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Texas A&M University





THURSDAY • OCTOBER 30 • 1997

Panel supports Bonfire autonomy

By Robert Smith Senior staff writer

Two junior Bonfire redpots were relieved of their duties last night after a student said they knowingly allowed a stripper to perform at cut site last Sunday.

John Gallemore, Head Stack, said the two bonfire leaders were dismissed for "not taking action and remedying the situation.'

Gallemore also said two Dunn Hall Bonfire leaders have been banned from participating in Bonfire this year and Dunn Hall will no longer be allowed to participate as an entity with the 1997-98 Bonfire.

Travis Bendele, a senior bioengineering major, told a panel of student leaders last night several Bonfire leaders hired a female stripper to perform at Bonfire cut last Sunday.

Earlier last night, a student leader panel agreed Texas A&M should not make regulations for Bonfire cut and stack, unless Bonfire student leaders cannot eliminate profanity on pots.

MSC Great Issues sponsored the panel of Gallemore; Adam Collett, educational administration graduate student; Helen Clancy, Battalion editor in chief; Alex Cabanas, a senior red pot; and Bill Youngkin, Class of '69 and former yell leader.

Collett said students must change the image of Bonfire to maintain its status as a recognized University tradition.

'I've listened to numerous students who are deeply involved in Bonfire; many of them believe without doubt that Bonfire could never be eliminated," Collett said. "But the truth is there isn't anyone or anything that the University wouldn't eliminate ... if it sufficiently interfered with or distracted from its educational mission.'

Youngkin said students should be trusted to improve the environment at Bonfire without A&M making regulations.

"The thing I want to promote is that stu-

dents can be in charge of this (Bonfire) and be responsible," he said. "I don't want the University to come in and be setting guidelines. They don't have the appreciation and background we have for Bonfire.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, said Monday that the University will not make regulations about the profane phrases on pots, because Bonfire leaders have corrected the situation.

Bonfire workers were photographed earlier this month at stack site wearing pots with profane phrases.

Clancy, a senior English major, said Bonfire participants must be aware that they represent the University.

"Students should reevaluate their purpose for participating in Bonfire," Clancy said. "I can't imagine that the atmosphere my photographer happened upon captured the spir-

Clancy also said the University should not

step in and set standards for Bonfire.

'Aggies are independent and intelligent enough to solve their own problems, and Bonfire is clearly a student tradition," she said.

"We've had a good feeling from students about changing the pots. Everyone has been supportive of it and they have taken off their pots."

> JOHN GALLEMORE **HEAD STACK**

Bonfire student leaders were given last week to voluntarily remove profane phrases on the pots with out the University intervening.

PLEASE SEE BONFIRE ON PAGE 6

Take your pick



AMY DUNLAP/THE BATTALION

Lindsay Capelle, a sophomore horticulture major, picks mustard seeds in her Horticulture 324

class on West Campus Wednesday

A&M prepares for **Community Day**

B-CS area gets ready for Bush Library opening The Bush Library, which will be open

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER Staff writer

Texas A&M organizations and Bryan-College Station residents are gearing up for Community Day at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Nov. 7.

Mary Helen Bowers, deputy director for University Relations, said Community Day is a time for fun and celebration.

"The whole idea of the event is to have fun," she said. "Bringing the world to the Brazos Valley — that's what we want the library to do.

Former President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, will stay in College Station to attend Community Day following in costumes from different cultures. the dedication of the library Nov. 6.

Community Day will kick off at 9:30 a.m. at the library and museum and is free to the public.

until 7 p.m. on Community Day, will host different nationalities, music, literacy programs and school children. Tents will feature organizations with special exhibits. Among the crowd will be a number of

guests including international students



and international school children dressed Sports such as baseball, tennis, golf and

horseshoes will be played at the event.

PLEASE SEE BONFIRE ON PAGE 6.

Financial aid center to host open house

By Karie Fehler coming students to come money can be used at any Staff writer

The Financial Aid Scholarship Resource Center is hosting an open house today from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Pavilion.

