

A&M Mother's Clubs to host first Aggie Mom's Fish Camp

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Fish Camp isn't just for freshmen anymore.

Over 230 Aggie moms will meet this weekend as the Federation of Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs hosts its first ever Aggie Mom Fish Camp.

Patsy Armbruster, co-chair of the Aggie Mom's Federation, said the organization will hold its Fish Camp Nov. 11-13, and members hope it will be one event that becomes an Aggie tradition.

"This should be a tradition at A&M, and we're going to try our best to make it one," Armbruster said. "It will be a weekend that Aggie moms from across the state and elsewhere can get together and learn A&M history, traditions and yells."

Armbruster said the camp has been geared toward the original Fish Camp that many incoming freshmen attend each summer.

"I went to one of the Fish Camps this summer to get an idea of exactly what goes on there," she said. "We will have the same dancing, singing and yelling at our Fish Camp as the freshmen do."

The Fish Camp will have 23 camps, each one named after an A&M tradition, and 23 counselors.

While at A&M, the camp will hear from several speakers explaining traditions and how the different departments operate. The mothers will also watch films about A&M, including the history of the Memorial Student Center, the new sports center and the 100th year of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs, will greet the camp on Sunday.

He said the Aggie Mothers' Clubs have had a great impact on the University.

"They support everything that we do," Southerland said. "This will give them a chance to see what they've been supporting."

He said the camp will give a reason for a large group of parents to be on campus for an extended period of time.

"On one hand, they will learn more about A&M, and on the other they will get a chance to know how A&M officials work with the students," Southerland said. "The whole event should be a positive and fun one for everyone involved."

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- Patsy Armbruster, co-chair of the Aggie Mom's Federation

Armbruster said 239 Aggie moms will participate in this year's event, some coming as far as Arkansas and Louisiana.

The group will meet Friday at the Hilton in College Station for camp-time with their counselors. On Saturday, the group will go to the MSC and then the A&M basketball game that evening.

"Like the original Fish Camps, we will perform our camp skits and yells on Sunday in G. Rollie White," she said. "Our goal is to keep everything as similar to a Fish Camp session as possible."

Armbruster added that they did make some substitutions and changes for their camp.

"Instead of cabins, we are roughing it at the Hilton, and

instead of playing football or baseball we are going to attend the basketball game," she said.

Shirley Tingley, president of the Aggie Moms Federation, said the idea to hold a Fish Camp for Aggie mothers was suggested a few years ago by the Fish Camp committee, but the planning wasn't able to start until this year.

"Like any new event, it takes some time to get everything together," Tingley said. "This will be a new experience for the mothers who organized the event, as well as the mothers who are attending."

Tingley said this, like the first Fish Camp at A&M, will need time to see what works and what doesn't.

"After this year we will be able to add programs and activities, and get everything polished for next year," Tingley said.

Tingley said all Aggie mothers are welcome and that some Aggie grandmothers have even signed up for this year's camp.

Susana Henderson, associate director for the 1995 Fish Camp, said the camp will allow Aggie mothers to see what A&M is about first-hand.

"I think it's great for the Aggie moms to come and see what their sons and daughters learn at Fish Camp," Henderson said. "I can definitely see this taking hold and becoming a tradition."

Tracy Ferri, a junior history major, said while her mother will not be able to attend this year's camp, she thinks it should be something that all Aggie moms attend.

"My mom would've enjoyed learning about the traditions that make A&M so different from other universities," Ferri said. "But I guess there's al-

Election

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possible to tear down his credibility," Halter said. "I can't imagine they will let up on that."

Gruetzner said he feels Clinton will not have much difficulty dealing with a Republican Congress.

"They will have differences of opinion, but they will have to come more to a middle ground," Gruetzner said.

The Democrats were perceived as being responsible for Congress and its problems, Gruetzner said. Now, however, things will change, he said.

"The party in control does not have absolute power, but it gets absolute blame," Gruetzner said. "The Republicans made a lot of promises. If they do not fulfill these promises, they will be voted out."

The Republican victories in Texas, however, were not complete surprises, Stadelmann said.

