

Extended family

Through tragedy, Texas A&M students realize close ties extend beyond campus

BY BRIAN FLEMING
The Battalion

John Donne once wrote, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind." In the wake of Thursday's tragedy, many throughout the community and beyond have felt the same as the loss of friends, family and loved ones became known. Reactions have been of fear, grief and unity, not only between fellow Aggies, but with students from afar as well.

Eddie Saucedo, a sophomore management major, said his reaction to these events were ones that continued to change as the day unfolded.

"Early that morning, when I first heard of what happened, it was just a shock," he said. "It sank in pretty quick, however. Then it was just of concern."

Since he was involved with Bonfire this year, Saucedo said one of his immediate concerns were for the people he knew.

"Almost all of my buddies participate in Bonfire, so I immediately wanted to see if they were all right," he said. "Once I found out they were, I became so concerned for the others because I knew many of them as well."

Saucedo said from that point on, the tragedy became harder and harder to handle.

"It was all very chaotic," Saucedo said. "That morning and all day, I just wanted to do something to help out but despite what I could do, I just had such a helpless feeling."

Saucedo said his participation in the rescue effort helped to take his mind off of the tragedy.

"As I helped move logs, the hard work and my own hope helped me to take my mind off of what happened as everyone came together," Saucedo said. "But the tragedy was always in the back of my mind."

Throughout the day, many relied on media coverage to keep them up to date on what was happening. Anne Sikorski, a junior management information systems major, said as she watched the media coverage, it became harder and harder to handle.

"At first, when I turned on the news, I had such a feeling of denial. And as the day went on, it just became so sad. I hoped that with every log they moved, everyone would come out alive."

Sikorski said her feelings can not compare to what others might feel.

"I have just been so sad about all of this," Sikorski said. "I just cannot imagine how all of the victims and their families feel. My heart goes out to all of them."

Leslie Eschbach, a senior psychology major, said after turning on the news she was shocked.

"I looked at the television as soon as I saw the screen, my knees buckled and I just dropped to the floor."

The effects of this event have been felt all over the world and in a number of ways.

In Italy, at the Santa Chaira Study Center, Aggies began to hear the news.

Eschbach said with her sister there, she has heard of the reactions from students and members of the European community.

"From what I have heard, people over there were crying and mourning the loss," Eschbach said. "The news did not travel as fast but I heard from my sister later that day. She said no one overseas can believe that this happened."

With the interests of their fellow Texans and friends at heart, students at universities across the state have sent their deepest sympathies.

Martida Sealy, a sophomore advertising major at Southern Methodist University, said for the past two days, their campus has been very somber.

"Shock is the main thing people here feel," she said. "It really is an eye opening experience since nothing that tragic has happened here in a long time that I know of."

Sealy said for many at SMU, there was concern for Aggie friends.

"I know a lot of people here went to high school with some of the victims and for them, I know this has just been tragic."

Amber Rademacher, a sophomore general studies major at the University of Texas, said she has friends at A&M and was immediately concerned.

"I watched the news trying to see if there was anyone I knew," she said.

Unfortunately, she later learned she knew one of the victims.

"Later on that day, I was on my computer when my friend sent me an instant message," she said. "She told me Bryan McClain was one of the students who died and I just started to cry. Even though I had not seen him in a while, we were friends in high school, and I was just so shocked."

Rademacher said the mood within the Longhorn community has been somber.

"Here at U.T. everyone is so concerned," Rademacher said. "All over campus for the last two days everyone has been so sad and respectful. People have been quiet, usually just whispering and walking with their heads down."

Antera Drake, a junior radio, television and film major at UT, said of the many things the University has done out of respect, there are a few notable acts which demonstrate the school's concern for the Aggies.

"People have shown tremendous respect by wearing



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

A&M students gather at the perimeter set up by investigators to remember those who died when stack fell.

ribbons and on our paper, *The Daily Texan*, there was great coverage as well."

Sealy said at SMU, *The Daily Campus* coverage was respectful as well.

Despite this week's game, students of UT have expressed their regard and respect which goes beyond a school rivalry.

Drake said incidents such as this prove how insignificant something like rivalry can be.

"This just proves that relations between the two uni-

versities is nothing to really be taken seriously," Drake said. "It is only about football, basketball and other sports, not human lives."

Rademacher said during this week's much anticipated event, the Longhorns are less concerned with a rivalry as they will be mourning right alongside the Aggies.

"No one here seems to even care about the game now," he said. "Instead of a rivalry, I know at Kyle Field, we will all come together and unite as friends."

WIN ZONE TICKETS

area-wide.com has great news!

Goodbye long-distance bills • Hasta la vista e-mail Helloooooo Chat!

It's Brazos Valley Chat from area-wide.com, your local informational, entertaining web site.

Log on to <http://bvaw.area-wide.com>, click on AREA WIDE CHAT.

Now you're ready to chat with friends across campus or around the world...

or even chat with mom and dad. It's AREA WIDE CHAT only on area-wide.com

It's fun....easy and available 24/7 • Plus saves you time and most important, MONEY.

Tell your friends, family and classmates to log on & start chatting.

Soooooo...Make bvaw.area-wide.com your start page and bookmark your favorite pages!


Win Tickets To The Zone!

Go to Brazos Valley Area-Wide Website @
bvaw.area-wide.com

Find *The Zone* logo on the Brazos Valley
Area-Wide Chat Page.

Click and register to win 2 tickets to the
next Aggie home football game in *The Zone*.



BRAZOS VALLEY 

AREA-WIDE

PHONE BOOK

www.area-wide.com