

Investigation continues in student death

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

Texas A&M University police and officers with the Hays County Sheriff's Department still have not located or identified the driver of the Texas A&M student Kerry Kujawa, a junior mechanical engineering major.

Although no new information has been covered, DPS officers are beginning a fine search of Kujawa's car and room and are still searching for information through Internet and mail records.

It was believed that Kujawa went to San Antonio on April 7 to meet a girl, named Kelley, that he had been corresponding with via email. Friends suspected that after several weeks went by the emails supposed to come from Kujawa from Kelly's account were not from Kujawa and reported him missing. The Hays County Sheriff's Department found his body shortly thereafter.

Kujawa's mother, Lucille Kujawa, said that she was worried about other people who were victimized by Internet meetings. She said the Internet is not a way to meet people and that it should not be used for that purpose.

"Just because it's new doesn't mean it's better," Lucille said.

She said that though no one could help Kerry anymore, she wanted to be sure his death would not be in vain.

Lucille said that throughout his life, Kerry had loved to help people. He would fix neighbor's VCRs or friend's computers and anything he could to help.

"Kerry loved helping people, and he didn't expect anything in return," Lucille said.

Kerry was a recipient of both the Texas A&M President's Endowment Scholarship and the National Merit Award. Kujawa was a National Merit Finalist and scored almost 1600 on his SAT test.

Kerry also ran long-distance in high school, competing at one point with shin splints, a broken toe and a torn muscle that was not completely healed, Lucille said. Kerry was awarded the "Pride and Never Quit Award" for his performance, and the team has continued the award.

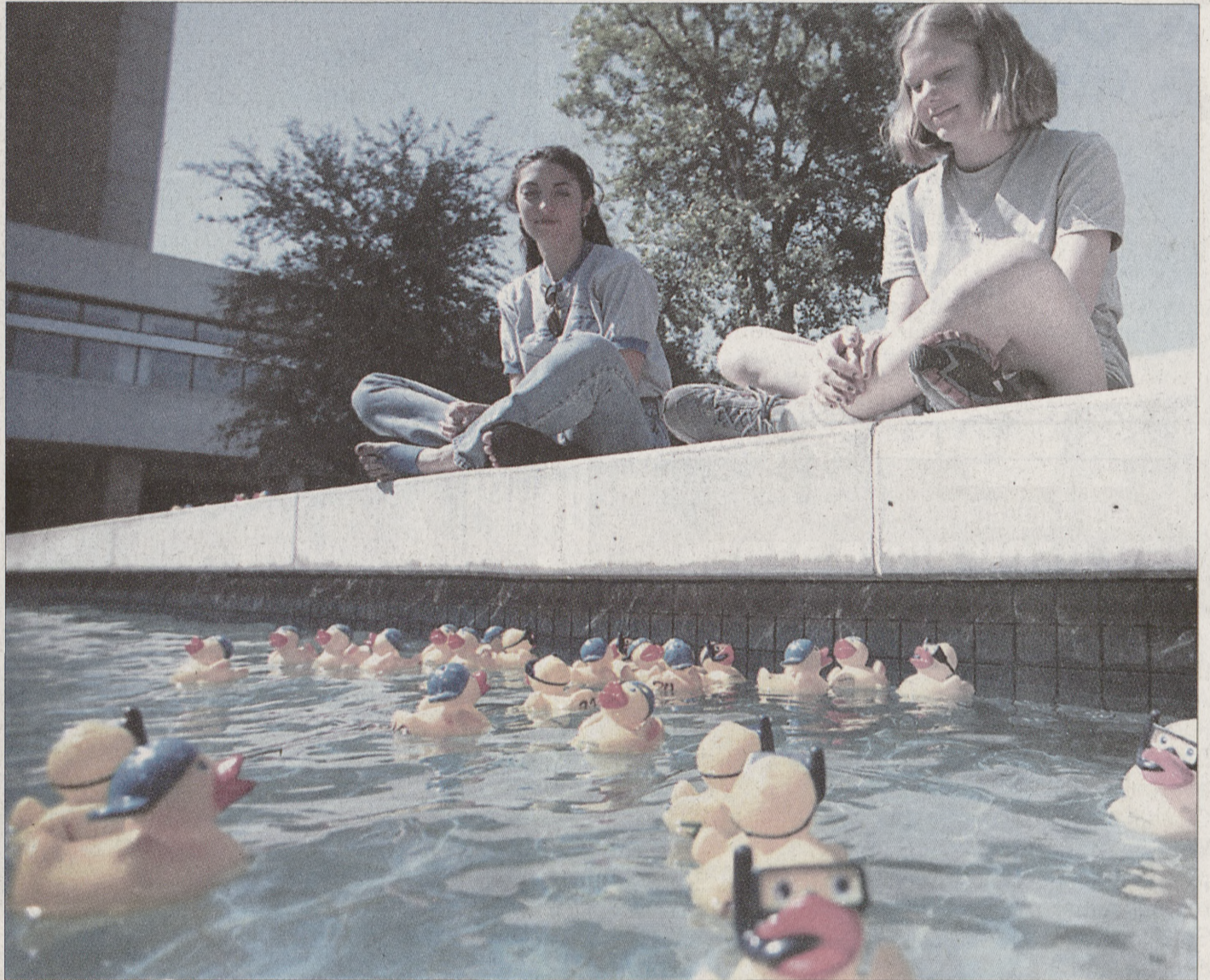
Lucille said Kerry had been accepted to Rice University, but then visited Texas A&M and fell in love with the spirit and atmosphere.

