

THORNTON

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Carl Baggett, Bonfire 1995 head and a senior accounting major, said Thornton was more than just a representative of H.B. Zachry.

"He was just as much a friend of Ag-Bonfire as a supplier," Baggett said. Thomas said Thornton would bring the cranes and remain in College Station while the cranes were being used.

Thomas said Thornton was dedicated to keeping Bonfire safe for everyone involved and made sure the safety guidelines were followed.

"He was always conscious of the safety aspect," Thomas said.

Dr. Bill Kibler, a former Bonfire adviser and associate vice president for student affairs, said those working on Bonfire could depend on Thornton to make all the crane arrangements.

"We never had to worry whether the crane was coming or not," Kibler said. "Preacher just always took care of that."

Hopkins said the redpots could depend on Thornton to help them when they needed him.

"He was always there for us," he said. "He always had a smile on his face, always ready to help."

Thomas said Thornton enjoyed getting to know the students involved with Bonfire.

Kibler said Thornton's involvement gave him the opportunity to form friendships with redpots and brown-

pots during the last 28 years.

"He just loved Bonfire and [he] loved the students," he said.

Tony Brackens, Thornton's nephew and a former University of Texas football player, now plays for Jacksonville.

When A&M played the University of Texas, Thomas said Thornton insisted on standing in an area where he could show his support for both teams.

"He stood with one foot in the Texas area in support of his nephew," Thomas said, "and with the other foot on the A&M side in support of A&M and Bonfire."

Kibler said since Thornton was involved with the inner workings of Bonfire, some students may not know of his work.

"He was a behind the scenes kind of guy," he said. "He wasn't outspoken. He wasn't very visible."

Thomas said Thornton had been called "Preacher" for most of his life, and he does not know how he got the nickname.

"Even Preacher introduced himself as Preacher Thornton, not Thomas Thornton," he said. "It was just a natural fit for him."

Thomas said Thornton's contributions to Bonfire will be missed.

"Bonfire will miss him and his pleasant way of wanting to help," Thomas said. "He was the type of person you would do anything for."

Baggett also said Thornton will be missed this year at Bonfire.

"You can't quantify how important Preacher Thornton was to Bonfire," he said.

MEMO

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Morning News editor Ralph Langer defended the newspaper's decision. He said the paper's top editors debated at length about what to do with the story and decided it needed to be published.

But Larry Pozner, vice president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said "What the story says is, 'We don't care about the fundamental rights of anyone if we have a story.'"

Pozner noted that the conversation, if it took place, is protected by attorney-client privilege and is inadmissible in court.

As for the memorandum itself, Pozner said, "The only way you could have it, if it exists, is through a violation of some other citizen's rights."

Sam Archibald, a retired professor of journalism at the University of Colorado who specializes in First Amendment issues, said the newspaper was obliged to print the story.

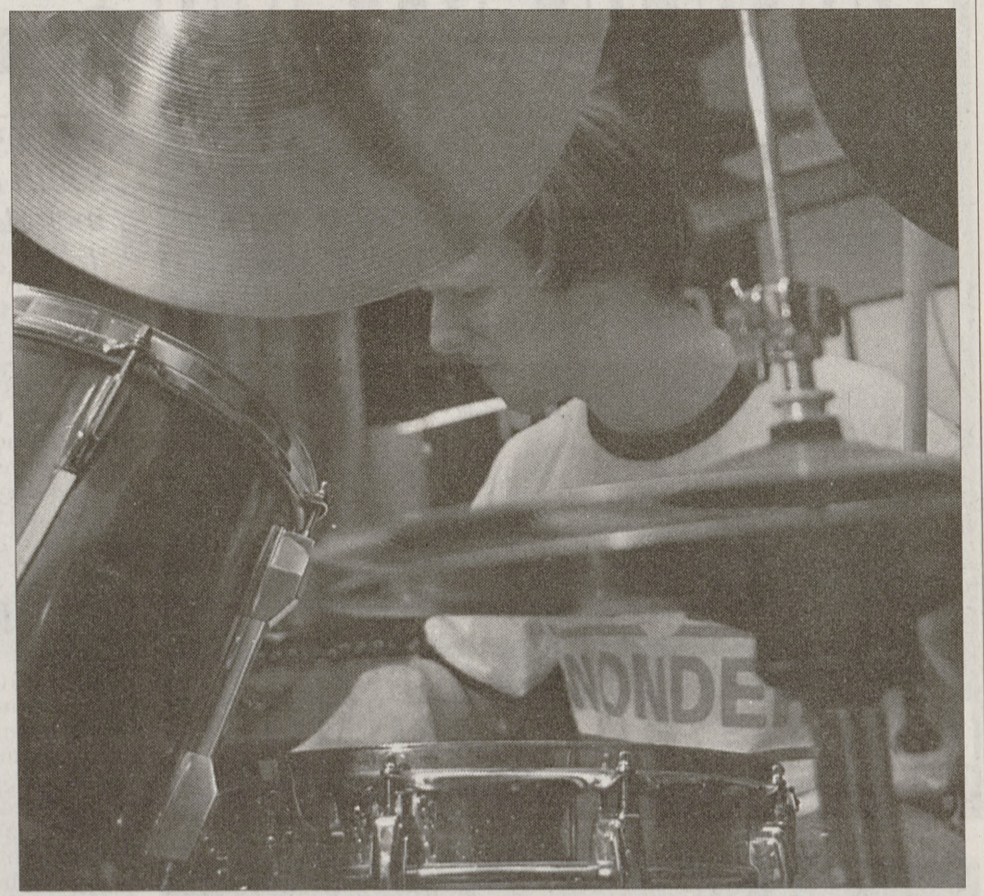
"If an editor decides the documents are valid he or she should publish it," Archibald said. "Editors are not in the business of withholding information. They are in the business of publishing."

