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Redpots examine Bonfire safety

By ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

Redpots have been busy seeking solutions to increase the safety of Texas A&M students traveling to and from the Bonfire cut site near Hearne. Jason Burnett, a redpot and senior agricultural economics major, said he wants to make sure everyone still has a safe going to cut site. "I want to stress that Bonfire is still going to go on and we are going to use it as a learning experience," Burnett said. "We are all real broken up about it and we're praying for everybody." An accident occurred Sunday morning on Highway 6 when a truck carrying 10 A&M students back to campus from Bonfire cut site rolled over, killing one student and the remaining nine.

Police Department said investigators are still contacting witnesses and taking statements about the accident.

"Everything is still under investigation," Walling said. "There is no indication if fatigue played a part in it. There's always a possibility."

Kevin Jackson, associate director for the Memorial Student Center and the Bonfire committee adviser, provides advice and insight on University policies to the redpots. Jackson said the Bonfire leaders have had a responsible reaction to the accident.

"I have nothing but good things to say about the junior and senior leaders," Jackson said. "They've been very forward-looking and proactive."

Jackson said the redpots have been brainstorming and asking leaders within the Bonfire hierarchy for input on how to improve travel safety to and from cut site. Jackson said the

proposals are in a premature stage.

Anna Gronberg, an emergency medical technician for Texas A&M, said the EMS suggests an alternate

"Our advice for improving safety would be to consider busing students."

Anna Gronberg
Emergency medical technician

a pickup truck that is traveling over 35 mph and it was legal for the students to ride in the bed of the truck.

But Mike Donoho, Bryan Fire Department assistant fire chief, said he advises against riding in the bed of a truck because there is no way of securing oneself.

"As a public safety official, our recommendation is that no one ride in the back of a pickup truck because it is very dangerous," Donoho said. "You become like a missile when there is an accident."

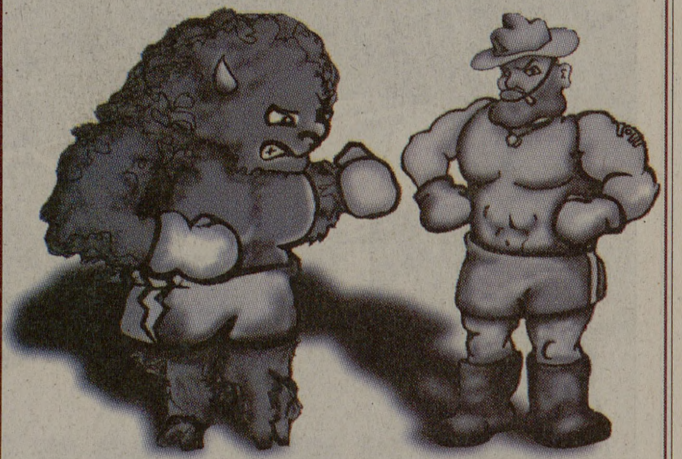
Walling said the Bryan Police Department will increase its presence to prevent future accidents.

"Our intention is to increase patrols on the highways in our jurisdiction during those times students are going to and leaving cut," Walling said. "It depends on the available manpower."

means of transportation to the cut site. "Our advice for improving safety would be to consider busing students," Gronberg said.

Walling said it is illegal for passengers under age 12 to ride in the back of

Ready to Rumble



See Sports for full coverage, page 7

- The Wrecking Crew faces its toughest test yet
- Day: Unlike last season, the pressure is off.
- Profiles on A&M's triple-threat running

Regents address issues

Bowen discusses faculty salaries, campus renovations

By MELISSA NUNNERY
THE BATTALION

A&M President Ray Bowen told the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Thursday that faculty salaries are not reflective of research achievements at A&M.

Bowen reported that faculty salaries have not seen a significant increase to match increases in research expenditures.

"It goes against the trend of success," Bowen said. "We're not able to reward our people as we'd like to."

Bowen also addressed admissions criteria, which the Board will vote on at its meeting in the Memorial Student Center today.

Bowen said he wants to maintain excellence in the student body in the future.

"We have to pass on to the next generation the same quality of students this generation has enjoyed," he said.

Bowen also told the Regents this year's freshman class is unique

in that it is the first time the University has admitted more females than males.

"To the best of our knowledge, it's unique in that respect," Bowen said.

Bowen announced the results of the Capturing the Spirit campaign, a fund-raising effort that began in 1990. The University will celebrate the \$637.6 million total this weekend.

The finance and audit committee approved the appropriation of \$2 million from the Permanent University Fund for classroom renovations on the College Station campus.

Bowen said the renovations will protect the assets of the University for the next generation.

The committee to construct a Law and Puryear Plaza where the two residence halls used to stand went before the Board with information about the proposed plaza. The plaza will be used for green space or a park. The committee pre-

sented the concept to the Facilities Planning and Building Committee.

Chareny Rydl, associate director of Residence Life, said she thought the regents showed interest in the project.

"There's an interest," Rydl said. "I think they want more details ... [or] a second opinion."

The committee for service units approved the establishment of an ergonomics center for the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Dr. C. Roland Haden, director of TEES, said that if the center is approved, it will research ways to make the workplace less stressful.

"[The center] will improve the flow of materials and increase safety in the workplace," Haden said. "The funding comes from the National Science Foundation. We asked the committee to approve it as a center."

The Board meets in the Memorial Student Center again today and will vote on issues that went before committees Thursday.