"When he came out of Fish Camp, his blood was maroon and white," Lucille said.

"Kerry loved helping people, and he didn't expect anything in return."

— Lucille Kujawa
Kerry's mother

Rubber ducky you're the one



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Jana Renker, a sophomore microbiology major, and Crista Benson, a junior biomedical science major, watch as rubber ducks race in Rudder Fountain Monday. The race was held as a fundraiser for MSC OPAS.

Fraternity denies alcohol violations at Chilifest

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

In recent weeks, the success of Chilifest has been tarnished by accusations that members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity have been bragging about holding the event with alcohol present, a violation of student rules.

Brent Paterson, the dean of the Department of Student Life, said he is uncertain what part SAE played in organizing the event but the Department of Student Life will be looking into the matter further.

Marc McWilliams, chairperson of Chilifest, Inc., a member of SAE and a senior agricultural development major, said Sigma Alpha Epsilon was not involved in Chilifest this year.

"Sigma Alpha Epsilon did not organize Chilifest at all.

"Sigma Alpha Epsilon started

Chilifest 10 years ago and have done it every year until two years ago," he said. "For liability reasons and to comply with [Texas] A&M rules, we decided to detach the fraternity as much as possible so if something were to happen Sigma Alpha Epsilon's name wouldn't be brought up."

McWilliams said SAE was not breaking rules when it was in charge of the event in previous years.

"You can't have alcohol present if it is an open party," he said. "By

"It's a closed party, so we wouldn't be in violation of any rules and we never were in violation of student rules."

— Marc McWilliams
chairperson of Chilifest, Inc.

selling tickets, it's not an open party. It's a closed party, so we wouldn't be in violation of any rules and we never were in violation of student rules."

Ann Goodman, the associate director of the Department of Student Life, said there is the possibility of an investigation but it is unlikely SAE will be found guilty of breaking any Student Life rules.

"There is a possibility that an investigation will be started looking into the matter. However, at this point we have no reason to believe

that Sigma Alpha Epsilon was directly involved," she said.

McWilliams said the accusations occurred because people do not fully understand the rules.

"There are so many rumors flying around nobody really knows what they're talking about," he said. "If they would just get the rules and read them themselves, they would know."

McWilliams said that despite the accusations of wrongdoing, Chilifest was a success this year.

"Chilifest will be able to give \$62,000 to charity, which is by far the biggest donation at A&M by any philanthropy project," he said. "There were no accidents and no problems. The highway department and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) both sent letters saying how pleased they were with the event."



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Chilifest attendees consume alcoholic beverages while enjoying the festival's activities. Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity denies student alcohol rules were violated at the event.

Students fight to keep bonfire alive, tradition

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

With the fate of Aggie Bonfire up in the air, some students have already begun fighting to keep the tradition.

An effort called "Keep the Fire Burning" is collecting signatures and selling T-shirts and bumper stickers outside the Memorial Student Center.

"I love bonfire, and I just wanted to remind them how students feel before we leave," said Will Clark, one of the efforts organizers and a senior rangeland ecology major.