"This is information that people — some of whom will be jurors and all of whom will be participants in a democratic society — have an interest in."

Christopher Mueller, a Colorado University law professor specializing in legal procedures and evidence, disagreed.

"The media should not have published this material at all," he said. "It is just wrong to say there is a public right to know the content of statements of a person in conversation with his lawyer."

Jim Carrigan, a retired federal judge, said it was unethical to publish the story. "This kind of conduct qualifies journalists for a place below lawyers in terms of public respect, in terms of ethics," he said.



Rogge Heflin, THE BATTALION

Little Drummer Boy

Sam Pulley, drummer for the band Throwaway People, plays at the Cow Hop Saturday night.

INTEGRATION

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"The meeting's purpose is to generate discussion and hopefully to generate some good ideas," he said.

Military Weekend was also a time for cadets to socialize. Combat Bash was a mixer held Friday night at the Lakeview Club in Bryan and there was a banquet Saturday night in Duncan Dining Hall.

There were campus tours for the visiting cadets to get a look at A&M and participants took a group picture on the Quadrangle.

Amanda Giambra, a member of the Military Weekend host subcommittee and a sophomore psychology major, said A&M made a good impression on the Military Weekend visitors.

"Military weekend was an outstanding success," Giambra said. "All the cadets I spoke to had a really good time. They thought A&M had a real friendly atmosphere."

Santos said Military Weekend at Texas A&M is highly reputed.

"It is considered the finest Military Weekend in the nation," he said. "Most military academies can only afford to send all their representatives to one campus, and they traditionally choose A&M."

Monica Strye, head of the conference subcommittee for Military Weekend and a sophomore animal science major, said it is a credit to the cadets' maturity that they could peacefully discuss such a potentially heated topic as military gender integration.

"Look at the caliber of people in that room," Strye said. "They are the leaders of their corps, and they conducted themselves in a very mature and professional manner."

MEDALS

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Bennett said the show's organizers were impressed that college students organized, supervised and designed the MEDALS program in nine months.

"If they (other students) see we're all college students doing this, they might take an initiative to start a MEDALS conference there (in their own schools)," Bennett said.

Bell said the students running the show were surprised A&M had organizations that did not exclude ethnic groups.

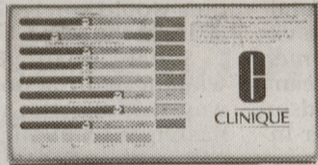
"They were impressed with the level of diversity that we have because all of our activities aren't really centered toward one ethnic group here," Bell said. "They were really surprised that we were able to get a broad spectrum of people."

Bell said informing viewers about the program will make them realize there are resources at A&M to meet the needs of minorities.

"The Texas A&M that most everyone else sees doesn't include the multicultural element," Bell said. "So you're watching this television show and everyone that you see on the show is from Texas A&M, and they're all minorities doing things to help other minorities."

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