

Task force set to address Bonfire safety

By ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

It will be two years before Aggies see the flames of another University-sanctioned Bonfire, but the group charged with setting the specific guidelines for the revamped tradition has begun its work already.

The Bonfire 2002 Task Force — composed of students, staff and faculty — is responsible for designing a new Bonfire that is consistent with guidelines established by A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen. The task force held its first meeting Thursday.

"This is basically just an introductory session for the members to get acquainted with each other," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland.

The task force will be directed by a steering committee co-chaired by Southerland and Student Body President Forrest Lane, a senior political science major. Six subcommittees will address specific issues related to the design and construction of Bonfire and the training of students.

Bryan Cole, assistant vice president for quality leadership in the division of Student Affairs, will facilitate the work between the task force committees. In total, about 110 people will participate in the task force, Cole said.

"Within the parameters set by President Bowen, I think there's a lot of room for us to work and ensure Bonfire remains a student-organized event," Cole said. "Our overriding vision is that, whatever we do, it should enhance the student leadership experience."

The Safety Task Force will identify safety issues related to the design and construction of Bonfire and develop a plan to address them. It will also formulate a process in which the safety plan is reviewed by independent experts and devise a safety evaluation procedure to follow every Bonfire.

The Design and Construction Task Force will develop a request proposal to solicit bids for the professional design and construction oversight of Bonfire. It also will outline a process to evaluate the construction of each Bonfire.

The Risk Management Task Force will draft recommendations to address issues of risk in constructing Bonfire and risk management in other student organization activities.

The Student Leadership and Participation Task Force will develop a process for aligning student involvement with professional design and oversight of Bonfire.

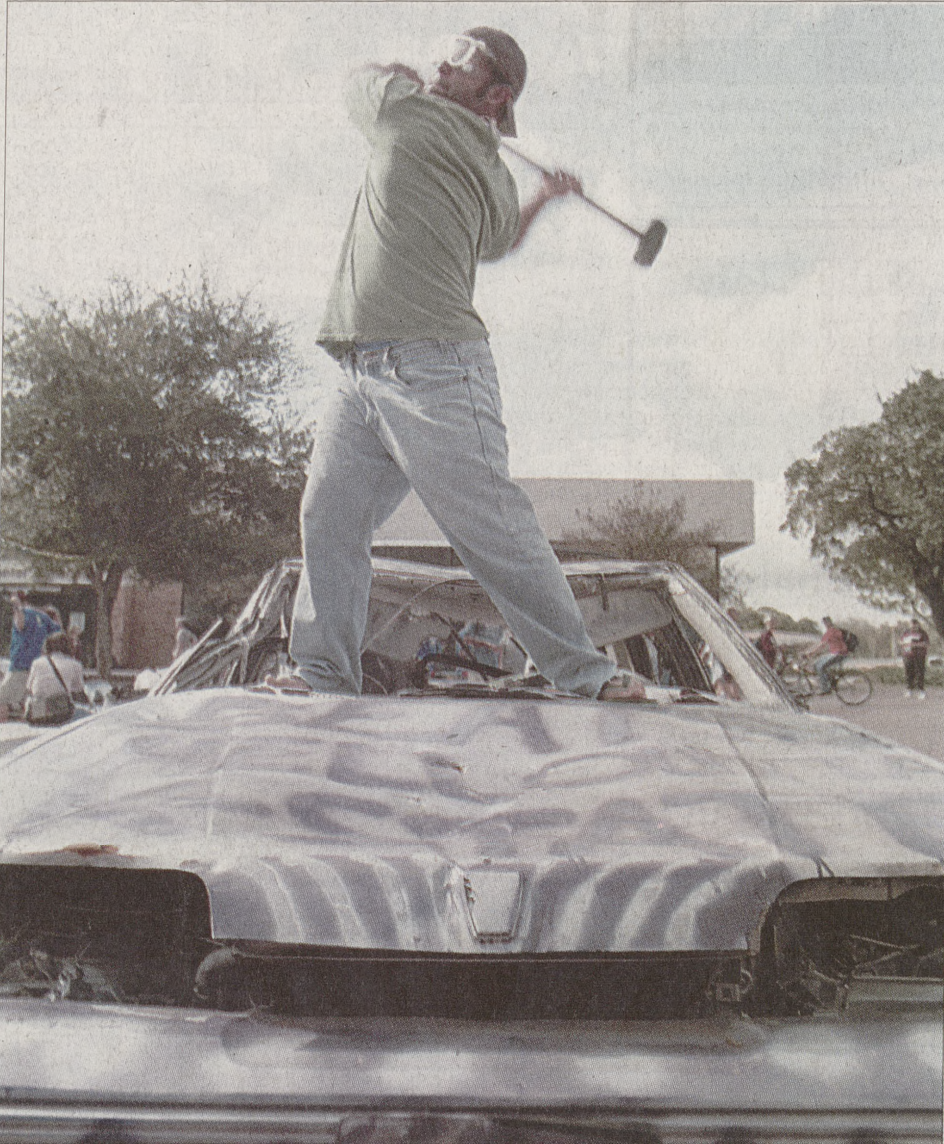
The Vision for Student Leadership Task Force will use the information gathered by the other groups to devise a plan for creating and enhancing student leadership opportunities at A&M.

