

Aggies for Life to host anti-abortion exhibit

BY BRANDIE LEFFICK
The Battalion

A series of 18-foot-tall panels depicting images of aborted fetuses will be on display at Rudder Fountain next week.

Members of Justice for All, a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Genocide Awareness Project, travel with the 5,500-square-foot display to universities across the United States. Aggies for Life contacted Justice for All and offered to sponsor the group on the A&M campus.

"Everyone mourns the death of people, but none of us are mourning these murdered babies," said Daniel Spenrath, president of Aggies for Life and a senior computer science major. "It's a mother, a child and an action. ... Without pictures, it's just philosophical. More than eight mothers go to Planned Parenthood (in Bryan) a week to kill their son or daughter."

Peter J. Durkin, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, condemned the exhibit as "disgraceful." "I think it's hateful towards women and an issue of incredibly bad taste," Durkin said. "These people condemn abortion and compare it to the Holocaust of the Jews and lynchings. That type of comparison doesn't even warrant a response."

The setup will include a video screen and audio speakers, on which Spenrath said an embryostopy will continually run. Unlike a sonogram, which monitors a fetus' image externally, an embryostopy captures images of the fetus internally. The footage shows a fetus in the first trimester of pregnancy.

"The embryostopy is very graphic," Spenrath said. "It shows the baby moving around and his or her features."

"For those that are doubtful as to whether a baby in the first trimester of pregnancy is actually a baby, this will definitely make them think. It is shocking."

The exhibit has traveled to only one other university in Texas — the University of North Texas (UNT). According to UNT student government association vice president Distee Tucker, students reacted with mixed emotions.

"The Feminine Majority Leader Alliance, a group here on campus, protested the Justice for All event," Tucker said. "They hung (coat) hangers in the trees and carried hangers around to symbolize what abortion was like before it was legalized ... a few words were exchanged. But we had security present and that seemed to ward off any major incidents."

Next week, University Police Department (UPD) will rotate six security guards on two different shifts for the duration of the exhibit.

"There have been problems in the past in other universities because of the graphic nature of the panels," said Maryann Weiderhold, a UPD spokeswoman. "We are hoping that our presence will be enough to discourage problems. We are more of a precautionary measure than anything."

Because of problems in the past, interlocking barriers will surround the display, leaving approximately 20 feet between it and the observers.

"We do not expect anything bad to happen," Spenrath said. "Typically, [students] are upset the first day the exhibit is present. You'd think that they would be mature about it, but sometimes they are not," he said.

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Chris Haun, a senior history major, stands at attention alongside West Point cadet Jose Garcia-Aranda at formation on Thursday night.

Cadets gather for Military Weekend

BY MARIANO CASTILLO
The Battalion

A quest for education, leadership and perseverance are traits that link students in military institutions, said Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, to a group of cadets participating in Military Weekend.

More than 70 cadets from 17 colleges and the military academies are visiting Texas A&M to share experiences from military institutions and strengthen ties among them.

"There's lots of freedom here."

— Jose Garcia-Aranda
West Point junior

Jose Garcia-Aranda, a West Point junior, said the opportunity to be at the conference serves as a break and a learning experience.

"It makes you think about issues that we might not think about otherwise," Garcia-Aranda said.

Dr. Jim Olson, CIA officer-in-residence at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, led the first round-table discussion with stories of his most memorable assignments as an undercover officer.

"[Dr. Olson] raised some great points for discussion," Garcia-Aranda said. "The speakers and round table discussions have been beneficial."

Topics of discussion included "Ethics and United States Intelligence," "Service and Decision" and "The Changing Military Obligation."

Military Weekend, an 18-year-old tradition, brings together cadets from various institutions to discuss issues pertinent to them as future military and civilian leaders, said Military Weekend President Greg Martin, a senior management major.

"Our goal is to address issues and concerns that leaders have and facilitate knowledge and commentary from the other cadets," Martin said.

It also gives cadets a chance to compare their lifestyles.

Garcia-Aranda said the cadets at A&M and those at West Point share the same principles, but differ greatly in everyday life.

"It's a different culture," he said. "There's lots of freedom here. It seems like fun."

In addition to round-table discussions, Military Weekend activities include a Military Review today at 5 p.m., A&M tours and a Military Ball Saturday night.

Overall, the visiting cadets have been impressed with A&M, Martin said.

"I've heard nothing but positive responses," he said.

Wehner Building to add new wing

BY COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

The Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business is once again upgrading its facilities by adding a new wing, estimated to cost \$10 million, to the Wehner College of Business Building.

"The new wing will total more 50,000 square feet and will almost perfectly match the existing building," said Phil Haas, architectural project manager for Facilities and Planning.

Officials said they that state-of-the-art facilities are needed in order to be considered one of the most elite business schools in the nation.

Haas said plans for expansion have been in progress since Wehner's completion in 1994. He said the new facility will branch off the main plaza outside Wehner and work with existing designs and facilities.

