

Bonfire safety under review

Cut site incident prompts meeting

By ERICA ROY
City editor

Texas A&M officials and Bonfire student leaders will meet this week to review safety precautions at Bonfire events after a junior redpot suffered heat stroke Saturday.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said one of the junior redpots had a heat stroke while working at the Hearne cut site.

Southerland said the redpot was taken immediately to St. Joseph Regional Health Center by other students and is in stable condition.

Bonfire adviser Kevin Jackson, Head Stack John Gallemore and Southerland will discuss safety at the Bonfire site.

Jackson said Saturday's incident will be reviewed at the meeting, as well as Bonfire safety practices.

"Our goal is to make Bonfire as safe as possible," he said. "What are the actions to enhance the safety of Bonfire?"

Southerland said good safety measures are used during Bonfire, but University officials want to ensure all precautions are used.

"You have to be careful," he said. "That's the key message to students. You have to think of yourself and be careful."

Jackson said the redpots will not work at cut site until after the meeting.

The redpots and brownpots were preparing the site for first cut Oct. 4.

Prof: Book banning limits freedom

By KARIE FEHLER
Staff writer

A professor of a banned books course at the University of Texas said reading books is a right people should not take for granted, because it is under constant threat.

Persis M. Karim, a Ph.D candidate in comparative literature, said Monday night at the MSC that people's choice to read what interests them becomes limited when books are challenged or banned.

Karim said Maya Angelou's book, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, is third on the 1996 list of the most frequently challenged books. She said the passage that describes Angelou being raped at 8 years old is one of the reasons it is challenged.

Karim said this controversy shows how a pas-

sage taken out of context can cause an entire book to be labeled.

"Because of this scene, Maya Angelou's book has repeatedly been labeled pornographic, sexually explicit and as promoting non-traditional values," she said.

Karim said society does not read enough and does not encourage children to read.

"When we don't read, we lose part of the critical faculties with which we were born — curiosity, imagination and sensitivity," she said. "This is why I think it is important to foster a love of reading in children."

Karim said intellectual freedom and the idea of access to information is especially important to university communities.

"Intellectual freedom is an ideal that relies on

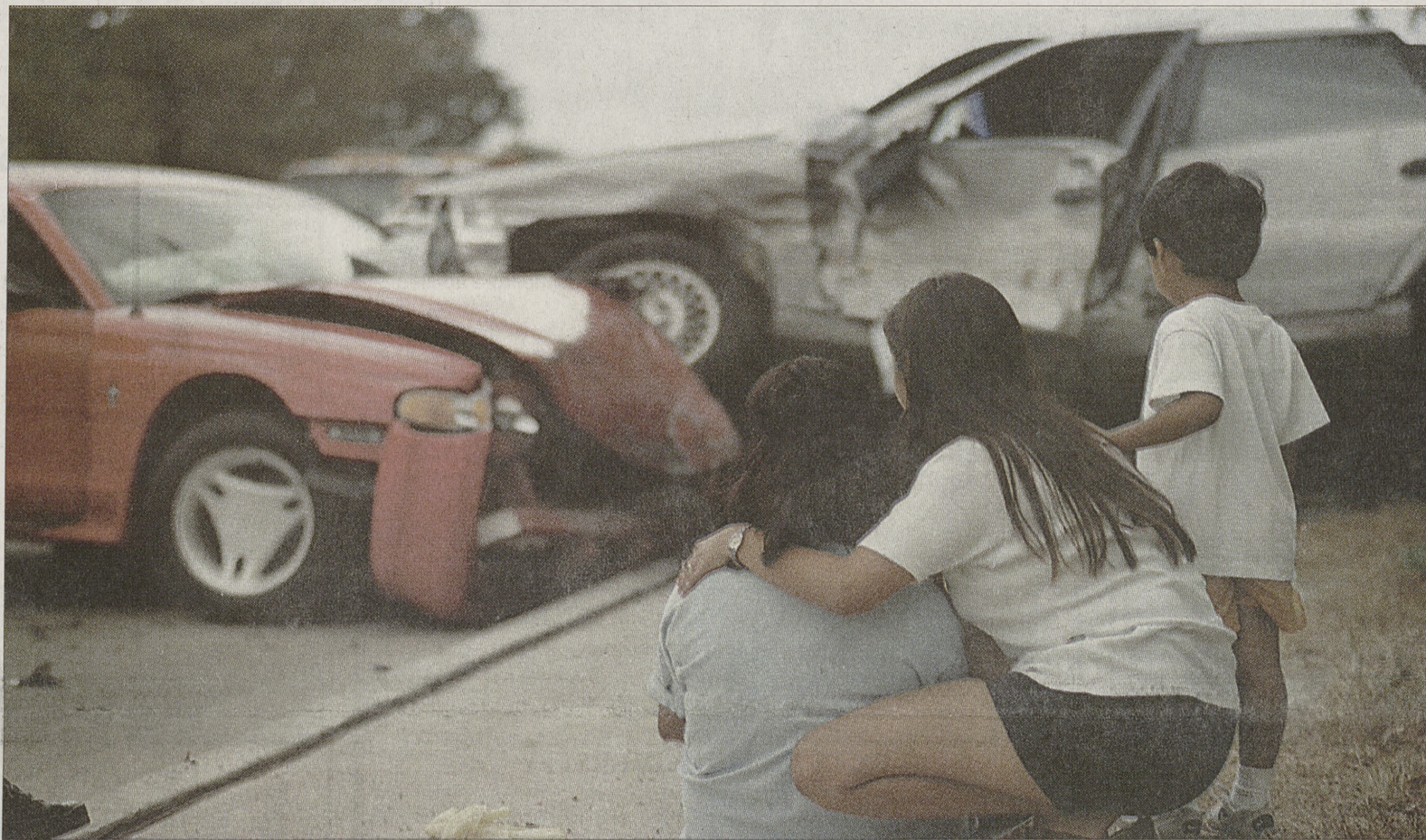
the notion of free intellectual inquiry, and that should not be interpreted by censorship," she said. "At the core of intellectual freedom is free access to ideas."

