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The TAMU Buck Weirus Spirit Award 1998-1999



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Buck Weirus Spirit Award Applications are now available for undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

President's Office, 8th Floor Rudder
The Association of Former Students Reception Desk
Vice President for Student Affairs, 10th Floor Rudder
Office of the Dean of each College
Office of Graduate Studies
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Multicultural Services Department, Suite 137 MSC
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MSC Student Programs Office, 216 & 223 MSC

This Award recognizes students for outstanding contributions to the student quality of life program at A&M and honors Richard "Buck" Weirus '42. Highlight accomplishments of Mr. Weirus: Served as Executive Director of the Association of Former Students from 1964-1980, established the first computerized alumni association in the country, established the Century Club, the initiation of the President's Endowed Scholarship program and the Visitor Information Center, was an active member and past president of the San Antonio A&M Club.

Applications Due by 5:00 p.m., February 9, 1999 at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center Reception Desk. Gook Luck.

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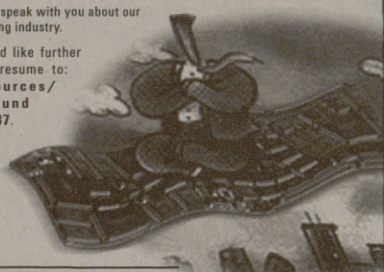
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AGGIELIFE

Will Phil predict a chill Groundhog Day history reveals Germanic, pagan

BY MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

Between New Year's Day and Valentine's Day falls a small holiday that passes by without much recognition — unless the weather gets colder, than all remember the holiday.

Feb. 2 marks one of the most interesting and rich American celebrations — Groundhog Day. Most of the public may know Punxsutawney Phil will emerge from his burrow today at Gobbler's Knob and judge from his shadow whether or not there will be six more weeks of winter.

However, most are not informed on the history and events linked to Groundhog Day.

Sammie Whitman, a freshman international business and Spanish major, said the day passes every year without regard.

"It doesn't make sense at all," he said. "Groundhog Day has no significance to me; it's just a superstition."

The groundhog tradition in the United States is traced back to the arrival of German immigrants in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, who celebrated February 2 as Candlemas Day.

The holiday is based on a superstition about a pagan celebration called Imbolg. It was believed that if an animal came out from hibernation on this day and found the weather fair, winter would continue for six more weeks. However, if the day is dark and wintry, spring will arrive early.

Candlemas Day is the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. Ancient farmers depended solely on weather to guide their agriculture which strengthened their hope for an early spring in hope of a better crop.



RUBEN DELA...

will not come again."

When Candlemas was celebrated in Germany, hedgehogs were traditionally used to predict the weather. In Pennsylvania there were no hedgehogs, so the German settlers chose the groundhog as the replacement because of its resemblance to the hedgehog.

America's first official Groundhog Day celebration was on Feb. 2, 1886 in Pennsylvania when Punxsutawney's local newspaper, *The Punxsutawney Spirit*, printed the following: "Today is Groundhog Day and, up to the time of going to press, the beast has not seen its shadow."

The following year the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club made the famous first trip to Gobbler's Knob to see the groundhog who would become known as "Punxsutawney Phil: Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary."

Every year, thousands of people make the trip to Gobbler's Knob to watch Phil exit his

burrow. Gobbler's Knob was opened to the public in 1996 and has risen in popularity to watch a groundhog has predicted the weather 39 percent of the time.

Regardless of his accuracy in natural matters, Phil lives a plush life compared to others of his species. His climate-controlled habitat at the Punxsutawney Library.

His main source of nutrition is a mix of dog food and he weighs a few pounds, said his handler, Bill Decker.

Phil's day planner is also busier than other groundhogs', especially as he approaches. In past years, Phil has been on "Oprah" and "Today" where he has predicted on live television.

In March of 1986, he made a trip to the White House to meet President Ronald Reagan. Phil was even involved in the research for the 1993 comedy *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray, a movie that has become a mainstream.

Groundhog Day

• If the groundhog sees his shadow, then there will be six more weeks of winter.

• If the groundhog does not see his shadow, then spring is around the corner.

From the official Punxsutawney Phil Web site

According to oral tradition, a popular saying at the end of the 1800s was "If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter has another flight. If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, winter

BUSINESS STUDENT COUNCIL Career Fair

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HOST A COMPANY

Informational Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 2 Wednesday, Feb. 3
rm. 113 @ 9:00 rm. 118 @ 8:00

Company Signups

Sunday, Feb. 7
2:00-4:00

Wehner Building by the elevators

*** If you sign up to host a company you must attend one of the two mandatory meetings

Mandatory Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 9 Thursday, Feb. 11
rm. 113 @ 9:00 rm. 125 @ 8:00

<http://business2.tamu.edu/bsc>

Wednesday, Feb. 3 is

Disabilities Awareness Day

Presented by MSC Hospitality
and Services for Students with Disabilities

Discussion Panel

10:00am - 11:00am
MSC 206

Texas A&M's Faculty and Students discuss and answer questions concerning their disabilities.

Access Challenge

11:00am - 2:00 pm
MSC Flagroom

Come participate in a simulation of eight different disabilities including mobility, visual and dexterity. Some activities include wheel chair basketball, a blind fold walk and every day activities such as shaving and putting on lipstick... with a twist.

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