

Earth Day '94 focuses on awareness

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

In recognition of Friday's Earth Day, two Texas A&M student groups will host several events to increase student's awareness of environmental issues.

The Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) and the Texas Environmental Action Coalition (TEAC) will join forces to sponsor the Earth Day Extravaganza at Rudder Fountain from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.

Brad Dressler, EIC project leader for A&M's Earth Day, said about 15 student organizations will have booths at Rudder Fountain.

Each booth will cover a different topic of environmental concern.

Dressler said some of the groups will have games for students to play to learn about environmental concerns and solutions.

Several local bands will also be participating in the awareness program.

Dressler said two bands will play for an hour Friday to get students interested in Saturday's Aggie Woodstock.

This free concert will feature six local bands from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. at The Grove.

James Rohrer, secretary for TEAC, said the bands represent many different types of music and will attract a wide variety of students.

Dressler said the groups involved in this weekend's celebration are hoping to increase environmental awareness.

"We're trying to get people interested in

"Hopefully, people will realize there are a lot of little things they can change in their lives."

—James Rohrer,
secretary for TEAC

different environmental issues," he said. "We're presenting this information so people will be informed. We want to let them know that all these different organizations recognize the issues and show them these environmental concerns are something we need to address."

Rohrer said the events should encourage people to get involved with environmental concerns.

"Hopefully, people will realize there are a lot of little things they can change in their lives," Rohrer said.

Brazos Beautiful, Inc., a community organization that works on cleaning up the environment, will also participate Friday to offer students information.

Diane Craig, executive director of Brazos Beautiful, said the group will have a display showing students what they can do with recyclable materials.

She said the group enjoys working with

Texas A&M students because they are a major asset to local environmental improvement efforts.

"The students at Texas A&M are one of our biggest benefits when it comes to improving the environment," Craig said.

Alpha Phi Omega, a campus service organization, will participate in the Earth Day celebration Friday.

Michelle Shodrock, Earth Day project chair for Alpha Phi Omega and vice president for TEAC, said the group is interested in teaching students about recycling.

"We want students to come away with something they can take home with them and use everyday, so they can have Earth Day everyday," Shodrock said.

She said recycling is one way Alpha Phi Omega and all students can fulfill their service obligations.

"One of our principles is service to the nation and our community, and recycling is one way we can serve our community," Shodrock said.

TEAC will also be sponsoring the Earth Day Garage Sale and Recycling Event at Junction 505 Recycling Center in College Station Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students are encouraged to donate goods for the sale instead of taking them to the landfill.

TEAC and Junction 505 also will be collecting recyclable goods.

Residents work to improve beauty of B-CS environment

By Jan Higginbotham
The Battalion

Concern for the environment is growing as Earth Day draws near, but many local residents say the Bryan-College Station area is in good shape.

Diane Craig, executive director for Brazos Beautiful, Inc., an organization that promotes the beautification of the Brazos Valley, said there are no major environmental concerns in Brazos County.

"We are fortunate because our citizens are very well-educated," Craig said.

"We live in a city with very few pollutants."

Litter is the main problem in the Bryan-College Station area, Craig said.

"But litter is always a concern," she said.

Brad Dressler, Earth Day project leader for Student Government's Environmental Issues Committee, agreed there are no major environmental problems in this area.

"I don't think there is any big environmental concern that we need to be distraught about," Dressler said.

Michelle Shodrock, vice president of Student Government's Texas Environmental Action Coalition, said the local environment appears to be in good condition.

"Compared to other cities in Texas, it is very good," she said.

"People are getting more conscious. There were a lot of bad things going on with the environment in the seventies, but it's getting better."

Craig said Brazos County is much cleaner than it was years ago, and she attributes the improvement to continuous efforts by the community.

"There are lots of beautification efforts going on," she said.

"We've got just about every adoption program you can think of, and we have several more on a waiting list."

Economics play a role in determining a community's environmental status, Craig said.

"An aesthetically pleasing environment is economically beneficial," she said.

"Locally, I see the environment improving because we're seeing that an attractive area attracts business."

Although the environmentalists at Bryan-College Station are in good shape, Dressler said people still need to get involved.

"I believe many environmental issues are put on the back burner by government officials," he said.

"These issues do deserve to be examined more closely. Our representatives need to take more active role."

Shodrock said students and local residents should become more involved in recycling.

"There are a lot of recycling centers in town ready to be utilized," she said.

Craig said people have to be conscious of everything they do.

"People are finally realizing that what goes around comes around," Craig said.

"We have to be not only concerned about today but about the future. We have to be good stewards of the earth."

Midwife goes on trial in death of Waco baby

The Associated Press

WACO — Most parents of the five babies who died during births assisted by a midwife charged in the 1992 death of an infant remain faithful to her.

Prosecutors say they've had a tough time with their case because many parents are steadfastly loyal to Julia Pirie, 36.

Testimony began Tuesday in the case of Pirie, who assisted the births of at least five babies who died during a 29-month period. In addition to the 1992 case, she's also accused of recklessness in the birth and subsequent death of Hilary Watson, daughter of Aaron and Laura Watson of Waco.

But of the families whose babies died, only the Watsons agreed to testify at a grand jury session — and did so reluctantly.

The Watsons agreed only after being subpoenaed and making it clear that they were merely there to tell the truth about what happened,

not "testifying against" Pirie, prosecutors say.

Two of the families whose babies died at or on the way to Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco after developing complications during home births have filed wrongful death suits against the hospital.

Prosecutors say other parents have said that the deaths constituted "the will of God."

Dr. Darrell Wheeler, a neonatologist at Hillcrest, brought complaints against Pirie to the

district attorney's office. He has said that each of the five deaths involving Pirie could have been avoided with proper treatment.

Pirie said she has assisted in the deliveries of more than 50 babies since her indictment in August.

On Monday defense lawyers Mark Prislovsky of Kerrville and Frank Hill of Hutto asked Judge George Allen for the second time to move the trial out of Waco because of pretrial publicity.

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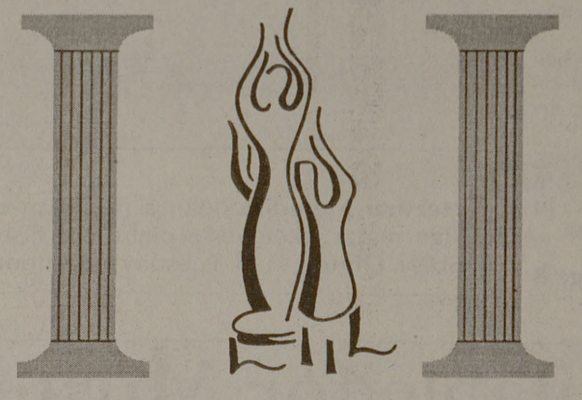
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Annual Freshmen and Sophomore
MATHEMATICS CONTEST

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1994
7:30 P.M.- 9:30 P.M.

Room 317 Milner Hall

It is intended to award at least six prizes:

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- \$100 for third best
- \$80 for fourth
- \$60 for fifth
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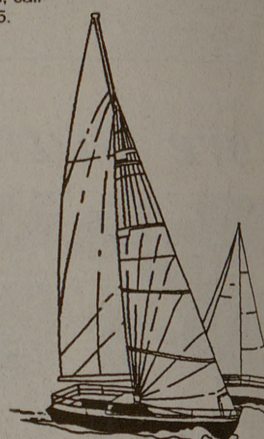
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