Thousands of books in schools and libraries in the United States are challenged each year. Community citizens write formal complaints and a process of banning the book may begin.

Sara Lloyd, chair of the MSC Literary Arts committee, said college students usually do not think about book banning.

"College students automatically think that all of the information out there is just automatically going to be available to them," Lloyd said. "A lot of people don't realize that people still try to get books taken off the shelves and out of libraries. It's an issue of free speech."

Escaping injury



An accident involving two vehicles causes momentary closure of the junction between Olsen Road and George Bush Drive Tuesday afternoon. No serious injuries were reported. The accident involved a west-bound vehicle on George Bush Drive and a vehicle approaching from Olsen Road.

Despite license loss, Harry's stays open

By ROBERT SMITH
Senior staff writer

Hurricane Harry's, a College Station nightclub, no longer can sell alcohol, but the bar remains open and allows patrons to bring their own alcohol.

Last Wednesday night, Harry's began a "bring your own bottle" policy. Some Texas A&M students say they will still frequent the bar.

Sally Bettis, a senior elementary education major, went to Harry's last Thursday night.

"We had a blast," she said. "We brought in a cooler and had a ball." Bettis said she heard the bar was going to stay open despite losing its liquor license last Wednesday.

"We didn't know if many people would be there, but it was pretty packed," she said. "The cover

charge went up a little, but you still come out OK."

Patrons under 21 years of age have to pay a cover charge of \$6, and patrons 21 years old and older are charged \$5.

Harry's also will loan ice chests and ice to patrons.

Tucker Slack, a freshman biomedical science major, said he likes Harry's new policy.

"It sounds good to me," he said. "It will be good to let people bring in their own stuff instead of charging them a lot more."

Dave Phillip, a freshman political science major, said Harry's still will be a fun nightclub.

"It sounds like a good idea as long as the same amount of people go," he said.

PLEASE SEE HARRY'S ON PAGE 6.

Teaching a new dog old tricks

Program turns puppies into guide dogs

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
Staff writer

The Guide Dog Foundation of the Southwest has teamed up with Aggies to train puppies for a future of guiding the visually impaired.

Volunteer students at Texas A&M have formed an organization called Aggie Guide dogs and Service dogs (AGS). The group will focus on fund raising for the Guide Dog Foundation and offering information and help to those interested in "puppy walking."

Debra Baker, executive director of the Foundation, said A&M offers a good training atmosphere for dogs. She said dogs can become used to a busy schedule and socializing with many people.

"A&M provides a good place for dogs to learn to interact with many sights, sounds and smells and deal with them well," she said.

Puppies return to guide dog school for evaluation after completing basic training between one to two years old. Then, the puppies are placed with a person in need.

The Foundation recommends only one dog be put in training on campus at a time. Volunteers must be dedicated and have time to commit to the dog, Baker said, and they must attend mandatory training classes.

Jesse Czelusta, a government and public services graduate student, volunteered as a "puppy walker" two years ago for a puppy named Rudder. Rudder's training included obedience training and interacting with people on campus.

