

Bonfire logo use banned by A&M

BY MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

Conspicuously missing from Aggie Moms' boutique tables recently are the staple items bearing the Aggie Bonfire logo. Following the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, the Texas A&M Administration swiftly banned licensing of the official Aggie Bonfire logo, potentially closing off an important source of revenue for Aggie Moms' Clubs, which raise money by selling Aggie items during events like Parents' Weekend.

Despite not being allowed to use the Aggie Bonfire or related logos on merchandise, the Federation of Aggie Moms' Clubs has not lost any revenue from its boutique sales, said Karen Strahan, vice president in charge of outques.

Last year, the clubs gave almost \$500,000 to scholarships and student programs, she said. Strahan said there are several

cases where certain clubs are interested in using the Bonfire logo, and they are working with the administration to bring the effort to fruition. Strahan declined to comment on the cases.

However, she said the federation has not received any complaints regarding the logo ban.

"It's not a big deal," she said. "It's a rumor (that Aggie Moms' Clubs are upset). If it were true, they would get in contact with me or (federation President) Ruby Sanders."

Sanders said the clubs stand by A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's decision to postpone Aggie Bonfire until 2002.

"We support the moratorium on Bonfire," she said. "We understand Bonfire will never be the same style."

Sanders said there was one instance when a club ran afoul of the ban. An Aggie Moms' Club created a necklace in remembrance of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire

collapse, but the federation has advised it not to order any more, Sanders said.

"We will not sell anything Bonfire-related at our boutiques," she said.

Sanders said the federation will not use any Bonfire logos, official or unofficial, until the administration lifts the restrictions.

After the collapse, Aggie Moms' Clubs played an important role for the students, serving as a reminder that some of the most important members of the Aggie family are the students' own families.

"Many went to campus for their students and other students," Sanders said. "As a federation, we have collected money to give to the permanent memorial fund."

The Aggie Moms' Clubs are not the only group affected by the licensing restrictions.

Rosa Rodriguez, a licensing

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Sharpshooter

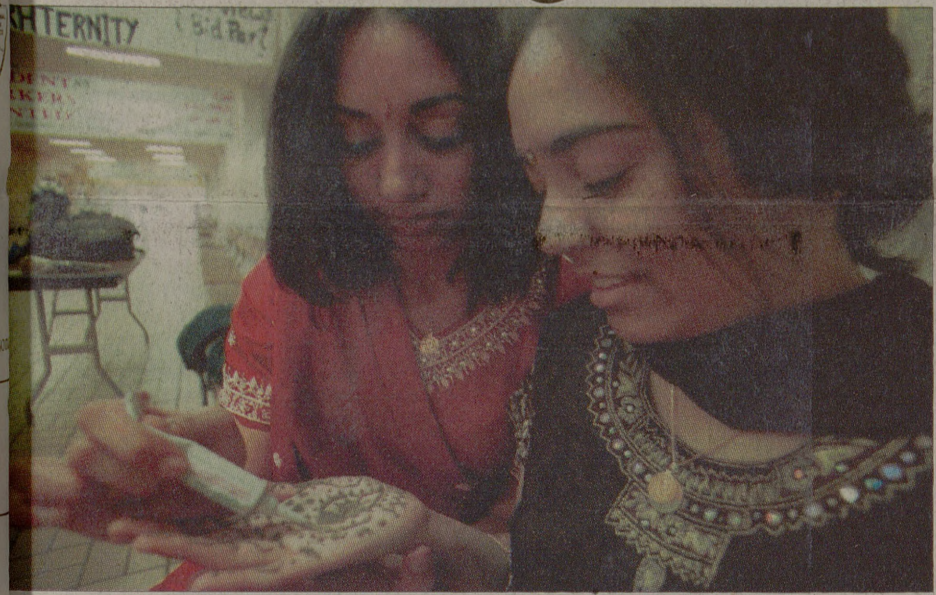


BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Phillip Symons, a 12-year-old from Tomball, takes aim at moving beer cans during the annual Go Texan Weekend at the Grimes County fairgrounds on

Saturday. The festival included games, rides and barbecue and chili cookoffs. The event raises money for local scholarships.

Increasing diversity on campus



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Meenal Patel, a junior biochemistry major, tattoos Dimple Patel, a senior computer engineering major, with the plant extract henna in the MSC on Friday. Henna stains the skin and is part of

Hindu traditions. The tattoos were offered as part of the opening celebration of International Month and to help raise money for the victims of the Indian earthquake.

Students push Indian relief efforts

BY RISHA BRYAN
The Battalion

Texas A&M student organizations are collaborating with international relief efforts to bring aid to Indian families through gifts of clothing, food, funds and prayer. India's massive Jan. 26 earthquake killed thousands and left more than half a million families homeless.

The quake, which measured 7.9 on the Richter scale, destroyed cities, monuments and homes, leaving Gujarat, India, with grief and piles of ruin.

The A&M Hindu Student Council, Indian Association and the International Business

and Technology Consortium (IBTC) are hosting relief effort booths in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), Zachry and Wehner buildings this week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. At each location, students and faculty can give money, food and clothing.

At the MSC relief booth, the Hindu Student Council members are painting Indian mehendi artwork on donors, giving participants a sample of Indian culture. Indian mehendi, elaborate body decoration, is an Indian wedding custom thought to bring good luck to new marriages. The bride's arms and hands are painted with oils from the mehendi

plant, creating the artwork. "We are all working together to bring aid to all the Indian families who were left without anything," said Pranav Mehpa, IBTC president. "Everyone can give donations around campus and help us."