The first floor of the new wing will feature a large-scale staircase, an exhibit area, an extensive lobby, a mock stock exchange trading floor and classroom.

The trading room is a model of a full-size trading floor like the New York Stock Exchange. The second floor will consist of public use areas and classrooms. The third and fourth floors will house office suites for graduate programs.

There is a \$10 million budget for the new wing, but the estimated cost for the current plan totals \$10.55 million, Haas said.

"The only problem we have right now is how to get this project down to our budget," Haas said, adding that the architectural firm that designed the plans is working on reducing the costs.

The design plans have already been approved by the Board of Regents, but a final draft of the project has not been completed.

Dr. Don Hellriegel, user coordinator for the Wehner Building expansion and a professor of management, said Wehner has provided insufficient space since it was constructed.

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IFC has record grades Corps average has slight drop

BY HEATHER BARBER
The Battalion

The 18-member Texas A&M Interfraternity Council (IFC) posted a record-high cumulative grade-point ratio (GPR) of 2.755 for Fall 2000. The average GPR of the 1,030 A&M fraternity members is three one-thousandths short of the national IFC GPR — 2.758.

"The rise in grades is due to a recommitment of the IFC to focus on academics," said Scott Blackwell, A&M Greek Life adviser.

The three fraternities with the highest GPR are Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Nu and Beta Theta Pi.

According to the Measurement and Research Services department at A&M, the Fall 2000 GPR for the 35,526 undergraduate students was 2.8427. The GPR for the 6,012 freshman students was 2.6172.

The fraternities and the Office of Greek Life work together to maintain academic goals and standards for fraternity members. If a fraternity member's GPR is below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters, they are expelled from their chapter.

Individual fraternity chapters have introduced incentives to their members to encourage scholastic excellence: issuing better parking spaces and fraternity-house rooms to members achieving

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Students entering Corps rises steadily for 10 years

Recruiting new freshman key to continuing trend

BY HEATHER BARBER
The Battalion

The number of students in the Corps of Cadets has been steadily increasing during the past 10 years, said Mark Welsh, Corps Commander and a senior finance major.

But Welsh said the perpetuity and size of the Corps depends on the success of Corps recruiting efforts for freshmen.

In August 2000, 700 freshmen arrived for Freshman Orientation Week (FOW). On Aug. 30 there were 1,947 members, including 163 women. This figure is a slight increase from last year's numbers, which were totaled 1,938 cadets, 149 of whom were women. These numbers are representative of enrollment in the Corps on the third class day of the Fall semester.

The size of the Corps fluctuates every year, but the average since 1971 is 2,133 members.

Welsh said the Corps aims for a 75 percent retention rate for incoming freshmen. The retention percentage for the freshman Class of 2004 was 80.69 percent. There were four outfits this year that have a 100 percent retention rate.

There are certain key times when the Corps expects freshmen to drop out, specifically after FOW and winter break.

"A&M generally expects to lose approximately half of the incoming freshmen women," said Maj. Rebecca L. Ray, executive assistant to the commandant.

She said that most women do not realize the intensity of the Corps until they have actually participated in the program.

Aside from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, United States Air Force Academy and the United States Naval Academy, the Corps is the

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Features of new wing of Wehner

- 50,000 square feet
- New classrooms and offices
- Mock stock exchange trading floor
- Special events room



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Parking Areas

CLOSED FOR CLEANING

PA 56 Saturday and Sunday

PA 61 Sunday

Possibly Monday and Tuesday

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Physical plant to scare birds away from campus

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

A plan devised by the Texas A&M Physical Plant to remove migratory birds from the Texas A&M campus will begin Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Richard Williams, interim assistant vice president for the Physical Plant said workers will use noise-making devices, including shell crackers, screamers and other pyrotechnics, to scare the birds as they begin to settle for the night on main and West Campus. The

Methods will include noisemakers, pyrotechnics to halt, control roosting

noise will continue until 6:15 p.m.

"In the past, noisemakers have been the best method to disperse the birds," Williams said. "The noisemakers do not cause any harm to the birds, it will just scare them off."

The noisemakers will continue through Feb. 13. Other measures, including the removal of approximately 40 trees and pruning of all

remaining trees will also take place, Williams said.

"We will only be removing the trees which will need to be removed for the construction of the West Campus parking garage," he said. "By pruning the remaining trees, there will be fewer spots for the birds to roost."

Les Swick, interim director for facilities, said the explanation for

the large populations of grackles, starlings and blackbirds is quite simple.

"We have built an environment that is excellent for roosting," Swick said. "The trees are all close together, in a straight line and close to plentiful feeding grounds."

Parking areas 56 and 61 will be closed Saturday and Sunday for the cleaning and removal of the trees. Portions of Parking Area 61 may remain closed until Tuesday in order to complete the tree removal.