"I have been working with the Republicans here in Texas since 1967," Stadelmann said. "I kept

telling people they were really Republican conservatives, but were just voting Democratic because of the party. Sixteen years ago, Texas started voting Republican nationally, but not locally."

With each election, however, Texans have been voting increasingly Republican, he said. Clinton's extreme liberal stance prompted Texas voters to take a major change to Republican candidates, Stadelmann said.

George W. Bush won against Gov. Ann Richards because of the way he ran his campaign, Stadelmann said. "I advised Bush to run a more aggressive, high profile campaign and he refused," Stadelmann said. "When Richards called him a jerk, that hurt her campaign. At the end, Richards' campaign was negative against him at a personal level and his was never negative personally."

Gruetzner, however, said Bush's campaign was not completely focused on all the issues.

"Bush's message focused on juvenile crime," Gruetzner said. "It was more distorted than factual, but the voters of Texas connected with the message more."

However, for a Texas campaign,

it was one of the more civil error races we have had while."

Walter said he felt Rich campaign did not focus on the issues.

"Until later in the campaign I did not see any television defending her record, but attacking Bush," Walter said. Stadelmann said the Republicans' greatest challenge was to stay united and work together.

"Republicans need to develop a set of issues and programs backed by moderate and conservative Republicans," Stadelmann said. "However, the things unite us are greater than things that divide us."

Halter said he does not think the elections indicate a definite trend.

"I do not view this as a great long-term trend," Halter said. "I wouldn't write Clinton off yet."

Gruetzner said the Democrats' greatest problem now is perception.

"There will be different interpretations of what this means for so many Democrats to Gruetzner said. "There will many misinterpretations."

Hargrove

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That's got them real worried."

Ed Davis, president of the Development Foundation, said individuals in Colombia believe that if the kidnappers wanted a ransom, they would have contacted someone by now.

"It looks like it might be more politically motivated," Davis said. "They're oriented toward getting something they want other than money."

Hargrove's friends and family started a letter writing campaign to try to speed his release after a news release sent to the Colombian media sparked intense coverage of his abduction, according to an electronic mail message sent to A&M faculty.

"The standard procedure (yes, there are enough kidnappings in Colombia to warrant a standard procedure) is to keep things pretty much under wraps, not to play up the importance of the victim (to keep the ransom price down), and generally not to call a great deal of attention to the case," the message said.

The message said the group suspected of hold-

ing Hargrove may be sensitive to the fact Hargrove is a journalist.

Hargrove has a bachelor's degree in agricultural journalism, a master's degree in technical journalism and a doctorate in agricultural education with an emphasis on communication. He has more than 20 years in journalism and communication worldwide.

"They are apparently aware that abducting journalists can be bad for business," the message said.

Journalists, members of professional organizations, agriculture professionals and all individuals with interest in Hargrove are being asked to write letters, press releases and media outlets for Hargrove's release.

Susan Hargrove, Hargrove's wife, in an e-mail message thanked all individuals who have sent

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- E-Mail message from Hargrove's family to A&M faculty

ters. "The local press has been positive — and we Hargrove said. "Much credit and thanks goes to you who have been contacting them."

No mention of Hargrove's military experience in his book should be made in the letters, and should not appear to be orchestrating the campaign.

Individuals interested in helping the cause should mail their letters to Noticiero 24 Horas, Calle 42 # 56-01 Piso 7, Santa Fe de Bogota.

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The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publication, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are at 013 Reed McDonald Building. E-mail: BATT@TAMU.EDU. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

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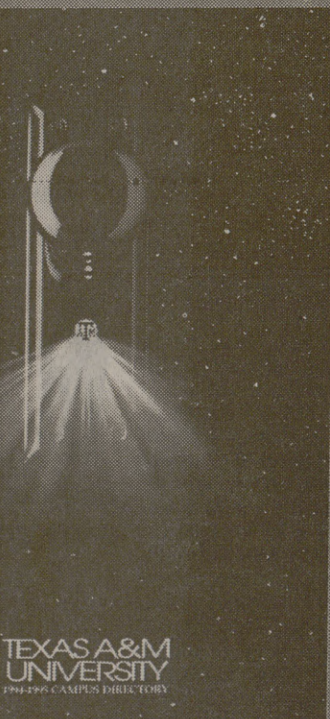
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