

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Memorial organized for accident victims

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

Friends and family continue to mourn the loss of six students killed in an automobile accident in College Station Sunday morning.

One A&M student, one Southwest Texas State University (SWTSU) student and four Baylor University students were killed when they were struck by a Ford Ranger whose driver fell asleep.

The students were walking on the shoulder of FM 1020 to attend a fraternity party at the Tau Kappa Epsilon house early Sunday morning.

Memorial services and funeral arrangements have been made for the victims.

A rosary will be held for A&M student Ted Bruton in his hometown of San Angelo tonight at 7 at the Johnson Funeral Home. Funeral services are scheduled for tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Holy Angel Catholic Church in San Angelo.

A spokesperson for the Baylor Chaplain Office said memorials planned for Tricia L. Calp, Emily Hollister, Erika M. Lanham and Dolan W. Wastel

will be after their private funerals and burials, scheduled through Friday.

Loretta Panichi, the SWTSU *Daily University Star* news editor, said funeral arrangements for William Flores will be Thursday at Hayes Funeral Home in Hitchcock, Texas, at 10 a.m.

Rothers Bookstore in the Southgate shopping center on George Bush Drive will be closed Wednesday in observance of the funeral of Bruton, a former employee.

Lane Stephenson of A&M University Relations said the students already are being remembered by flowers and wreaths placed at the crash site.

Donald Ressler, a high-school football coach in Dayton, Texas, said he knew Wostal and Flores during their high-school careers.

"Both of these fine young men were true, dedicated athletes and good kids in high school," Ressler said. "My son, Robbie, played football with these two, and they were truly good friends."

The driver of the truck fell asleep while driving, which has raised questions among the student body about the problem of driving drowsy.

A "Sleep in America" poll conducted by the National



Sleep Foundation indicates 72 percent of drivers ages 18-24 admit to having driven drowsy at one time or another.

According to the United States Department of Transportation, Texas leads the nation in fatigue-related wrecks.

Rob Ferguson, a junior student senator, said in 1998 the Student Senate passed the Lupe Medina Bill, named after A&M student Lupe Medina, who died in a fatigue-related car accident in September 1998. The bill created a committee to promote awareness of fatigue-related accidents involving college students.

SEE MEMORIAL ON PAGE 2.

No charges pressed in assault case

BY JASON BENNYHOFF
The Battalion

The Brazos County Attorney's office declined to press charges against the two men accused of assaulting a student who attempted to walk across the Polo Fields Oct. 1.

Ramiro Reyes pressed charges against two junior Bonfire pots after he said they pushed him off the Bonfire site.

Bob Wiatt, University Police Department (UPD) director, said there was not enough evidence to pursue the incident further.

"The evidence did not meet the qualifications for a criminal case," he said. "There's no way you could ever get a jury to convict anybody [with this evidence]."

The case has now been referred to Student Conflict Resolution Services at Texas A&M. Kim Novak, Student Judicial Services coordinator, said now that criminal charges have been dropped, the students accused will conduct a hearing through Student Conflict Resolution Services. The hearing will be conducted by representatives from the Corps of Cadets and Student Conflict Resolution Services.



Ramiro Reyes, the victim of the alleged incident and a senior political science major, said while he hopes the hearing with Student Conflict Resolution Services helps, he is disappointed with the decision not to press charges.

"It was really just my word against theirs, so it's almost what you expect," Reyes said. "I mean, I love A&M and its traditions, but what I don't like — what it comes down to — is that more respect is given to traditions than people."

Travis Johnson, head stack for Bonfire, said despite the allegations, the Bonfire atmosphere will remain positive and safe.

"We encourage everybody to come out," he said. "We set up barriers defining exactly where we want people to avoid walking, and we have signs posted saying 'hard-hat area,' so it should be fun and safe for everybody."

Rusty Thompson, Bonfire adviser, said in wake of the allegations, Bonfire leaders have made great efforts to improve safety on the site.

"After the incident occurred, me and Travis [Johnson] visited and talked to the other redpots to find out how to be more proactive in preventing incidents like that," he said. "Now there's tape and hard-hat signs everywhere for safety."

Thompson said while safety is his main concern, he and Bonfire leaders are working against more than the potential dangers of a construction site.

"We're concerned about the perception that redpots are just out there to hit somebody," he said. "But they're students, and they are sincere about safety."

The two men accused in the assault, identified as Josh Broach, a junior redpot and industrial distribution major, and Clayton Frady, a junior Centerpole pot and construction science major, could not be reached for comment.

The hearing conducted by Student Conflict Resolution Services is scheduled to begin this week.

Corps may resurrect Drill Team

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The Class of '04 may be the first to have the opportunity to join the Corps of Cadets Fish Drill Team after its five-year absence from Texas A&M if legal proceedings conclude within one year.

