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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

THE BATTALION

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Bonfire leaders crack down on safety

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Bonfire leaders are taking a stand against Texas A&M students who arrive at cut site in the beds of pickup trucks.

Although anyone over age 12 may legally ride in truck beds, anyone arriving at cut site in bed of a truck will be asked to leave.

R.E. Hopkins, head of the senior agricultural development major, said someone will monitor the vehicles entering and leaving cut site.

If you show up and you're in back of a vehicle, we're going to ask you to go home," Hopkins said.

"We're educating people, stressing to them the importance of actually riding in the cabs of vehicles

and buckling up," Hopkins said. "We don't want people coming out there in the back of trucks. We just discourage it."

Hopkins said cut will begin later and end earlier each day so students will not be on the road after dark.

A locked gate at the entrance to cut site will not be unlocked until 7:30 a.m. on cut days, and the "last log" is being called earlier.

Despite the new restrictions on cut hours, Hopkins said, Bonfire cut is still on schedule.

Hopkins said the dates and times A&M students will travel to and from cut site have been issued to area police departments.

Bonfire leaders have asked law officials to increase the monitoring of main roads students travel to cut site.

Lieutenant Brian Kyle, of the

Bryan Police Department, said officers will do what they can to avoid traffic problems.

"We are making an effort to increase patrol as they are available," Kyle said.

Free drinks and snacks are offered by Women's Bonfire Committee at a rest stop two miles south of Hearne.

"They (students) can stop there and get drinks and get out and walk around," Hopkins said.

The redpots meet with yellow pots and butt pots weekly to discuss the positive and negative aspects of the previous cut.

"We stress to them the importance of being safe and riding in the cabs of vehicles, because we can't afford to have something like this happen again," Hopkins said.

The changes have been made in response to a Sept. 22 accident

involving 10 A&M students returning to College Station from the cut site. Eight students were riding in the bed of a pickup truck when it flipped over twice.

One student was killed and the nine others were injured.

Dr. Richard Strickland, the father of a girl injured in the accident and former A&M student and teacher, said the response to the accident is an example of what it means to be an Aggie.

"I've been gone (from A&M) since '82," Strickland said. "You forget what it means to be an Aggie. What happened after my daughter's accident brought it back."

"The show of support from crew chiefs to the administration showed one of concern to everyone involved," Strickland said.

Strickland said the display of Aggie Spirit after the accident is unique to A&M.

"You don't see that kind of attitude across the United States, that level of family that manifests at A&M," Strickland said.

Hopkins said the tragic accident united people involved in Bonfire.

"It's horrible that it's happening like this, but people have really stepped up and really supported us," Hopkins said. "We appreciate it."

Strickland said the accident is not a reason to stop Bonfire at A&M.

"Continue the tradition of Bonfire, absolutely," Strickland said.

Hopkins said Bonfire will continue, especially given the outpouring of support.

"These are real hard times," Hopkins said. "But, we'll survive it."



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION
Brian Murrell gets drinks at a bonfire safety rest stop.

Bush fellowships to be awarded

Bill calls for \$3 million appropriation to start program

By MARIA COOK
THE BATTALION

U.S. Congress has passed a \$3 million appropriation creating the George Bush Fellowships to be awarded to a selected group of students in the new Bush School of Government and Public Service.

The bill, which must be signed by President Bill Clinton, will jump-start a permanent endowment for the Bush School.

Charles Hermann, Bush School director, said it is highly likely the bill will be signed.

"The money will be an incredible shot in the arm to get our program started," Hermann said.

The fellowships are a memorial to former President George Bush.

"I think it's more fitting than a statue or other monument," Hermann said.

The federal money will be a one-time appropriation. The Bush School will develop a private campaign to supplement the \$3 million and create an extended program for Bush Fellowships.

"It's a way to attract the most talented people with an orientation to public service and leadership to this program," Hermann said.

The Bush School, an academic extension of the Bush Presidential Library currently under construction, will be a two-year masters program through the College of Liberal Arts.

Woodrow Jones Jr., dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said plans for the school began in 1991.

"We are deeply committed to building an excellent school to be a part of a vibrant education and research enterprise," Jones said. "Former President Bush has often emphasized that a life devoted to public service is more than a profession; it is a calling, a commitment to the greater good. It is this emphasis which will resonate through the curriculum of the Bush School."

Hermann said President Bush is excited about the fellowships and wants to be in close contact with the chosen Bush Fellows.

"We believe the Bush Fellowships will draw President and Mrs. Bush to the school more often," Hermann said. "President Bush will make guest appearances in various classes."

The Presidential Library and Bush School, scheduled to open in the fall of 1997, will maintain an office and apartment for President Bush.

Gary Halter, a political science professor, said the faculty at the Bush School will be diverse.

"The faculty will be composed of professors from management, economics, political science, architecture, sociology, and philosophy, among other departments," Halter said.

All students who apply and are accepted to the Bush School will be eligible to receive a Bush Fellowship.

The selection is based on commitment to public service, scholarship, leadership, and entrepreneurship. The deadline for application is Jan. 31.

Ogden recommends fee overhaul

By MARIA COOK
THE BATTALION

A complete overhaul of fees at Texas universities is being recommended by Rep. Steve Ogden's Higher Education Subcommittee.

Ogden said the recommendation is in response to a need for closer scrutiny of student fees.

"The subcommittee is calling for a simplification and consolidation of fees," Ogden said. "The present system is confusing too many people, students, their families, and the legislature."

Because fees at all universities can be altered without a majority student vote, the recommendation calls for greater scrutiny of their types of uses.