The Institutional Culture Task Force will develop a plan to address the cultural biases that the Special Commission on the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse said were the root causes of the 1999 Bonfire collapse. The task force will formulate recommendations for mitigating cultural biases in other student organization activities.

Among the modifications Bowen implemented for the next Bonfire are a single-tier teepee design, a construction plan drafted by licensed engineers, the use of pre-cut lumber and expanded University and professional oversight of Bonfire.

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Beat the hell outta K-State



Kevin Burns/The Battalion
Ita Villanueva, a junior microbiology major, helps smash the "Beat the Hell Outta K-State" car by the Memorial Student Center. The car-smashing fundraiser was put hosted by the Aggie Fish Club.

Employee reported for vulgar gesture

By NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

A Texas A&M employee learned earlier this week that "the bird" is not necessarily "the word" when driving official University vehicles.

On Monday, a report was made to the University Police Department (UPD) regarding disorderly conduct by the driver of an A&M vehicle.

"The driver fell into a fit of road rage, shot another driver the finger and shouted profane remarks," said Bob Wiatt, director of UPD.

Wiatt said a woman was driving on the freeway in Fort Worth and witnessed the exchange between the employee and another driver. She notified UPD out of concern for A&M's image. Her report provided the license plate number of the vehicle.

UPD personnel were able to track down the employee and report the incident to his supervisor.

"The supervisor admonished the employee," Wiatt said. "He was told he embarrassed and brought disrepute to Texas A&M University."

Wiatt added that no legal action was taken against the employee.

Wiatt noted that the woman was concerned that the incident was standard behavior for the driver. Further investigation and consultation with the employee's supervisor ruled that that was not the case.

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Collapse victims to be remembered with ceremony

By MARIUM MOHIUDDIN & BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

Victims of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse will be remembered on Nov. 18, with a candlelight ceremony at 2:42 a.m., the time the stack of logs fell last year.

Student Body President Forrest Lane, a senior political science major, said the remembrance will be at the Bonfire site and is being planned by a student-staffed task force, headed by Lane and Rusty Thompson, associate director of student programs.

"We feel it highly appropriate to conduct this observance at the Bonfire site and as closely as possible to the precise time of the tragic chain of events — hence the decision to assemble in darkness," Lane said in a press release. "One factor in scheduling the observance at 2:42 a.m. is anticipation that a crowd would have assembled spontaneously at that time."

The collapse killed 12 Aggies — 11 students and one former student — and injured 27 students.

"By no means are we forcing anyone to be out there, and we hope that we have planned something appropriate," Lane said. "We put this group together because it represents students, staff and faculty. It was not easy to come to consensus about this."

See CEREMONY on Page 5.

Fate of PSEL discussed at forum



Bernardo Garza/The Battalion

A forum was held to discuss the fate of the Policy Sciences and Economics Library.

Study space could be lost to faculty offices

By BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

Students who use the George Bush School of Government and Public Service's Policy Sciences and Economics Library could notice a different layout at the library in the future.

An informational forum was held at the Bush School on Thursday to determine the best way to accommodate users' needs of the increasing faculty without giving detriment to the students who use the library.

The 5,000-square-foot library, housed in the Academic Building West, opened Sept. 1 and provides access and services to faculty and graduate and undergraduate students in political science and economics. The

library offers a specialized collection of periodicals, reference works and monographs in political science, government and public service. Students and faculty also have access to hundreds of electronic journals and databases.

Twenty-five faculty members and students attended the meeting to express their concerns. The group listened to concerns expressed by both sides and evaluated each plan of action.

"The faculty explored what could be done reasonably to balance needs of both the students and faculty," said Dr. Ben Crouch, associate dean of liberal arts.

Texas A&M Executive Associate Provost Bill Perry decided to form a

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Sbisa Dining Hall open house this weekend

Renovations made to comply with modern building codes

By BRYAN BLANTON
The Battalion

Aggies can get a sneak preview this weekend of the new rendition of Sbisa Dining Hall, the Northside dining facility that has been under renovation for almost a year.

"Despite what many may think, the renovations project on Sbisa is right on target and only about seven weeks away from completion," said Cindy Zawieja, associate director of Food Services.

Sbisa was shut down for renovations on Dec. 15, 1999. Since then, the facility has been completely made over and is being updated to comply with modern building codes.