So far, Clark said, he and his small group of volunteers have gathered over 1,000 signatures and received hundreds of email messages from students and alumni in support of continuing bonfire.

Beth Ridel, a "Keep the Fire Burning" organizer and Class of '99, said she wants future generations of Aggies to be able to experience the camaraderie of pulling together for a common task.

"Working on bonfire has been a great experience. It really helps develop leadership skills, and I formed some great friendships," Ridel said.

Clark said he is open to changes in the way bonfire is built but he insists that it remain a student-organized event.

"I don't believe bonfire is inherently

risky. It's been built safely for many years, and it wasn't a fluke," Clark said. "There'll have to be some changes, but Aggies are some of the smartest people in the world, and we can fix it."

Clark added that it is important that students make their voices heard now, since many will not be in College Station during the summer when A&M administrators will decide the future of bonfire.

The Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire, the panel appointed to find the cause of the collapse, will release its findings May 2.

Some students have questioned the timing of the report, since it comes just before finals and most students will be too busy to voice their opinions before going home for the summer.

"It seems the administration puts a lot of decisions off until the summer. I guess they don't want everyone to get ticked off," said Megan Chatron, a petition signer and a junior Spanish major.

The effort has only been fully active for a few days, but the flood of support has been encouraging, Clark said.

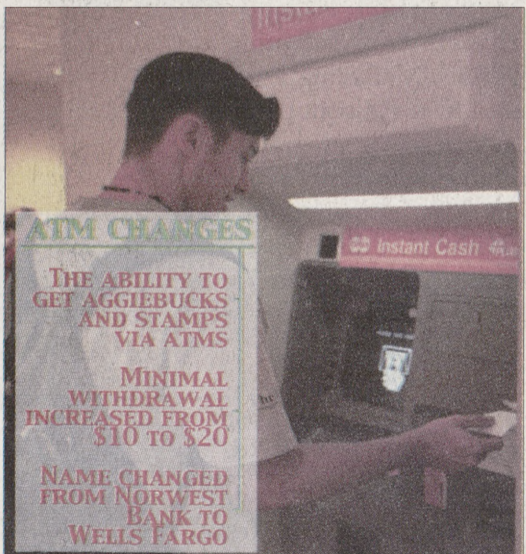
"These stories from old Ags are really amazing. They articulate why bonfire is important better than I ever could," Clark said. "It's about friendship and the Aggie Spirit, things you can't learn in a classroom, and it's worth keeping."

Campus ATMs to change Machines offer Aggie Bucks, stamps and account info

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

Over the next couple of weeks, students will notice some changes to the on-campus Norwest Bank ATMs.

Aside from a name change from Norwest Bank to Wells Fargo, the new machines will offer students more services aimed at making the banking experience more convenient. These new services will allow students to buy postage stamps and view their statements, check clearings and other account information.



BRIAN SMITH & BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION

Another service that students may find convenient is the added service of deposit envelopes at ATM locations so that students can purchase Aggie Bucks there instead of going to the Pavilion.

But some students find one new addition in particular to be an inconvenience. The new machines will only accommodate \$20 bills, and therefore will only allow withdrawals in increments of \$20.

"We looked at our records, and we don't think this is a significant change as far as the amount of money taken out of the ATMs on or off campus," said Ronald Hale, vice chairman for community banking at Wells Fargo. "Generally, looking at the volume and replacement of money, we don't think the volume of \$10 withdrawals was a significant number."

But Matt Moore, a sophomore general studies major, said he finds the recent change inconvenient.

"The minimum withdrawal of \$20 from the ATM machines on campus will definitely deter me from using the ATM machines on campus," Moore said. "I think it's pretty stupid to make students withdraw at least \$20, especially since it's their money and they should be able to take out as much or as little as they want."

Jennifer Konvicka, a senior psychology major, said she stopped using the ATMs on campus because of the increase in the withdrawal minimum.

"Usually I use Chase Bank, but since they don't have one here, I use any bank," Konvicka said. "I don't really care which bank I use, but the main things I look at are the surcharge and the increments for withdrawal."

"Sometimes I just want to get \$30, and I don't want to get \$40 or just \$20," Konvicka said.

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Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on the power plant burn victims.

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