



Racquetball Smashing Baby Tournament

G. Rollie White
November 20, 1999
10:00 a.m.

All TAMU Students and Faculty/Staff Welcome!

AWARDS
Men and Women
1st Place: \$75 + free dinner
2nd Place: \$50 + free dinner
3rd Place: \$25.00
MANY DOOR PRIZES!

Men's and Women's Singles
Pre-Registration: Nov. 15-19
@ Rec and Wehner
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Day of Event: 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
\$10.00 Advance or \$12.00 Day of
Tournament
\$2.00 Refund with 2 Canned Goods

MSC Black Awareness Committee
Nubian Nominations

Review Categories
Submit Nominations

<http://bac.tamu.edu>

Deadline:
Wednesday, Dec. 22nd

"Celebration of Achievement"

Texas Business Leaders & Nubian Awards Reception
Thursday, Feb. 10th
3pm
J. Wayne Stark Galleries

Attention Seniors

Graduating in May
English 210 & 301 (Tech Writing)
Force Dates for Spring 2000

Wednesday, December 8
9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

and

Tuesday, January 18
9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

- Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent).
- Come to **Blocker 224** during the force dates and times listed above.
- Bring a letter on department stationery from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering.

No forces will be done during pre-registration. You must come in during these dates to get a seat.
If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times.

Forcing Information line: 862-7724
Web site: <http://www-english.tamu.edu/wprogrms/forcing.html>

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Seeking comfort from faith

Prayer services help churches, students deal with tragedy

BY STEPHANIE DUBE,
CALEB MCDANIEL AND
JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

On a morning of sadness in Bryan-College Station, there were tearful smiles at several area churches, as students and church members responded to tragedy with faith. Special services were held at Grace Bible Church, St. Francis Episcopal Church and Rudder Fountain.

Nearly 70 people greeted each other with hugs and handshakes at Grace Bible Church in College Station yesterday for a 10 a.m. prayer session.

Senior Pastor Dwight Edwards opened the service by quoting Psalm 46 from the Bible, "We will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Pastors, church staff and students emphasized the importance of prayer in comforting each other.

Leigh Montgomery, a sophomore mathematics major, said she was still in a state of shock but

came to offer prayers for those affected by the accident.

"We can comfort them as Christ has comforted us," she said.

Brian Fisher, college pastor at Grace Bible Church, predicted that there would inevitably be feelings of guilt among students who had worked on stack, and many of them would wonder whether they had done something to cause the collapse.

"I anticipate that for their specific questions, I won't have the answers," he said.

But both Edwards and Fisher said the job of church pastors was to be available for students, who constitute about 50 percent of the 2,000 members at Grace Bible Church.

"We're mainly just trying to be there to put an arm around them," Edwards said. "There's no need to say why [this tragedy has happened], because none of us knows why. It's the who behind the why that's important."

Some people attending the service were beginning to talk of the good that could come from the accident.

"I think this will be a faith strengthener," Heidi Cook, a staff worker at Grace Bible Church, said.

Fisher said Christians should use this opportunity to share their faith with the grieving.

"I was just imagining how many angry and confused people there are walking around campus," he said. "What these folks need to hear is 'I love you.'"

Later in the afternoon, more than 5,000 students joined together at Rudder Fountain to pray for students, rescue workers and family members impacted by the Bonfire tragedy.

The event began with a song by the Singing Cadets and a message from Gregg Matte, director of Breakaway Ministries, which offers Bible studies, worship services and spiritual support to A&M students.

"There aren't any words that can be said that can make this all go away," Matte said, addressing the crowd of students, many of whom were grieving the loss of close friends. "I don't know what to say, but I do know who to point you to — Jesus Christ and God, the Father."

When the official prayer service ended, the students sang songs and prayed for each other.

Abigail Werneke, a psychology major, said she was about Bonfire collapsing in her room at 6 a.m. Her reaction was prayer, she said.

"We have to just continue faithfulness," Werneke said. "The process is just now going on. Students are coming to encourage and mourn. This tragedy will affect everyone at A&M."

Later in the evening of the Bonfire tragedy, St. Francis Episcopal Church held another prayer vigil.

The Rev. C. Andrew those gathered in prayer, reading the names of students both injured and the accident.

"We must pray for all affected by this horrible tragedy. Only Aggies here, but around the country, prayers also," Doyle said.



A crowd of students walks southbound on Wellborn Rd. toward Reed Arena, where over 14,000 gathered last night to reflect on the day's tragedy.

Thousands meet in Reed to begin healing

BY BRADY CREEL AND STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Amidst tear-filled grief and sorrow, Texas Aggies stood arm-in-arm with friends, families and faculty in Reed Arena last night to share their compassion and sympathy in light of yesterday's tragic events.

Tim Hogan, a junior computer engineering major, the service and said it was filled with contemplation and sharing of the Aggie Spirit. "The air was thick with silence, and you could tell that the shock and anger had melted away," he said. "Everyone there only had love and a family spirit."

Hogan said the moment of remembrance was a well-needed step towards recovery from the shocking events of the day.

"I showed up [at the Bonfire site], and everything was like a scene out of an old war movie," he said. "People were holding each other, and no one really knew what was going on. I still can't believe it happened."

Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen said the day was one of unspeakable grief and sorrow.

"No matter how predictable we think life is,

none of us knows what the next hour may bring," he said. "When we went to bed last evening, none of us thought that tonight we would be consumed with the grief that now confronts all of us."

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said he became overwhelmed when he looked out his window from the eighth floor of Rudder Tower and could see only students holding hands in prayer around the MSC.

"I looked out the window, and there were so many students holding hands and praying that you could not see the bricks [on the Rudder Fountain plaza] beneath their feet," he said. "I wasn't expecting to see the reaction, but the sheer numbers struck me so much that I just lost it."

Southerland said that the president and vice president of the University of Texas attended the memorial and ordered all flags on the UT campus be flown half-mast in reverence of those killed in the collapse.

Rick Perry, lieutenant governor of Texas and Class of '72, presented Forrest Lane, Corps of Cadets commander and a senior political science and economics major, and Julie Cast,

president of the Residence Hall Association and a junior marketing major, with state flag flown at the capitol.

Throughout the rest of the ceremony, the flag close to his chest.

"This is a sign of what those students do for all of us," he said. "It doesn't start up for the loss, but it still means a lot."

Perry said he had signed an executive order Thursday morning ordering flags at all governmental offices to be flown at half-mast.

"We will remember them as long as we live, as Texas A&M and the Aggie Spirit, and friends, is forever," Perry said.

Rev. Larry Krueger of the Campus Ministry Association, offered his condolence large congregation present at the service described the path the Aggies need to overcome grief of such magnitude.

"May God help us all," Krueger said, "because it is a time to mourn, a time to care and a time to pray."

Before solemnly departing from the arena, a soft hush fell over the crowd as the distant humming of "Amazing Grace" filled the audience. They sang together, shoulder to shoulder, remembering the fallen Aggies.

November 20, 1999
7:00 PM
Rudder Auditorium

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