There are approximately 650 Indian international students at A&M, and they are asking their fellow Aggies to help their friends and families in India.

"People can help Indian families greatly by giving funds to a credible Texas A&M organization," said Anurada Mukherji, an Indi-

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International Month teaches Aggies about other cultures

BY ELIZABETH RAINES
The Battalion

Although Texas A&M officials plan to diversify the campus by 2020, international students at A&M are ready for a diverse campus now.

Students from the International Students Association (ISA) began the third annual International Month, or I-Month, with an international buffet in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Friday.

"I think having International Month is good for Texas A&M University because there is a lack of knowledge of different cultures here, and I think that it is the responsibility of the international students to take an active role in educating the students," said Amit Goenka, ISA vice president of programs and a business graduate student from India.

Goenka said the month began as an extension of the annual A&M International Week after a conflict three years ago in a Northgate bar, where some international students were injured. He said the only way to create awareness on campus is to allow students to interact with people from different cultures.

To help spread awareness, ISA will show international movies throughout the month.

"We believe that movies are one of the best ways to let people see the different cultures," said Gautham Vadakkeppatt, an I-Month organizer and an engineering graduate student from India.

Besides the movies and the on-campus events, students can listen to and play cultural trivia games on 96.1 KAGG-FM and 104.7 KKYS-FM.

Tonight, two events will be held. Harambee 2001, sponsored by the MSC Black Awareness Committee, will begin at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater. At 8:30, members of the different Indian student associations will hold a prayer at Rudder Fountain for the Indian earthquake victims.

"All the Indian organizations have joined together to help the victims of the India earthquake," said Meenal Patel, a Delta Kappa Delta member and a senior biochemistry major. "We are collecting money all week and are planning on donating it to either the Houston Indian Consulate or the Millennium Relief fund."

Goenka said students and residents of Bryan-College Station should take advantage of the unique opportunity of experiencing international cultures this month.

"I encourage all students and residents of Brazos County to take advantage of I-Month and enrich their lives a little by being a part of another student's culture," Goenka said. "This is a vast and rich experience for all, and it brings out the best in all of us."

Prayer SERVICE
for Indian earthquake victims
Monday
8:30 p.m.
Rudder Fountain
RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Semi-formal at Sbis Hall draws crowd

BY BRANDIE LIFFICK
The Battalion

The words "Sbisa ball" took on a new meaning Friday night. This time, instead of wadded napkins, ice sculptures and balloons decorated Sbisa Dining Hall for the Old Army semi-formal.

Sponsored by the Legett Hall Council, Coca-Cola and the Food Services Department, the semi-formal was the grand reopening of Sbisa and an opportunity to revive an old Aggie tradition.

Sarah Dreyer, Legett Hall council president and a senior agricultural systems management major, said Legett residents wanted to host a dance but were undecided about where to have it.

"We called around and weren't able to find a place to hold the dance. Then we thought of Sbisa," Dreyer said. "I contacted Food Services, and they said that they already had a dinner planned for that night, so we combined the two."

Ron Beard, director of Food Services, said the event was a nostalgic flash-

back to the way life used to be in Aggieland.

"Historically, they had senior and class balls and banquets in Sbisa since it opened in 1912," Beard said.

"When Duncan opened in 1940, some of that moved over there. Tonight we are trying to bring back some of the elegance and traditional aspects of dances in Sbisa. This is a wonderful building, and we want the students to enjoy it. We are just thrilled to have the opportunity to return an Aggie tradition."

Photographs of the 1949 Ross Volunteer Ball were displayed, and dance cards were provided for the women at Friday's gala.

Students said Food Services did a fine job converting Sbisa from a cafeteria to a ballroom.

"I'm impressed with what they've done with Sbisa," said Cat Cone, a freshman English major. "The decorations were great, but it's still Sbisa. People are still yelling 'pick it up' and things like that."

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CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Lindsey Kennedy, a senior psychology major, and Todd Blackhurst, a junior industrial engineering major, dance at the Old Army semi-formal on Friday.

Liberal arts career week welcomes all majors

BY SHANNON GALARY
The Battalion

Liberal arts majors will be encouraged to explore the variety of career options open to them as Liberal Arts Career Week commences today and lasts all week, ending with a career fair on Friday. The fair is hosted by the Liberal Arts Student Council and the Texas A&M Career Center.

Brooke Holbert, director of the Liberal Arts Career Fair and a junior English major, said the career fair is not only geared for liberal arts students looking for a job but also for students looking for other opportunities during college.

"More than half of the companies are looking to hire students for internship

"We've spent a lot of time preparing for this."

— Julie Leake
Liberal Arts Student Council

and co-op opportunities," Holbert said. Holbert said students should become more proactive in exploring what they want to do, and she said career week is

a great start. The event is designed to show students that, despite the common belief, jobs are available for liberal arts majors.

The fair is hosting 25 companies, and they will all be present at the end-of-the-week event.

"Students should log onto www.lasc-tamu.com to find out more about the companies that are going to be at the career fair and research the ones they are interested in," Holbert said.

Julie Leake, who is hosting National Instruments at the fair and is a junior journalism major, said she expects this year's career week to be successful.

"We've spent a lot of time preparing for this and calling companies to make it a big success," she said.

Leake said many students are helping to organize the fair and are unloading materials when the representatives arrive, among other things. Students will serve as liaisons for companies that send recruiters.

Ruth Schemmer, the career services coordinator, said the fair will feature a wide variety of companies.

"The Career Fair is open to all students; the companies involved range from banks to technical firms to law firms," Schemmer said.