The team originally was disbanded August 5, 1997, by a joint decision by Maj. Gen. M. T. "Ted" Hoggood, Corps of Cadets commandant; Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs; and Danny Feather, Corps commander for the 1997-1998 school year.

The decision came after former Fish Drill Team member Travis Alton filed a lawsuit against University officials and team advisers in which he alleged upperclassmen beat him and forced him to cut himself with a knife.

Three other former team members made similar allegations, leading to University judiciary proceedings which ended in the expulsion of one team adviser and the suspension of eight others.

Hoggood said it may be another year before the Fish Drill Team returns to A&M because of continuing litigation.

Hoggood's statement follows a Sept. 30 ruling by the 14th Court of Appeals to uphold a Brazos County court-at-law's dismissal of hazing charges brought against former Fish Drill Team advisers Dusty Hugh Boyd and Javier Chapa, who allegedly witnessed hazing incidents.

SEE CORPS ON PAGE 2.

Beginning to gel



Vivien McDougal, a graduate student in biomedical science, processes an aerglamide gel Monday afternoon.

Concerns remain after garage forum

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

A forum organized by Southside student senators allowed organizers and students who attended to discuss proposed changes to the Southside Parking Garage.

Lorenzo Gonzales, a Southside senator and a sophomore environmental design, said the "fact and solution forum" found that the Senate could not answer many students' concerns. He said students told the forum why they did not approve of the proposition.

William Isenhart, Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services customer-relations manager, was at the meeting but refused to answer questions.

According to a handout provided at the meeting, the forum's objective was "to generate possible solutions [or] reactions to the Southside Parking Garage situation that are in the best interest of all parties concerned."

Renee Watson, a junior speech communication major, said she does not see a problem with the proposed garage changes.

"What [members of the Student Senate] all want you to hear is that we paid \$348 for a reserved spot," she said. "That is what we want you to understand."

When students were asked to provide solutions, they explained



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

The future of the Southside Parking garage was the subject of debate Monday afternoon.

they could not provide solutions to problems they do not believe exist, and that they believe the parking arrangement in the Southside Parking Garage should remain as it is.

"The reason you're not getting solutions is we don't see a problem," one student said.

Many students, including Robyn Hutchison, a sophomore journalism major, voiced concerns that PTTS would overbook the parking garage to the point that students would have difficulty finding a parking spot despite having paid \$348 for a reserved spot at the beginning of the year.

"One of the advantages of having a garage spot is having the ability to leave whenever you want and know that you will have a spot when you get back," she said.

Matt Criswell, a senior mechanical engineering major, said he did not think overbooking is a logical solution.

"They don't go into our dorms and say, 'No one is here, so let's overbook their dorm room,'" he said.

Business Student Council hosts Distinguished Partners program

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

The Business Student Council (BSC) is beginning a Distinguished Partners program to get former students back in the classroom, both to aid current students who complain their lecture courses are too monotonous and to aid professors whose class attendance is decreasing.

Cory Willis, executive director of the program and a senior management information systems major, said the program will benefit everyone involved by renewing the teaching strategy and combining the business world with the classroom.

"Students get to learn the latest trends and ideas from the business community," Willis said. "The speakers, who are former students, get an opportunity to return to Aggieland and give back to the University, and professors don't have to spend their time searching for guest lecturers."

The BSC hosted a tailgate party this Saturday to kick off the program. One hundred associates of A&M, distinguished former students as well as representatives from companies such as EnForm Technology, Enron EDS and Ferguson Enterprises attended.

Willis said the program, aims

to merge the classroom and the corporate world by bringing companies on campus. The program will find prominent individuals from the business community and place them in a class addressing their area of expertise.

"Students get to learn the latest trends and ideas from the business community."

— Cory Willis
Distinguished Partners

Professors can call the program, give a specified class date and a topic they wish to cover. The program members search their database for representatives who are available at that time to speak to the class.

"Professors do a lot of research on the side," Willis said. "They don't have time to call 20 or 30 people to speak to their class. It is the program's job to contact speakers for the professor."

Program coordinators want former students to come back to campus to speak, its main focus is to diversify students' education.

"The speaker can be either a former student or not," Willis

said. "If we get a Stanford grad, he is going to think differently than an A&M graduate, and diversity of education can always be beneficial to students."

"If we get a recent graduate, he might have had the same professor he is speaking for, and that won't help students get new ideas."

Drew Hennig, a junior finance major, said the program will be helpful for current and incoming students.

"The program will help make students more excited to finish school and get out into the business world rather than fear what their career future holds," he said.

Hennig also said the speakers are a great change of pace from the usual lectures, giving students a reason to come to big lecture classes.

The program is part of the Dean's idea for the Vision 2020 plan. The program's goal is to eventually have two to three guest lecturers in each business class each semester. Willis said the idea has lingered for sometime.

"We don't want stagnant knowledge at A&M," Willis said. "With the program underway, I think we are moving positively in the right direction."

The program currently is contacting and scheduling speakers for the spring semester.

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