Czelusta said he enjoyed being a "puppy walker" for Rudder.

"It was like being a miniature parent," he said. "You have to house-train your dog and love and feed him. I love it."

The Foundation is not limited to the A&M campus. A puppy is being trained at Sam Rayburn Middle School in Bryan.

Becky Alter, a teacher at Rayburn, had her students raise money for the program. Alter is a volunteer walker for a puppy called Penny, named after pennies the students collected to raise money.

Alter said the classroom provides a place for Penny to be social. Penny stays in the classroom and is taken for walks between classes. Penny also has her own Web page at penny.myriad.net.

Alter said she will take care of Penny for a few more months until the puppy is sent to professional training school.

The volunteer program runs for 12 to 15 months, during which puppies learn basic training and socialization skills.

Dogs in the program come from donations and



Becky Alter and Penny wait outside their classroom to greet the incoming children.

breeding centers. The foundation favors golden retrievers, German shepherds and Labrador retrievers because these breeds are known to be strong with good dispositions.

Puppies chosen to be guide dogs must have parents with a clear eye record and are certified free of hip dysplasia. The puppies also must pass a preliminary aptitude test and physical examination.

Baker said the list of people in need of guide dogs is getting longer, and a long waiting list for people wanting to be puppy walkers also exists.

"The demand for guide dogs is large, and in-state there is a need for about 3,000 guide dogs," she said.

Baker said the Foundation is able to give guide dogs to recipients free of charge because of donations, grants and volunteer work.

"It is a good cause," she said, "and I feel students at A&M care a lot about helping people."

Help One Student To Succeed

A&M students return to elementary school

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Texas A&M students strive to, "Help One Student To Succeed," by volunteering in the H.O.S.T.S. reading program in seven elementary schools in the Bryan Independent School District.

This is the sixth year A&M students have helped elementary children learn to read.

Marcie Spence, the H.O.S.T.S. coordinator at Crockett Elementary, said the program provides students with a unique learning opportunity.

"The children really blossom with that one-on-one attention," Spence said. "Our volunteers are the backbone of the program because each child has four volunteers — and they just love the Aggies."

The H.O.S.T.S. program draws over 1,600 volunteers from Bryan-College Station. Elementary students in the H.O.S.T.S. program meet with a different volunteer each day Monday through Thursday, for 30 minutes each day.

"This affords the child the opportunity to make four new friends," Spence said. "It is a very positive reinforcement for the children."

During the daily 30-minute sessions, H.O.S.T.S. volunteers help their students with exercises such as reading comprehension and vocabulary. The program coordinators alter the exercises to meet each student's needs.

Becky Thorne, a H.O.S.T.S. volunteer and a junior finance major, has participated in the program for the past two years. Thorne said she received a thank-you letter from a child that she worked with last year.

"You feel good that you are helping the student," she said. "You get

a lot of time to work with the student over the year."

Jan Laine, the H.O.S.T.S. coordinator at Bonham Elementary, said the H.O.S.T.S. schedule works with

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SANDRA DAVIS
DIRECTOR, H.O.S.T.S. PROGRAM

the fall and spring semester schedules at Texas A&M. The H.O.S.T.S. sessions began yesterday and end the first week of December. The program will continue in February and runs through April.

Sandra Davis, the district-wide director of the H.O.S.T.S. program, said the district depends on A&M students to keep the program running.

"We are extremely grateful to the Aggies," Davis said. "They function as excellent role models for the students. We have seen nice gains from student achievement, participation and self-esteem."

Ellen Breckenfeld, a H.O.S.T.S. volunteer and a senior French major, said she volunteered because she enjoys working with children and has considered teaching.

"I love little kids," she said. "They have so much spirit."

Spence said H.O.S.T.S. offers education majors an opportunity to work with elementary students.

However, she said H.O.S.T.S. welcomes any volunteers from Texas A&M and the Bryan-College Station community.

PLEASE SEE SCHOOL ON PAGE 6.

Correction:

In a Page 1 story in yesterday's Battalion, Kelly Hartline was misidentified. Hartline is not president of Eagle Forum Collegians, and she was not involved in any protest involving Banned Books Week.

INSIDE lifestyles

Dance Till You Drop: A&M organizations twirl, two-step and pirouette across campus. See Page 3

sports

Bureau: Third-ranked Soccer Team set to play number one team in the nation. See Page 7

opinion

Way: Police officers mar enforcement reputation unjustified actions. See Page 9

online

http://bat-web.tamu.edu Pick up with state and national news through The AP's 24-hour online news service.