

Bonfire victims' parents consider lawsuits

RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

More than a year after the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, the families of the students who were killed or injured say they are having difficulty receiving money from the University help pay for funeral and medical expenses.

Les Heard, father of Christopher Heard, a freshman Corps of Cadets member who died in the collapse, said he sent a letter to Dr. J. Southernland, vice president of student affairs. The letter requested \$50,000 to help pay for funeral costs, and it was denied,

land requesting money was returned to us on the next day's postmark with our original letter mailed back to us and a statement saying that this Bonfire Fund was to help everyone and that he was sure that the fund would be used up."

Southerland was unavailable for comment. Cynthia Lawson, executive director of University Relations, said the Bonfire Relief Fund is not running low and that the fund, which contained more than \$650,000, has used roughly half its capital.

Heard, who has already received \$10,000



HEARD

from the University's Bonfire insurance policy, said he wonders whether Southerland ever showed the letter to the rest of the committee.

"He didn't honor up to what he had said, saying that his committee would make a decision on it," he said. "It's awful surprising that a committee received our letter, met and then deliberated all in the speed of one day, and he miraculously returned our letter the day after he received it with a denial. So my question is: Did the committee even see our letter, or did Southerland take it upon himself?"

Lawson told The Bryan-College Station

Eagle that every request has been forwarded to the Bonfire Relief Fund.

"Texas A&M has consistently fought to respond to the needs of the families," she said. "We will continue to be supportive of the families within our capabilities."

Heard said he requested the \$50,000 to pay for the funeral and for transportation for family members.

"Out of my pocket, I reimbursed my family members, who aren't well off; to come to his funeral from as far away as England," he

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SGA promotes academic honor with campaign

BRYAN BLANTON
The Battalion

Jake, a Texas A&M student whose name is not included, admitted that he had never cheated on any of his exams. Although many students have sworn to live by the Aggie Code of Honor—that an Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those who do—some students fall short of this code when they take final exams.

More than 75 percent of students nationwide have admitted to acts of academic dishonesty, either by cheating off someone else or permitting someone to cheat off them, according to the National Campaign for Academic Integrity.

The A&M Student Government Association is promoting academic integrity with the "Know the Code" campaign. More than 35 student organizations, such as the Corps of Cadets and the Memorial Student Center Council, will make the Aggie Code of Honor to new extremes this year.

Students participating in the Know the Code campaign will wear T-shirts with the Aggie Code of Honor printed on them. Campaign workers will distribute pens, pencils and scantrons with

the Aggie Code of Honor printed on them. The scantrons are stamped with the code so that students can glance at it while taking their exams.

"The Aggie Code of Honor is something that we commit ourselves to live by when we decide to attend this University," said Kyle Baden, Corps judge advocate general and a senior chemical engineering major. "Integrity can carry one a long way in life. What better way to begin applying it than through student organizations who are committed to instilling the code throughout the University?"

According to the National Campaign on Academic Integrity, cheating can become a chronic behavior. The packet states that one in every four students commits an act of academic dishonesty each day.

Academic integrity is a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five core values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility, said Christine Adamson, spokeswoman for the Know the Code campaign and a junior accounting major.

"The whole campaign is a visibility campaign to increase the students and faculty's awareness of academic dishonesty," Adamson said.

The National Campaign lists six ways students can promote academic integrity: Ask for clarification of unclear questions, identify their values, attend class, ask questions, participate in discussions and report other students who commit acts of academic dishonesty.

"All we are trying to do is promote academic integrity throughout the University," Adamson said. "We will continue this campaign next semester in order to increase its effectiveness because it has become a real problem on college campuses worldwide."

Adamson said she learned many of the ideas for the campaign when she attended a national conference on academic integrity.

Next year, A&M will host the conference.

