

## Phrases on helmets prompt review

By ROBERT SMITH  
Senior staff writer

Texas A&M officials and student leaders have expressed concerns about profane language printed on "pots" of Bonfire participants.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said he does not approve of Bonfire participants writing obscene phrases on their pots.

"I might not like for someone to put that on their pot or shirt, but I do not automatically have a rule that prohibits it," he said. "It depends on whether or not it is legally or by rule obscene and if it is, people can be asked not to do that. Obviously, we would prefer for it to not be there."

Male and female Bonfire participants were photographed last week at stack wearing pots decorated with phrases, such as "Girls with big tits do it better," "Don't want no short dick man," and "68, I'll owe you one."

John Gallemore, Head Stack and a senior agricultural business major, said he wants to restore the positive image of cut and stack.

"It's (obscene words) something that has always been on since I've been here, he said. "It's something we're trying to put an end to."

Students must wear pots for protection when they are working at cut or stack site.

Kevin Jackson, Bonfire adviser, said he wants Bonfire redpots take appropriate action to resolve problems.

"It's a student-run organization and I want to see students take a lead on this," he said.

Jackson said Bonfire activities should focus on the goals of Bonfire.

"We've got three goals at Bonfire: safety, unity and spirit," he said. "My question is: 'How does this relate to accomplishing these goals?'"

Gallemore said Bonfire workers should think of their students before decorating their pots.

"Granted, they do have a freedom of speech," he said, "but I would like to see them use their own personal discretion."

Gallemore said he hopes everyone at A&M will work together to promote a positive environment at Bonfire.

"We'd really like to have all of the students' support on this deal," Gallemore said.



### Shattering the Tradition

Students wear their pots while carrying their log to the stack site at the Polo Fields last week.

■ Please see editorial and related opinion columns, Page 7.

## Candlelight vigil honors victims of domestic violence

By AMANDA SMITH  
Staff writer

Candles glowed in the dark last night at the Brazos Valley Candlelight Vigil in honor of lives lost due to domestic violence.

Community members, students and victims of domestic violence gathered at the Bryan Municipal Building for the vigil, sponsored by Phoebe's Home.

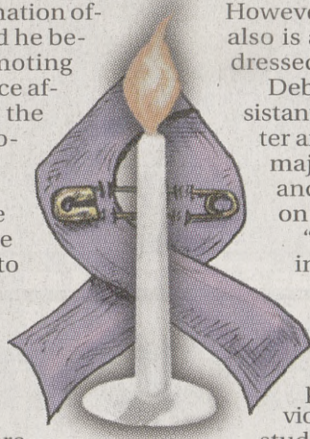
Ashley Peterson, the vigil coordinator and head training specialist at Phoebe's Home, said people may gain a different perspective of domestic violence by attending the vigil.

"I want people to realize how serious domestic violence is," Peterson said. "There were four people killed in the Brazos Valley as a result of domestic violence last year."

Joe Brown, the master of ceremonies at the vigil and a public information officer for the City of Bryan, said he became interested in promoting awareness of domestic violence after attending a meeting of the Brazos Valley Domestic Violence task force.

"Domestic violence is all too often something that we turn a blind eye towards," he said. "I think that we need to make people aware that domestic violence is something that goes on frequently. This problem needs to be attacked community by community."

Peterson said that there



tends to be a focus on spousal abuse. However, she said dating violence also is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Debbie Emminger, a student assistant at the A.P. Beutel Health Center and a senior community health major, spoke on dating violence and domestic violence, focusing on the Texas A&M campus.

"I think that domestic and dating violence are silent problems," Emminger said. "But it happens all the time. One out of every three young women becomes a victim of physical, sexual or emotional violence by age 21. A lot of college students do not really realize that

they are in a bad relationship."

John Slack, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and a member of the Aggie Band, volunteered with other cadets to distribute information to people attending the vigil. Slack said violence in relationships seems to go undetected.

"I do not doubt that this violence has a large effect though," Slack said. "I want people to know that violence exists and to look out for signs."

Trisha Einkauf, director of Phoebe's Home, said that Phoebe's Home and other outreach programs have expanded in recent years.

