

- Listen to KAMU 90.9 FM at 1:57 p.m. for details on HIV testing at the Memorial Student Center.
- Check out *The Battalion* online at battalion.tamu.edu.



• Secure Digital Music Initiative

Industries attempt to end music piracy with watermarking

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Weather: Mostly cloudy with a high of 93 and a low of 75.

THE BATTALION

WEDNESDAY

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6 pages

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Committee begins work on memorial

JOSEPH PLEASANT
The Battalion

Finding the most effective way to memorialize the 12 Aggies who were killed and the 27 others who were injured in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse will be the task of the Bonfire Memorial Committee when its meetings begin June 29.

The 20-person committee was selected to decide the location and form of a bonfire memorial.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said discussion of a bonfire memorial has taken place since the collapse.

"It was clear early on that we would want to have an appropriate memorial for those students (who were harmed in the collapse)," Southerland said.

Southerland said Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen asked him to chair a committee that would choose a memorial for the students.

Southerland said the committee was chosen based upon input from administrators and various student leaders, including Student Body President, Forrest Lane.

Southerland said the committee has already received ideas from outside sources.

"Thus far, all ideas have come to the University unsolicited," he said.

Southerland said the committee will ask for more ideas as it considers possible sites and types for the memorial. Southerland said after the committee decides on the process for its work, it will set up opportunities for students to voice their opinions.

Lane said student input will be important in determining the memorial's form.

"Everyone has a part of this. It will live in all of our memories," he said.

Southerland said the committee has to decide what the memorial will be before it can decide on a site for the memorial.

He said it is too soon to predict where the memorial will be because the first meetings will discuss organization of the committee.

"The committee needs to consider what type of memorial it will be — a park for students to come to, a statue, or any other number of possible memorials," he said.

Southerland said the committee plans to start working on the memorial's selection in September, and it hopes to have a groundbreaking on the memorial by Nov. 18, 2001.

Ricky Wood, senior yell leader and a senior theater arts major, said the bonfire memorial should stand as a constant reminder of bonfire's place in Aggie tradition.

"This memorial should embody everything bonfire stood for," Wood said.

He also said the memorial should be a unifying symbol for the University.

"It will be something that will show what bonfire means to all of us," Wood said.

BONFIRE Memorial Committee

- Dean Thomas Regan
- Ms. Cathy Hastedt
- Mr. Rusty Thompson
- Mr. Mike Goldwater
- LTC Keith Stephens
- Ms. Elyn Perrone
- Dr. Rick Floyd
- Ms. Sheran Riley
- Dr. Chang-Shan Huang
- Mr. Forrest Lane
- Mr. Mark Welsh
- Mr. Ricky Wood
- Mr. Austin Townsend
- Mr. Josh Kaylor
- Ms. Schuyler Houser
- Ms. Kathryn Hughes (Ex-officio)
- Ms. Barbara Kasper (Ex-officio)
- Ms. Cindy Lawson (Ex-officio)
- Ms. Ruby Sanders (Ex-officio)

Fight club



Mark Mathis, an assistant instructor at the American Institute of Self Defense in Bryan, delivers a crushing, flying elbow to the back of Chris Corbin's head during a Muay Thai kick boxing class Tuesday.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Risk management team to examine safety issues

STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

As the University continues to examine safety issues surrounding Aggie Bonfire, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland has appointed a risk management team to examine safety issues concerning other student-run activities.

The team will be composed of officials who will examine the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire's report and the ways its findings may be applied to the more than 700 other student organizations.

"The basic task is to create a basic frame-

work for safety at A&M that can be applied individually to each student group on campus," Southerland said.

The team will be chaired by Tom Reber, director of the Student Recreation Center, and will also include representatives from the Corps of Cadets Commandant's office, the Department of Residence Life, the Department of Greek Affairs and the Memorial Student Center, along with bonfire advisor Rusty Thompson and Kevin Jackson, special assistant to the vice president of Student Affairs.

Southerland said a secondary task force of student leaders and faculty will also be formed

"Let's not wait for something else to happen before we actually take a step back and make sure that what we are doing is safe."