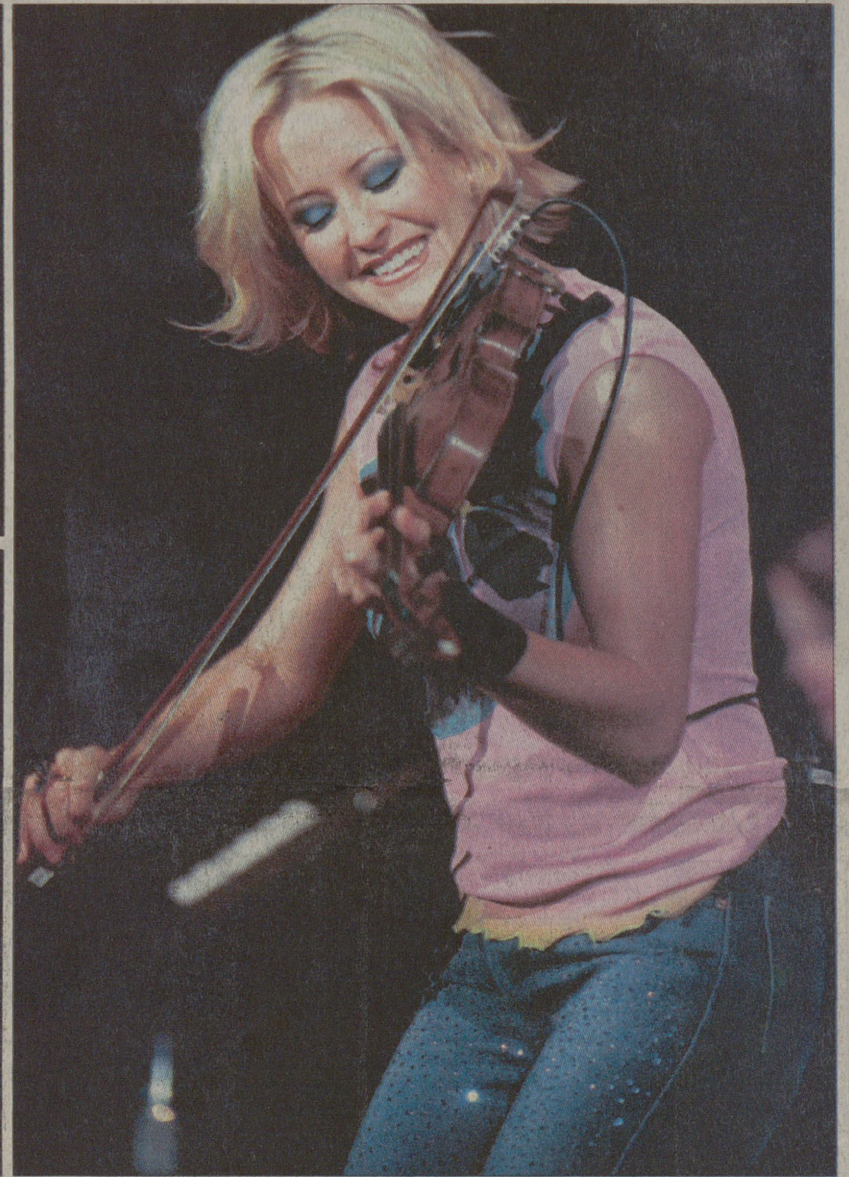
Faculty members are also sharing the responsibility of academic integrity because they are aware that students' eyes wander while they take exams. However, many faculty members said they cannot take action based on speculation.

"You cannot prove what you cannot see," said a faculty member who wished to remain anonymous.

Ten ways faculty members can promote academic integrity are also provided by the national campaign; write down your policy, say it out loud, get to

See CODE on Page 2.

Fly chicks



Dixie Chicks Emily Robison (top left), Natalie Maines (bottom left) and Martie Seidel (right) perform at Reed Arena

Saturday night in their highly anticipated Fly Tour. The tour began in June, and College Station was the next to the last stop.