Kelly Reynolds, a senior financial aid counselor and chair of the Information to Students Committee, said the focus of the open house is to help students with the financial aid process and provide a forum for questions.

"Our computer database for scholarships will be available and we encourage current and in-

see us," she said. Reynolds said the

open house is for students who would like to find out more about student financial aid or scholarships, and students do not have to attend Texas A&M.

'We welcome anyone to show up and sign up for our scholarship drawing, and you don't have to be present to win or a student or even attend Texas A&M," she said.

The resource center will host a drawing for scholarship money donated by area lenders, and the PLEASE SEE CENTER ON PAGE 10.

college or university. Reynolds said infor-

mation tables from various parts of the financial aid department will be set set up "This is basically an ex-

tension of office hours and we will be available for students' questions and concerns—and there will be refreshments available," she said.

Reynolds said it is important for incoming freshmen and students to look for scholarships and apply early for them.

University leaders continue to focus on multiculturalism

Staff writer

Some Texas A&M leaders have been promoting diversity, and issues such as the Hopwood decision and the backlash against affirmative action have brought attention to diversifying the campus.

Student Body President Curtis Childers, a senior agricultural development major, defines diversity as different types of individuals working together to accomplish goals.

Society has begun to examine diversity because our focus has gone from individuals to a teamoriented perspective," he said. 'People have found that when you bring a group of people together to make a decision, it is generally better than if one person made the decision. The value of bringing a group of people together is in-

creased if they are not all alike." The term diversity includes geographic origins, political views, grounds, socioeconomic backgrounds, genders and religious ideas. Childers said.

For those who define diversity in terms of numbers and demographics, the enrollment figures at Texas

"I think the reason the University is here is to expose students to a variety of thoughts and ideas."

WILL HURD MSC EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

A&M reflect a lack of ethnic diversity. Of this year's freshman class, 178 students are African-American and 607 are Hispanic, a drop of 23 percent and 15 percent respectively from last year (203 and 713). Minorities make up 16 percent of A&M's student body. Student leaders said diversity is

sured. Diversity is a mental and psychological process that occurs when a group fills itself with various cultural, religious and person-

Will Hurd, MSC executive vice president for administration and a junior computer science and international studies major, said some people at A&M are defining diversity with racial lines because there is a lack of ethnic diversity at the University. Hurd said the University should focus on all types of diversity including differences of background, religion, sexual preference and gender.

"I think the reason the University is here is to expose students to a variety of thoughts and ideas," Hurd said. "Having a culturally diverse campus helps to fulfill that because it teaches students to interact with other people.'

PLEASE SEE LEADERS ON PAGE 10.

New sorority aims to bring diversity to A&M

By SARAH GOLDSTON Staff writer

The officers of Delta Xi Nu, a sorority that promotes cultural diversity, are working to make the

organization a tradition at A&M. Jetje Brewton, president of Delta Xi Nu and a junior civil engineering major, and some of her friends began the organization this month in hopes of educating Texas A&M

about cultural differences. "There is racism and prejudice on campus," she said. "We felt that we needed to make more than an individual effort to conquer racism; that's why we started this organization.

Rena Kharbat, historian of Delta Xi Nu and a sophomore biomedical science major, said many people complain about some A&M students being racist.

"I love A&M and I want others to love A&M too," she said. "I've

seen the Confederate flag displayed by some of the students, and I've seen how it offends some people. Being here should be a great experience for everyone."

Each of the six founding officers is from a different cultural heritage. including African-American, His-

panic, Dutch and Arabian. To pursue the goal of diversity, the Delta Xi Nu Sorority is looking for applicants from different cultural backgrounds. In order to recruit members, the officers of the sorority will give presentations at different organizations and will have a booth at the MSC Open

House next semester. "We are looking for a diverse, open-minded mixture of women to promote a positive image, Brewton said.

Delta Xi Nu will begin accepting applications in February. The organization plans to accept 25 women.

PLEASE SEE SORORITY ON PAGE 6.