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