Florida judge promises ruling Gore's, Bush's lawyers still in court; Cheney asks Gore to concede

(AP)— Lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush slogged through a second day of testimony about chads, voting machines and the vice president's pleas for a recount, while GOP running mate Dick Cheney said Sunday it is time for Gore to concede. Gore said he knows America is weary of the long election ordeal but counseled the country: "It won't last forever."

As Democrats talked about the possibility of a gracious exit from the presidential contest, a circuit judge presided over a nearly 13-hour hearing Sunday on Gore's historic election protest and listened to closing arguments into the night. Judge N. Sanders Sauls said he would deliver his ruling this morning.

The vice president braced for the next round of legal action and attended church, where he heard a sermon titled, "A Time for Waiting."

It was an apt metaphor for the longest, closest presidential contest in 124 years. Gore, test-

"If George Bush is sworn in as president, he'll be my president. He'll be America's president."

— Al Gore
U.S. vice president

ing Americans' willingness to wait as he exhausts his legal options, conducted an interview

with CBS's "60 Minutes" as part of a public relations blitz.

"At the end of the day, when all processes have taken place, if George Bush is sworn in as president he'll be my president. He'll be America's president," Gore said in the interview.

He talked of the ordeal of uncertainty the entire country has gone through.

"The public, I think, has shown a remarkable amount of patience," Gore said. "This isn't easy for any of us in this country. I know the Bush family, as well as my family, is wanting this to be over. The American family wants it to be over."

He also said: "It won't last forever. I'm expecting it will be over within the next two weeks."

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6 ways students can promote ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- 1 Ask for clarification on unclear questions
- 2 Identify your values
- 3 Attend class
- 4 Ask questions
- 5 Participate in discussions
- 6 Report other students who commit acts of academic dishonesty

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

BPD motorcycle officer dies after collision

MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

Bryan police officer Mark D. Hiatt was killed Saturday morning in a collision at the intersection of East 29th Street and Hutchins Street.

At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Hiatt was heading eastbound on East 29th to an assignment when his police Kawasaki motorcycle was hit by a 2000 GMC Sierra.

According to police reports, the pickup was driving westbound on East 29th when it attempted to turn left onto Hutchins.

The front left side of the pickup collided with the motorcycle.

Hiatt was taken to St. Joseph Regional Health Center and died a few minutes later from injuries sustained, the report stated.

The driver of the Sierra, Thomas Hilliard, 36, and the two passengers in his truck were not injured.

An investigation is underway, and the Bryan Police Department (BPD) has requested assistance from the College Station Police Department (CSPD), the Brazos County Sheriff's Office, the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

College Station police Sgt. Chuck Fleegeer said CSPD was called to

help reconstruct the accident for the investigation.

CSPD was called for accident reconstruction "due to the fact that the individuals at the Bryan Police Department who would conduct that part of the investigation were [Hiatt's] closest co-workers," Fleegeer said. "It would be very emotional for them."

The accident reconstruction investigation will attempt to determine factors such as speed, driver impairment and visibility. It will also examine skid marks.

CSPD has gathered data, measurements, photographs and witness statements.

Fleegeer said the report will not be

complete until the police departments consolidate their information. He said it is unclear when the report will be completed and released.

There is currently nothing to indicate that alcohol or other controlled substances were a factor, Fleegeer said; however, Hilliard is undergoing tests. Results are not yet available.

BPD spokespersons were not available for comment on the investigation Sunday.

Hiatt had been with BPD since 1994 and joined the department's motorcycle squad last year.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

MSC series explores U.S. military roles

NOEL FREEMAN
The Battalion

The number of military operations conducted by the United States around the world has increased over the past 10 years. The next U.S. president will be faced with the task of assessing and redefining the military intervention for at least the next four years.

The Memorial Student Center Wiley Lecture Series hosted a conference Thursday and Friday at the Bush Presidential Conference Center to explore military intervention in the next presidential administration. Several panels discussed when intervention should occur and how

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