Enrollment in A&M graduate, professional schools increases

By COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

Enrollment in graduate and professional studies at Texas A&M posted an increase this semester after a three-year decline and \$15 million in lost federal subvention funds.

Dan Robertson, director of graduate studies, said the number of graduate students increased from 7,419 last fall to 7,550 this semester.

Robertson said the increase was partly because of aggressive recruitment by campus departments and an increase in graduate assistant stipends.

The stipends, made possible by the Graduate Enhancement Fund and President Ray Bowen's office, give graduate assistants salary increases up to 15 percent.

Robertson said the economy may be a factor of the enrollment increase.

"Some argue that the job market is soft now," he said. "During the decline, the job market was up,

and if someone could get a good starting pay job, they would take it instead of going to graduate school. Now, with all the downsizing and unemployment rates increasing, some argue the best bet is graduate school."

The enrollment increase will also bring more in federal subvention funds to A&M. The University had lost a significant amount over the past three years.

"In ration terms, the University gets \$1 for every undergraduate credit hour and at the same time gets \$3 for masters and \$8 to \$10 for doctoral," Robertson said.

Subvention money is given to the University to compensate for costs not covered by tuition.

The amount of money given is determined every two years when statewide public institutions prepare a Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) to submit to the Legislative Budget Board in Austin.

The LAR is a formal declaration from the fiscal office containing enrollment data from Summer 1996 through Spring 1997.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Gene Pool

Joe Yurich, a senior biochemistry major, transcribes RNA from DNA strands and checks the RNA for proper sequencing.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Life in the Sky

John Cerone brings his wordy speaking skills to downtown Bryan. Aggelife, Page 3

Midwest Trip

The sixth-ranked A&M Soccer Team takes weekend trip to Iowa State and Nebraska. Sports, Page 9

Simpsonites

Endauer: From O.J. to Bart, the American Society likes the idea of getting away with it. Opinion, Page 11

Klaas killer sentenced to death

Davis enrages victim's family with molestation claim

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — The killer of Polly Klaas enraged her family even as he was being condemned to death Thursday with a wild claim that the 12-year-old girl told him before he killed her that she had been molested by her father.

Marc Klaas cried "Burn in hell, Davis!" and lunged at his daughter's killer as he was hustled out of the courtroom. Polly's grandmother wailed aloud and wept, leaning against her husband in shock.

Richard Allen Davis was sent to California's death row at San Quentin Prison for killing Polly after kidnapping her from a slumber party in the bedroom of her Petaluma home Oct. 1, 1993. A nationwide search for Polly ended when Davis led police to her body in December.

Moments before his formal sentencing, the 42-year-old career criminal criticized his investigators and lawyers

in a rambling speech. The Klaas family listened with rapt attention from the front row, smiling incredulously at some of his complaints.

Then, Davis started talking about the one charge he had always steadfastly denied — that he had tried to sexually molest Polly.

"The main reason I know I did not attempt any lewd act that night," Davis said, "was because of a statement the young girl made to me while walking up the embankment: 'Just don't do me like my dad.'"

Spectators gasped and a long-drawn out moan of "Ohhhhh!" echoed in the courtroom as Klaas shouted, jumped toward his daughter's killer and had to be escorted outside.

Prosecutor Greg Jacobs, who said he was "nauseated" by Davis' allegation, said no such claim had ever been leveled during the case, nor was there any evidence to

support it.

Davis' defense attorney, Lorena Chandler slumped down in her chair, obviously distraught, her faced buried in one hand.

The accusation was reminiscent of Davis' contemptuous action in court the day he was found guilty, when he thrust both middle fingers at a courtroom camera.

Outside the courtroom, Klaas called Davis' statement a "vile and sinister and evil act," and that he had expected trouble from the "gutless coward."

"I brought him down," said Klaas, who wants to be present when Davis is executed. "He knows that as well as everybody else. We have been pursuing the death of Richard Allen Davis for three years. I am his worst nightmare."

After the outburst, Superior Court Judge Thomas Hastings confirmed the sentence of death the trial jury recommended Aug. 5.

A&M Foundation plans new fund-raising facility

By CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES
THE BATTALION

One of Texas A&M's major fund-raising organizations will soon be getting a new home.

The Texas A&M Foundation, formerly the Development Foundation, has plans to build a \$10 million facility on the corner of Houston Street and George Bush Drive, just west of the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center. The site is the current location of the University Police Department.

Randy Matson, Association of Former Students executive director, said the facility will provide permanent headquarters for the A&M foundation.

"The idea of constructing a \$10 million building to house fund-raising organizations may sound a bit paradoxical, but not if you consider the vital role teamwork has played in A&M's fund-raising efforts," he said.

The A&M Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that directs major fund-raising projects for the University.

Matson said the new facility is being planned with A&M's future and fund-raising needs in mind.

"With even greater opportunities in the future, our organizations must grow and

work together to make changes," he said. "This project (building the new center) will help make those changes possible."

The Dallas-based architectural firm HKS Inc. has been hired to design the 53,000 square-foot facility. The building

"With even greater opportunities in the future, our organizations must grow and work together to make changes."

Randy Matson
Executive director, Association of Former Students

will feature a curving, windowed Donor Hall of Honor. Eddie J. Davis, A&M Foundation president, said the building will be built, furnished and maintained solely through private gifts.

The project has already received financial commitments that will fund more than half of the estimated cost.