"There are now social service agencies to help these victims," Einkauf said. "If an abused woman reaches out to you, listen to her. Let her take the lead. She has to move

according to her own table."

Brown said domestic violence outreach is strong in the Brazos Valley area.

"We are fortunate to have a pro-active group here," Brown said. "A lot of times in the rural areas, that is where the law enforcement agencies may not be equipped to handle situations. We have a dynamic group of people and organizations working to help the victims."

Phoebe's Home provides a refuge for women and children victimized by abuse in the home.

Since January 1996, Phoebe's Home has provided a refuge for more than 870 battered women and children from the Brazos Valley area.

PLEASE SEE VIGIL ON PAGE 6.

### INSIDE lifestyles

Disabled students find the term 'handicapped' crippling.

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### sports

Senior Miguel del Angel has become a force for the A&M Men's Golf Team.

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### opinion

Cater: Bonfire tradition loses respect as students display pots decorated with profanity.

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## Unity in laughter

Comedian brings close to Hispanic Heritage Month

By JENARA KOCKS  
Staff writer



BRANDON BOLLOM, THE BATTALION  
Comedian Paul Rodriguez performs at Rudder Auditorium, marking the last event of Hispanic Heritage Month.

TEXAS A&M students of all races put aside their differences last night to laugh at the comedy of Paul Rodriguez that wrapped up Hispanic Heritage Month.

Carla Martinez, a MSC Town Hall member and a junior political science and speech communication major, said comedy brings people together.

"This is a really good turn out," she said. "It was great how everyone came together to work on it like Town Hall, CAMAC and Hispanic President's Council. We're excited that Paul Rodriguez could bring this many people."

Rodriguez said that when he was driving up from Houston, he realized why he was asked to perform in College Station.

"This place is in the middle of nowhere," he said. "There is nothing to do here. I know your parents sent you here because they knew you wouldn't have anything to do but study."

Rodriguez said he is not used to performing in front of such an educated crowd.

"I'm a little nervous about being in front of all these collegiate intellectuals," he said "These intellectuals wear glasses, go to the library and know what websites are. When someone asks me about websites, I tell them I have some in the corners of my garage."

PLEASE SEE COMEDIAN ON PAGE 6.

## Cadets accept duty as Ross Volunteers

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH  
Staff writer

The juniors for the 1997-98 Ross Volunteer Company were chosen this week to continue Lawrence Sullivan Ross' tradition of being "Soldiers, Statesmen and Knightly Gentlemen."

The Ross Volunteer Company, made up of juniors and seniors in the Corps of Cadets, serves as the Honor Guard for the Governor of Texas.

Jeff Luna, a junior accounting major, was one of the juniors selected to be a RV. He said he always has admired the company.

"Ever since my freshman year, I have had so much respect for the Ross Volunteers, Luna said. "Being chosen is a great honor, and I look forward to being a part of the company."

Branson Washburn, commander of the RV Company and a senior kinesiology major, said that every year 72 juniors are selected by the senior members of the company.

The Ross Volunteer Company is the oldest student organization in Texas. The unit, first called the Scott Volunteers, was organized during the school year of 1887-88.

In 1891, the name of the company was changed to Ross Volunteers, in honor of Texas A&M President Lawrence Sullivan Ross, former governor of the State of Texas.

Washburn said the volunteers perform saber arches for dignitaries that come to A&M and the governor at his request. The volunteers also shoot 21-gun salutes at Muster and Silver Taps, lead the King Rex parade at Mardi Gras and perform drills.

Chris Zorich, public relations officer for the RV company and a senior psychology major, said RVs represent the Corps of Cadets, Texas A&M and the State of Texas.

"RVs are expected to uphold themselves to a high stature in everything they do on and off the Quad," Zorich said.

Members should exemplify the traits of Ross, "Soldier, Statesman and Knightly Gentlemen."

Washburn said he finds service to be the common theme in all of the traits.

"A soldier serves his country," he said, "a statesman serves the governing authority and knightly gentlemen serve each other. Someone who possesses these traits puts others above himself in everything."