

UT students to mourn during Unity Gathering

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Unity Gathering

The following hotels will be offering discounts to A&M students attending the Unity Rally with the presentation of a student I.D.:

- **Club Hotel by Doubletree** - 25% off (\$79 for one room for up to four)
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(512) 479-4000
- **Courtyard by Marriott** - 75% off (\$29 for one room for up to four)
5660 North I-35 on south feeder, south of 290
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- **Doubletree North Austin** - 45% off (\$70 for one room for up to four)
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(512) 454-3737
- **Embassy Suites** 20% off (\$89 for one room for up to six, breakfast included)
5901 North I-35 on north feeder, south of 290
(512) 454-8004
- **Red Lion Inn** - 45% off
6121 North I-35 on north feeder, north of 290
(512) 323-5466
- **Rodeway Inn** - 20% off (\$50 for one room for up to four)
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Texas A&M University and the University of Texas will suspend 116 years of rivalry tonight and kindle a bond of camaraderie between the two institutions by remembering the Aggies lost in Thursday's Bonfire collapse.

Eric Opiela, UT student body vice president, said regardless of all the rivalry that has happened over the years, there is a bond between the two schools.

"These two schools are closer than anyone would have ever thought," Opiela said.

Parisa Fatehi, UT student body president, said the objective of tonight's gathering is to establish a link of friendship between students of both schools.

"We are all Texans and students," Fatehi said. "We share so much, and we often take those things for granted."

The unity gathering in front of the bell tower will take the place of UT's annual Hex Rally, which was canceled by the Texas Exes Student Chapter. During tonight's candlelight ceremony at 9, the UT tower will be darkened in support of all those affected by the tragedy at A&M.

"Maybe we can take time to reflect on what we mean to one another," Fatehi said. "[The unity gathering] is to remind us of the very deepest part of our connection as students trying to cope with this loss."

Opiela said he believes the unity gathering is an appropriate replacement of the Hex Rally.

"I hope A&M students will come together with UT students in front of the darkened tower and join hands and pray for recovery from this," he said.

The Hex Rally dates back to 1941, when several UT students visited a local fortune teller for some help with the game against A&M. The fortune teller advised the students to light candles in order to place a "hex" on the Aggie football team.

Each year, students join together and light red candles with hope of defeating the Aggies at the football game.

Fatehi said the unity gathering will bring the two universities together by emphasizing common characteristics.

"Tonight will be drastically different because [the unity gathering] will break us down to the core of what we actually share," Fatehi said.

UT students will be wearing white ribbons today in honor of the Aggies who lost their lives.

"The ribbons are white because that is a color both schools share," Fatehi said.

Opiela said several hotels in Austin will offer Aggies a discounted rate for the night.

The establishments are providing the discounts to avoid accidents as a result of drowsy driving. To be eligible for these discounts, students must show their A&M students ID cards.

"The A&M students are guests tonight, and we would love for them to come so we can pray and remember," Opiela said.

Fatehi said A&M students are advised to arrive on the UT campus early if possible. She said student government representatives will begin passing out candles at 8:15 p.m. Parking will be available after 4:30 p.m. in several lots across campus.

Fatehi said students should avoid such lots designated as "all the time."

Officials announce changes to University schedule

BY DIANE XAVIER
The Battalion

Texas A&M officials have made several modifications to campus activities this week in tribute to the students injured and killed during the Bonfire collapse.

Student Body President Will Hurd, a senior computer science major, said people are welcome to show respect for the 12 fallen Aggies and their love, devotion and commitment by coming out to the Polo Fields Thursday around sunset.

"I speak in support that we lean on one another and talk about our feelings, but most importantly remember the way these

Aggies have lived and celebrate it," he said.

Hurd said a modified Yell practice will be held Thursday at 8 p.m. at Kyle Field.

"With all these occasions, we ask people to show respect because the nature of Yell Practice and other events will be different," he said.

Jeff Bailey, head yell leader and a senior agriculture systems management major, said the goal is not to forget what happened or expect people to put the incident behind them.

"We are not trying to make people feel uncomfortable," he said. "This is just an open door for people to come together.

"We feel we would be doing a disservice by not having Yell Practice. This is an opportunity to lift people's spirits."

Bailey said he feels that the deceased Aggies would want Yell Practice to be held.

"That's what they worked so hard for," he said. "It isn't about tradition, but using the resources we have to be together at A&M."

Post-Yell Party '99, hosted by the Residence Hall Association at the MSC, will follow Yell Practice.

Hurd said the party provides an alcohol-free environment and is an alternative way for fun and fellowship.

Hurd requests that no small fires be burned in respect to the fallen Aggies and asks students to wear maroon and white ribbons in honor of the victims.

Ribbons can be picked up in the MSC Flagroom and the Association of Former Students office.

Elephant Walk and E-Walk have been postponed until Nov. 30.

Katie Hanselka, senior class president and an agricultural development major, said class council wants students to be able to go home and be with their families.

"Our main concern is we want everyone to be together," she said. "We want to have a more positive atmosphere."

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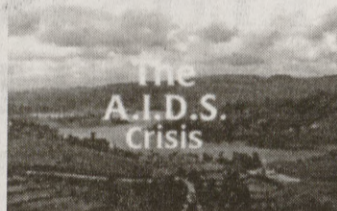
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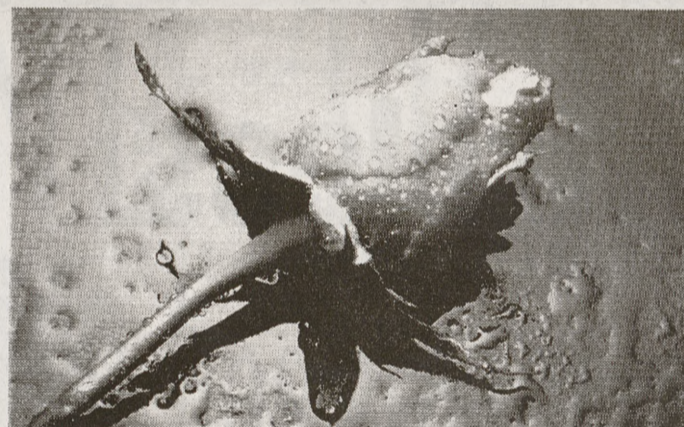
Business Student Council

General Meeting
Pictures at 7 p.m. in Zachary.
Meeting to Follow in Wehner 113

All Majors are welcome to attend!

More Information Available on

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You can find Steve's article *Living with Hope* at everystudent.com along with other articles for abundant living

