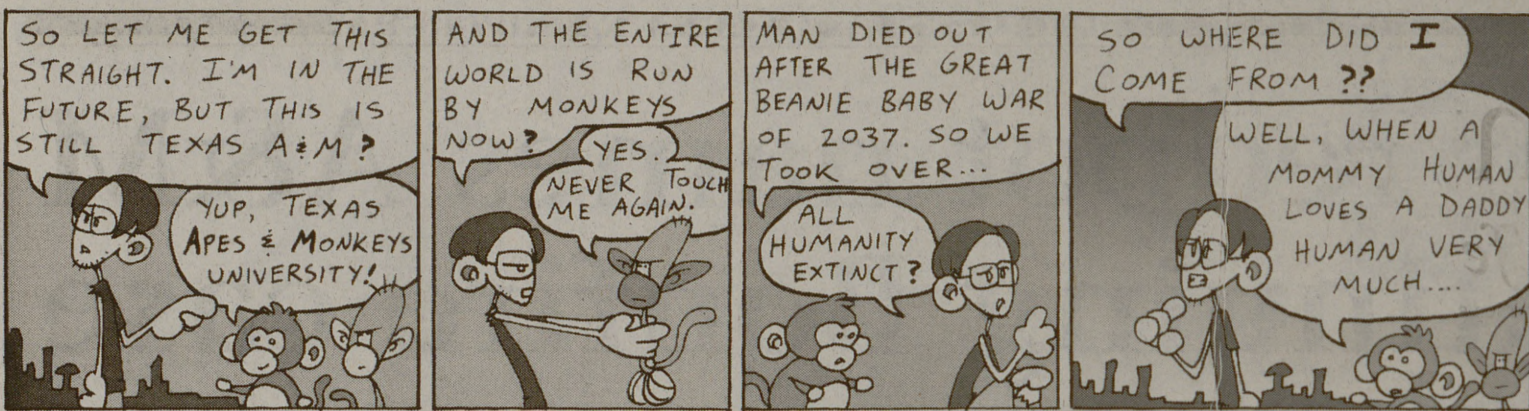


DIRTY APES



BY R. DELUNA

BONFIRE

Continued from Page 1

the redpots have requested." Mask said the hearing would then allow the trial to be scheduled.

The lawsuit was first filed in late March against 24 defendants including: Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen; Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland; former Bonfire advisor Bill Kibler; Bonfire advisor Rusty Thompson; the 1999 redpots; the 1998 redpots; a professional crane operator; a student crane operator; two companies that provided cranes; and, at that time, Texas A&M University.

In the lawsuit, Self alleged that all the individuals and institutions listed were partly responsible for the death of her son, Jerry Don Self, because they were negligent in their duties to build a safe Bonfire.

"Mrs. Self is not against Bonfire," Keith said. "She is against an unsafe and unsupervised Bonfire like the one that took her son's life."

Keith said that it is Self's concern that she receive compensation for her son's death from the individuals responsible. Keith said it is an attempt for her to find justice and a greater sense of peace, while at the same time insuring that another unsafe Bonfire does not happen.

While the University has provided an undisclosed amount to the families of the Bonfire victims, Keith said the amount was unsatisfactory.

"Offering to pay funeral and burial expenses does not compensate for taking the life," he said.

Bowen, who has so far declined to comment on the suit, said the University is still concerned with doing what is right for everyone.

"Our hearts and support still lie with those affected by the collapse," he said. "Helping the families is still very important to us."

Keith said his strategy in the case is to provide evidence that proper safety precautions had existed prior to the 1999 Bonfire, and that those precautions were eliminated over a short period of time.

"What I intend to prove is that it was at one time built safe and that those things that were done to make it safe were for some reason or another not done for that Bonfire," he said. "And those changes were made over a few years, not decades as the investigation committee found. The people responsible for this tragedy are readily accessible."