— Forrest Lane
student body president

to discuss general safety issues associated with the organizations and activities on campus and then give feedback to the risk assessment team.

"There is a lesson to be learned from bonfire," said Forrest Lane, student body president and a senior political science major. "Let's not wait for something else to happen before we actually take a step back and make sure that what we are doing is safe."

Southerland said the team has been meeting for the last three weeks but remains in the beginning steps of analysis.

Southerland said the process is likely to occur annually, requiring individual organiza-

tions to begin compliance before they are allowed to renew for the fall semester.

Jeff Lewis, former vice president of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a senior agricultural development major, said that while he thinks the team may offer a valuable service by increasing safety, he urges it to work closely with the student organizations during the analysis process.

"We have had problems in the past where a miscommunication or misunderstanding between us and the University has caused some problems," Lewis said. "Sometimes it is difficult to understand something unless you have

See RISK on Page 6.

Student loan interest rates to increase

Loan holders have the option to maintain current rates

ADRIENNE BALLARE
The Battalion

Student loan interest rates will increase next month because of an increase in the economy's national interest rate, but there is a way for student loan holders to maintain their current interest rate.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Student Financial Assistance (SFA) is encouraging borrowers to apply for loan consolidation.

Loan consolidation occurs when multiple outstanding student loans are combined into a single loan and the interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan.

Jane Glickman, media specialist for public affairs for SFA, said extended consolidation is available in direct loans and loans from private lenders who participate in the federal guaranteed student-loan programs.

On July 1, Stafford loan rates will increase from current low rates ranging between 6.32 and 7.72 percent to between 7.59 and 8.99 percent. The rates on the Federal PLUS (Parent Loan for Undergradu-

ate Students) loans now ranging between 7.72 and 7.98 percent will increase to between 8.99 and 9.48 percent.

"We're encouraging everyone to consolidate their loans before interest rates kick in on July 1," Glickman said.

Greg Woods, chief operating officer for SFA, said borrowers are allowed to apply for loan consolidation as late as June 30 so they can take advantage of current student loan interest rates.

"This seems only fair because the application date is the one step a borrower can control in the loan-consolidation process," Woods said.

Chasidy Allen, a senior environmental design major who recently applied for a Stafford loan, said the University should

See LOANS on Page 6.

As of July 1st:

Stafford loan rates increase from current low rates ranging from 6.32% to 7.72% to between 7.59% and 8.99%

PLUS loans now ranging from 7.72% to 7.98% will increase to between 8.99% and 9.48%

Renovations offer new services

CYRA GATLING
The Battalion

The 14-month-long renovation of Sterling C. Evans Library is on schedule and will be completed by mid-August.

Students can expect several new services this year.

The Food Services Department is working with the library to add Poor Yoricks, a coffee shop located at the entry of the library, said Charles Gilreath, associate University librarian for advanced studies. Poor Yoricks will serve Starbucks coffee, along with cold sandwiches and snacks.

The library is also creating a service that will separate reference materials by subject lines.

"Rather than having one reference section, there will be sepa-

rate locations for individual reference centers, such as a Humanity and Social Science reference center, which will be located at the back of the first floor," Gilreath said.

Other reference sections will remain at their previous locations.

The first and second floors of Evans Library have been completely renovated. The construction included the addition and subtraction of rooms and modifications to the furniture styles and patterns.

"We are improving the furniture and the general look of the library," Gilreath said.

The staff at Evans Library also hopes to offer students a more studious environment.

"We are improving instruc-

tional space to provide students with a more pleasant reading environment," Gilreath said.

Other new services Evans Library will offer include a technology center for students with disabilities, individual study rooms, additional conference rooms and a new copy center.

Evans Library is also working with the Student Government Association to create a textbook section so students can check out copies of required course texts.

The total budget of the renovation is about \$7 million. The budget also includes an upgraded fire-safety system for the six floors of Evans and four floors of restroom renovation. In order to

See LIBRARY on Page 6.

THE KING

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