The plumbing, electrical and mechanical infrastructures were revamped, and a new roof was added.

Originally opened in 1912, Sbisa will open its doors once again in January 2001, and the new Sbisa will boast significant improvements since the bygone days when it served as the dining facility for the Corps of Cadets. Until 1939, the Corps formed twice daily and marched to Sbisa for meals.

Spaw Glass Construction, which is renovating Sbisa, also constructed on-campus buildings such as the Memorial Student Center, Krueger Hall and Dunn Hall.

"The only thing we didn't do to Sbisa was build it," said Sbisa project superintendent Glenn Storey. "It needed a lot of work, and it got it."

Courtney Cox, a sophomore construction science major, is one of nine student employees of Spaw Glass Construction who worked on the Sbisa project.

"Cosmetically, students will not even recognize the inside of Sbisa," she said.

The renovated Sbisa will feature an array of food, such as Italian, Mexican, Asian and American cuisines.

"With the new food court choices that will be in Sbisa, the students will have a better variety of products to choose from, and still be able to choose the regular cafeteria-style cuisine," said Karen Carter, facilities manager for Sbisa.

Zawieja said the Underground Food Court was also reworked.

"The original goal was to get the Underground back by Nov. 1, but problems were found downstairs with the air-conditioning system," she said. "We also wanted to create more seating, so the decision was made to

See SBISA on Page 5.

Outbound meal trend expected to increase

By NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

When Sbisa Dining Hall reopens in Spring 2001, students who enjoy the Outbound Dining plan will be treated to a wider array of selections.

Sbisa closed for renovation in December 1999, and Food Services saw a marked decrease in the number of meal plans purchased for the Spring 2000 semester.

Cindy Zawieja, associate director of Food Services, estimates that approximately 3,000 fewer meal plans were purchased than in previous semesters. However, Fall 2000 saw those numbers bounce back almost to normal levels.

According to Zawieja, the rebound

was largely because off-campus students purchased meal plans for of the Outbound options.

"We're hoping for an increase [in meal plan purchases], knowing off-campus students really like the Outbound options," she said.

After the reopening of Sbisa, Outbound options will remain in place and will be expanded in restaurant locations on campus. Zawieja explained that the temporary food huts located around Fish Pond will be removed and Bernie's — a restaurant located on the west side of Sbisa — will serve as the Outbound facility for Sbisa. Bernie's will be converted to a coffee shop

See OUTBOUND on Page 2.

Haunted Houses

Night of Terror at the Veterinary Hospital by Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine

Your Life's on the Line, based on the Haunted Crack House Project

at 116 North Main Street in Downtown Bryan

Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse

Annual Fall Festival at 1000 Elanor Street in College Station, by the Lincoln Recreation Center

Wicked Woods 2000 at Kappa Sigma House 4466 Raymond Stotzer Parkway

Halloween Carnival and Fall Fest at 11004 West William Joel Bryan Parkway in Bryan by Sons of Hermann

Annual Halloween Carnival at the Wellborn Community Center (Wellborn Road and Greens Prairie Road) by Wellborn community

Hotard from Hell Haunted House at Hotard residence hall

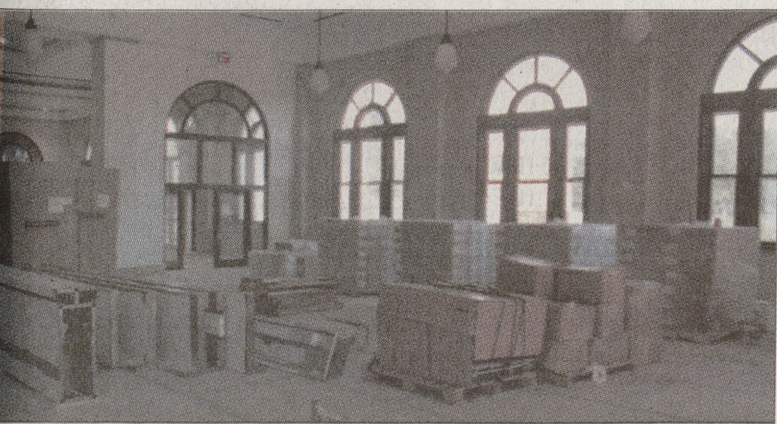
Mansion of Horrors at 908 N. Houston St. in Cameron, across from Circle K off U.S. 77, by Milan County Crime Stoppers

Safe Trick or Treat Night at Sam's Club in College Station

Candy X-rays at Blinn's Allied Health Center 301 Post Office Street in Bryan

by Blinn College Radiologic Technology Association

BRANDON HENDERSON/THE BATTALION



Bernardo Garza/The Battalion

Sbisa Dining Hall is under renovation for compliance with modern building codes and improving the plumbing, electrical and mechanical infrastructure.

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