Keith lists such items as properly aligning the stacks with the ground, properly wrapping the stacks with thick enough cable, providing interlocking logs between stacks and inwardly sloping stacks as prior safety precautions that were not implemented.

"The commission's report attempted to whitewash the University of any responsibility, but

if you look at how the 1999 Bonfire was built, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that this was a train wreck waiting to happen," he said.

Keith said redpots named in the suit because, according to the Bonfire Constitution, redpots were listed as having the ultimate control over how the structure was built, though Keith claims much of the oversight still rested with the University.

He said 1998 redpots, in charge of Bonfire the year prior to its collapse, were also responsible because they failed to properly train those redpots responsible for building the Bonfire.

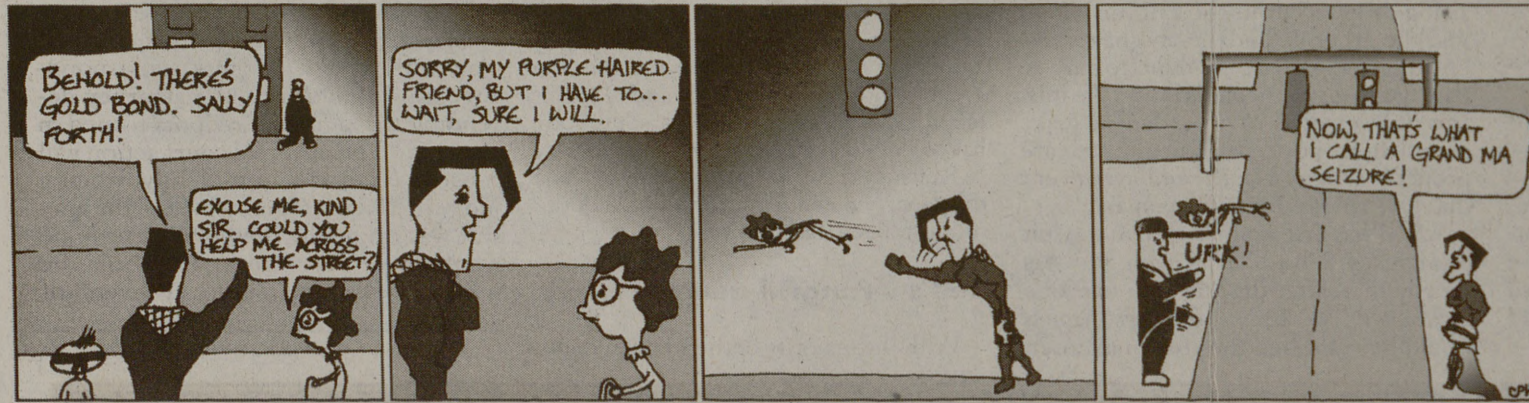
Mask said the prosecution's assertions that the redpots and defendants are responsible do not hold water.

"They (the redpots) are the target defendants," he said. "He needs them to show the real target — the school administrators — are liable. The target defendants are

"What I intend to prove is that it was at one time built safe and that those things that were done to make it safe were ... not done for that Bonfire."

