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Schumacher banners banned

University forbids residence hall to display offensive 'spirit sign'

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Students passing by Schumacher Hall on a home game weekend this fall may notice a little "spirit" missing from the hall's exterior.

Michael Krenz, the Department of Residence Life Northside area coordinator, said the residence hall lost its privileges to post "spirit signs" for the rest of the semester after posting a sign containing what he called "derogatory remarks."

Krenz said a spirit sign is a large sign hung on the side of a residence hall the Friday before a home game to showcase the hall's support for the Texas A&M team.

"Their purpose is to promote school spirit and unity," he said.

The inappropriate sign displayed the words "SCREW THE BATT" in large print along with the words "and Baylor, and PTTS" in smaller print. The sign also displayed a politically incorrect Bonfire symbol along with a picture of a man fornicating with a sheep.

Jason Newman, a resident of the hall and a senior business major, said while he was not involved with the creation of the sign, he does know the motivation behind it.

"We feel that *The Battalion* has only represented one, negative side of the [assault] issue in some of their recent articles about Bonfire," he said. "It really has unfairly put Bonfire in a bad light."

Sallie Turner, editor in chief of *The Battalion* and a senior journalism major, said the objective of the newspaper is to report the news as accurately and objectively.

"We try to report the news in as balanced and accurate of a way as is possible," she said. "It is our job to report the news, not to make it."



CODY WAGES

The 'spirit sign' displayed by Schumacher Hall before the Texas A&M-Baylor football game weekend resulted in the revocation of the hall's privilege to post any more banners this season.

Newman said he knows of many people who think that certain published articles have indirectly led to new "politically correct" policies on the Bonfire cut sight which are strongly objected to by many participants in Bonfire activities.

"It seems like some people are trying to make every thing P.C.," he said. "[Bonfire] is just not that way, and it is never going to be."

Krenz said the expression violated the Department of Residence Life guidelines established for the signs and could mean penalties for individuals found to be directly associated with its creation.

"Basically, they violated posting guidelines and if any individuals or organizations found that are directly involved, they were reprimanded," he said.

New program to gauge organizations' progress

BY JESSI HIGHFILL
The Battalion

The Student Organization Assessment Center (SOAC) is a new program created this fall to help student organizations evaluate their progress and processes and plan for the future.

The center is part of the Department of Student Life Studies in the department of the Division of Student Affairs and is already working with campus organizations such as the MSC, the Interfraternity Council, Residence Hall Association and the Department of Recreational Sports.

Darby Roberts, the SOAC coordinator, said the center offers numerous services for student

organizations, including student involvement surveys and needs assessment.

Roberts said the SOAC is equipped to gather data through various methods such as mass mailings, telephone interviews and the Internet.

He said the center encourage the use of the Internet because it saves time and manpower and because most students have convenient access to the Internet.

Sandi Osters, Student Life Studies director, said the center's goal is to help campus organizations.

"One of the aims of higher education is for students to be involved in their own education," she said. "My vision is [for SOAC] to serve the students

directly in whatever they need to know about their organization: what they do, why they do it and how satisfied are the people they serve."

The center is located in Rudder 103, and the services are free to any officially recognized student organization.

Osters said she encourages any organization wishing to use the center to get in touch with them soon to allow plenty of time to gather information to insure accurate results.

"The problem with students is that when they want something, they want it yesterday," she said. "It takes much longer to do good work, and we wouldn't want to throw something together that

Former commissioner defends TAAS

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The embattled exit exam for Texas high school students was defended again yesterday by the former state official who championed its creation.

"This is about improbability for all children and improbability of educators in our system," Mike Moses testified in the federal-court trial of a lawsuit alleging the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills discriminates against minorities.

"The state has an interest in making sure that all students, from Amarillo to Beaumont, from Brownsville to El Paso, can meet a standard," Moses added.

Moses, who left the state's top education post last month to become deputy chancellor at Texas Tech Uni-

versity, was cross-examined by Javier Maldonado, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which filed the lawsuit.

"Do you agree that high-stakes decisions or important decisions, such as denying a student his or her diploma, should be based on complete information of the students' knowledge of the state-mandated curriculum?" Maldonado asked.

"In my opinion, I would define complete knowledge as a student being able to pass the exit-level test," Moses answered.

Using enrollment figures provided by TEA, Maldonado argued that only one in two black or Hispanic students enrolled in a Texas high school actually makes it to senior year, compared to three in four for whites.

STATE IN BRIEF

Search under way for fugitive shooter

PLEASANTON (AP) — Two South Texas law officers have been wounded by a rifleman in a rural area south of Antonio, authorities said.

Texas Department of Safety spokesman Mike Chappin he had unconfirmed reports many as five officers could be wounded or missing.

A constable involved in the hunt told the *San Antonio News* a Pleasanton policeman an Atascosa County sheriff's office had been wounded.

The search was near the section of U.S. 37 and Texas way 97, about 25 miles from San Antonio, the constable

Houston D.A. says he won't be indicted

HOUSTON (AP) — James Holmes Jr., whose prosecution has won more death sentences than any other modern-day attorney, said yesterday he will seek re-election and wants away while he still enjoys his

Holmes, Harris County district attorney since his appointment in Bill Clements in 1979, informed employees yesterday of his decision to run in the March primary.

"My daddy had a saying: 'I scribe to — that it's time go from a vacation when you're having fun,'" Holmes, easily recognizable by his trademark hand mustache, said. "I made up my mind a long time ago never to with time remaining on my

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