Under the recommendation, three standardized fees would be tied to the number of hours in which a student is enrolled.

Texas A&M President Ray Bowen said the recommendation will not necessarily decrease fees.

"We will simply be reclassifying existing fees under three categories," Bowen said.

The fees are tuition, set by the Legislature; an Essential Student Education Fee, set by the Board of Regents covering services directly related to the quality of the University and its academics; and a Student Services Fee.

The Student Services Fee, set by student referendum, covers services not related to the maintenance of the University's accreditation or quality.

"If the Student Services Fee is not changed yearly," Ogden said, "it should be ratified once every four years. Consumers, students, have to have information in order to make the market work well."

Not only are the fees confusing to many A&M students, they are frequently raised without student input.

Ley Sayavedra, deputy chancellor for academic institutions and agencies, said fees at A&M have been drastically altered in recent years.

"Tuition, over the past ten years, has increased 100%," he said. "Other fees, such as the General Use Fee, have increased 400%."

The recommendation also suggests that universities be given the right to charge discretionary fees for goods provided for students' convenience.

Most Texas public universities have similar guidelines and uses for fees. However, one aspect setting A&M and the University of Texas apart from other state universities, is A&M and UT do not use student fees to fund their athletic programs.

"We should be commended for our self-supporting athletic program," Bowen said.

Ogden said the Legislature needs more information to determine the allotment of state funds.

"The big question the Legislature wants to know is what is an adequate level of funding for state universities," Ogden said. "My challenge, as a state representative, is to translate this proposal into good legislation."

Glass Art

Sabrina Wineteer, a staff member of the human resources department, checks to make sure the edges of her stained glass piece are smooth after grinding it to fit the window.

Dave House, THE BATTALION

Architecture students propose new Sbisa design

Architectural students propose new Sbisa design

By MEREDITH STEWART
THE BATTALION

A semester-long project for students in Dr. Valerian Miranda's Architecture 405 class may turn into plans for remodeling Sbisa Dining Hall.

Miranda, an assistant professor of architecture, volunteered his class last spring to help the Food Services Department redesign the interior of the 84-year old dining hall.

"They (students) are studying existing problems in Sbisa, and proposing new designs for the interior," Miranda said.

Ronald L. Beard, Food Services director, said the age and importance of the building make it necessary to remodel.

He said he wants to turn Sbisa into a state-of-the-art dining hall instead of the "mess hall" it was originally built as.

"Being an important structure and an important part of A&M, we wanted to take this 1912 building and completely redesign the interior," Beard said.

Andy Cronk, Food Services facilities manager, said only the inside of Sbisa is being redesigned.

"The outside of the building — I would call it timeless," Cronk said.

Being an important structure and an important part of A&M, we wanted to take this 1912 building and completely redesign the interior."

Ronald L. Beard
Food Services director

from Corgan and Associates, an architectural firm in Dallas. The mentors will provide design improvement assistance to the students whenever needed throughout the semester.

Thomas Gunter, a senior environmental design major, said he is looking forward to receiving help from the mentors.

"We'll be able to receive constructive criticism from a professional," Gunter said. "It should be a really big factor in our work."

Students will communicate their ideas to Food Services, their mentors and others interested in the project via personal web pages.

The class will use a 3-D computerized digital model of Sbisa to make changes and communication of ideas faster and easier.

Students will propose their remodeling ideas to Food Services and the Sbisa management at the end of the semester.

Cronk said there is no limit to how many of the students' ideas will actually be used in remodeling Sbisa.

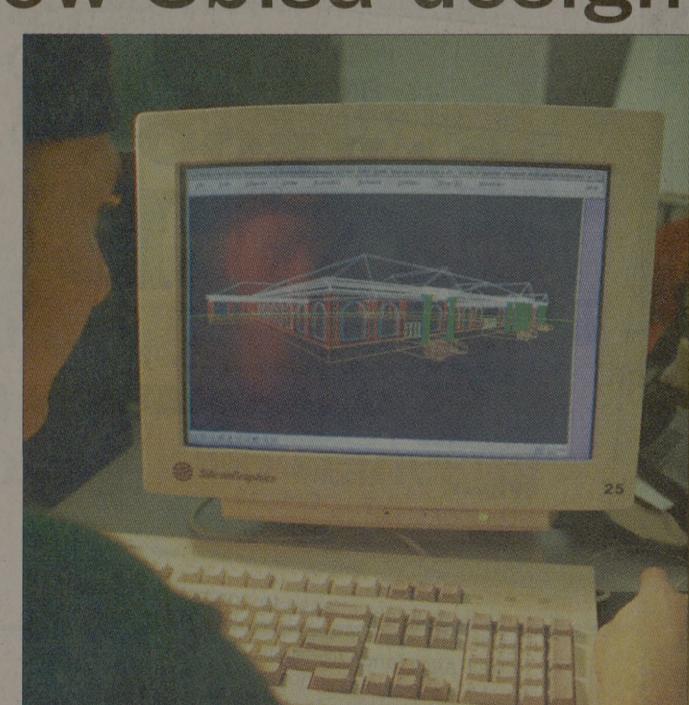
"It depends on the ideas," Cronk said. "We may use all of them."

Gunter said the project is different from other class projects because his ideas may actually be carried out.

"It's a real project," Gunter said. "Anything I do might actually be considered for what may be built."

Food Services has set no dates concerning the actual renovation.

Additional information, including student web pages, can be found at <http://wwweds.tamu.edu>.



Jerry Caperton, a senior in the Architecture 405 class, works on designs for Sbisa Dining Hall.