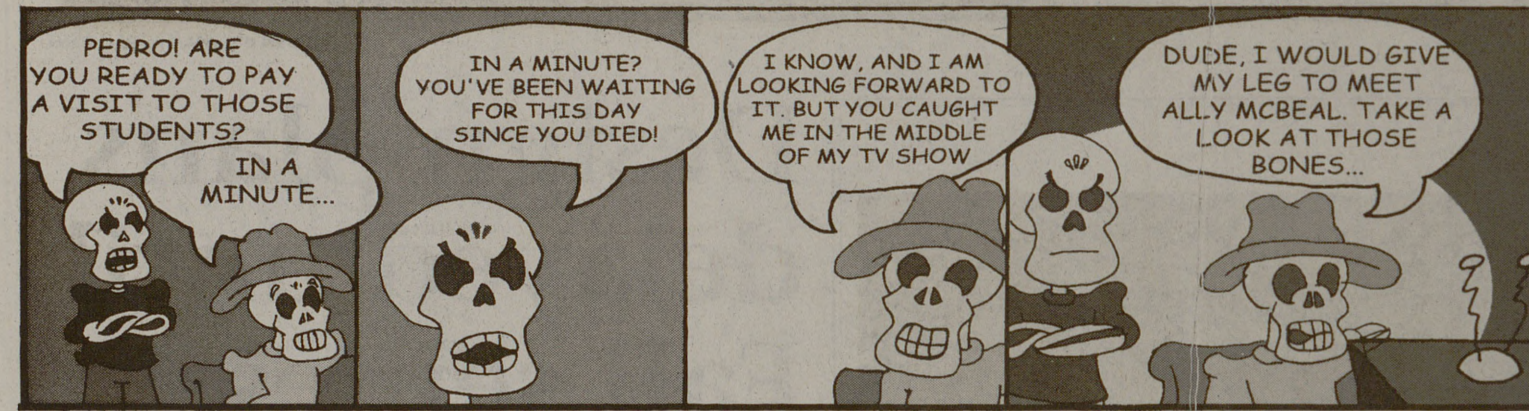
— Darrell K. Jackie Self's attorney

The Fantastico Chronicles



BY J. GOLDFLUTE

Hector y Pedro



BY ADRIAN

PLANS

Continued from Page 1

Cole said that input is still being taken in the form of email. So far, he said, more than 300 emails have been received, most of which are in regard to cut, the period of time when students would go out and chop down the trees to be used to build Bonfire.

"Most of the people are upset that cut will never happen again," he said. "But what they have to realize is that cut posed the greatest danger for injury out of the entire process of building Bonfire. It was just too dangerous to continue."

The wood for Bonfire 2002 will be purchased and shipped to A&M, but no specific plans have been made.

Cole said that formulation of the student leadership and overall participation will begin in the Fall 2001 semester, but the bulk of the training for students who wish to help build Bonfire will take place in the Spring 2002 semester.

"Normally, the leadership would have past training and experience under our new plan, because the leadership would have to rise through the ranks," he said. "But now we have to make up for that lack of experience with a lot more training."

Those who wish to find out more about the 2002 Bonfire or want to submit email may access the Bonfire 2002 Website through the Texas A&M University Website.

BEEES

Continued from Page 1

not as docile as the European ones beekeepers use."

Jackson said what makes the Africanized honey bees more dangerous than the European variety is that they attack in greater numbers. When someone is stung, pheromones are released by the bee, which attracts more bees to attack. When this happens with a European honey bee, about five more bees may

"If a swarm of bees does attack you, the most important thing to do is to flee the area and seek some shelter."

— Paul Jackson
chief Apiary inspector

come and attack. If it were a colony of Africanized bees, five hundred may join the fight.

Jackson said knowing what to do in the event of an attack gives a person a greater chance of survival.

"Education is a positive force in preventing injuries," he said. "If a swarm of bees does attack you, the most important thing to do is to flee the area and seek some shelter."

"Once inside, go to a room, close the door, turn off the lights and turn on the air conditioner."

The bees will be attracted to the light and its warmth and will leave, giving the individual a chance to call someone for help.

If one is attacked in an open field or a place with no shelter nearby, Jackson said "do not jump in a pool of water like many people believe."

The bees will not follow into the water, but as soon as one comes up for air, they will attack the individual's head, which is the worst place to be stung.

If there is a vehicle nearby, those under attack by the bees should roll up the windows, turn on the air conditioner and drive away.

Jackson said soap and water are valuable weapons against killer bees.

"Water will bring down a bee and soapy water will kill it," he said.

A stung individual should not try to remove the stinger with fingers or tweezers since this will only force more venom into the wound. Instead, a credit card or something similar should be slid along the stung area to push the stinger out.

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