

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

UPD stresses campus safety

As the fall semester begins, students are being encouraged by authorities to stay informed about campus safety issues.

Statistics gathered by the University Police Department (UPD) show a 50 percent increase of criminal charges filed during the 2000-2001 school year.

UPD suggests taking advantage of several services that are provided.

The Corps of Cadets Guard Room offers a 24-hour escort service, where a cadet will escort students to any location on campus. Another service is the residence hall shuttle, which operates from 6:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. The shuttles run routes similar to those run by Bus Operations.

Emergency telephones also are located throughout campus.

Man gets 20 years for drug trafficking

HOUSTON (AP) — A Fronton man was sentenced to 20 years in prison without parole for helping smuggle marijuana from at least three drug rings through Starr County ranch lands.

Frederico Perez was a part of a drug-trafficking organization that transported about 100,000 pounds of marijuana, U.S. Attorney Gregory A. Serres said Monday.

The organization circumvented South Texas border patrol checkpoints by shepherding the loads of marijuana on ranch roads, Serres said. In one arrest, Perez was found transporting 599 pounds of marijuana, in another 2271 pounds.

PUBLIC EYE

Annual salary of Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen

\$250,000

TODAY

AGGIELIFE

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Summer Lovin'

• Students remember good, bad summer flings

SPORTS

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Big 12 powerhouses?

• Opening weekend leaves unanswered questions on strength of title favorites Nebraska and OU

OPINION

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Cures on the horizon?

• Bush should encourage more stem cell research

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 94° F
LOW 73° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 93° F
LOW 72° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

MSC president under fire

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

Memorial Student Center (MSC) Council President Josh Rowan is under investigation by University officials for inappropriate behavior during a University-sponsored trip to Italy this summer.

See related editorial on page 11.

Rowan, a senior agricultural development major, was one of five student leaders who, along with three University staff members, accompanied 31 freshmen on the two-week Champe Fitzhugh Jr.

Rowan accused of misconduct on University-sponsored trip to Italy

International Honors Leadership Seminar, an MSC-affiliated program.

Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, investigated allegations of misconduct by Rowan, and Friday submitted a report to MSC Director James Reynolds. The report will not be released publicly.

A student on the trip, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Rowan is solely to blame for much of the mis-

conduct that took place.

"Several inappropriate actions occurred on the trip, including inappropriate sexual advances, contributing to the consumption of alcohol by minors and the use of an illegal drug. There is nothing the MSC or the honors program could have done to keep this from happening. If these allegations are validated by investigators, Josh Rowan is fully at fault," the source said.

Rowan denies any wrongdoing

but refused to comment on specific allegations.

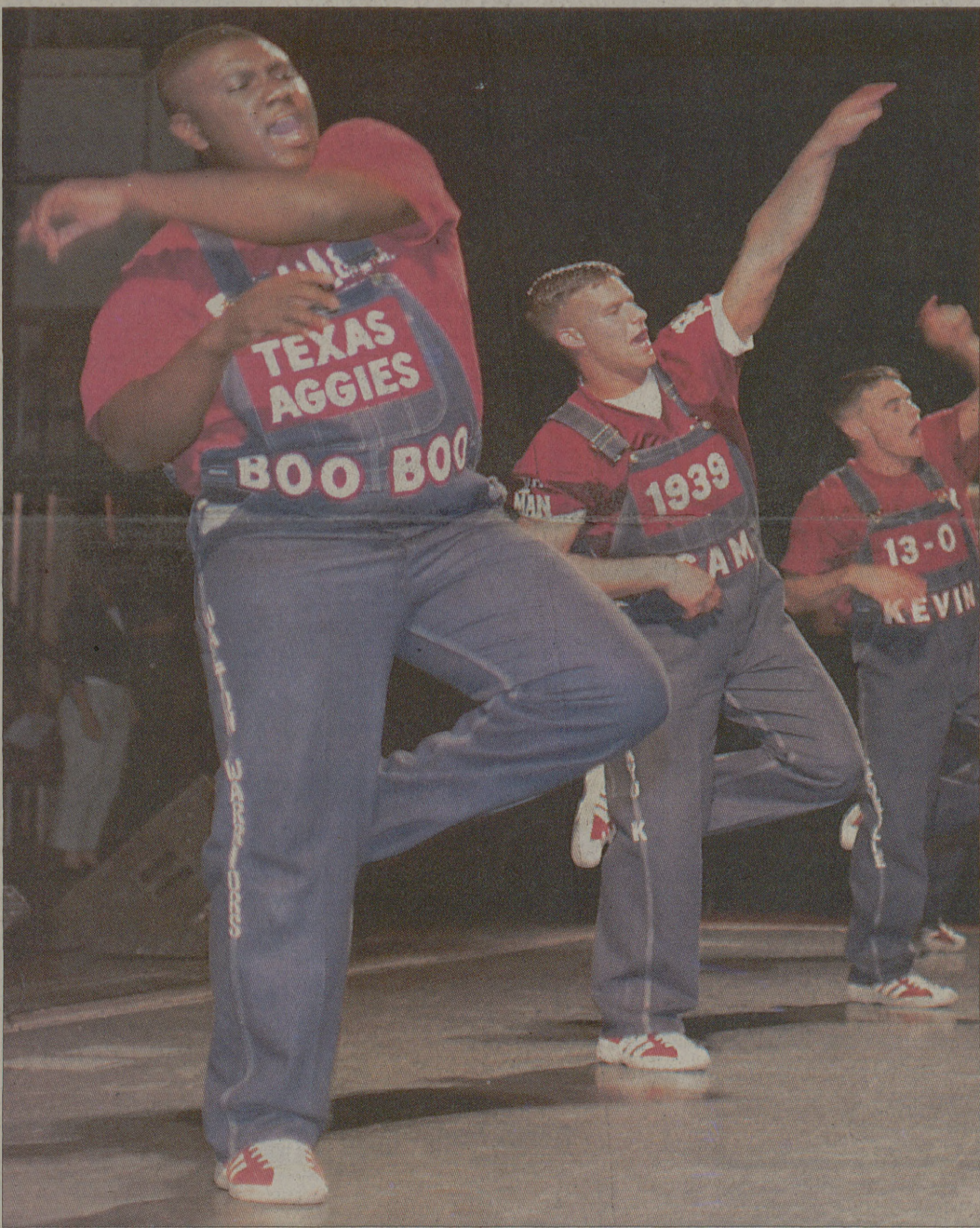
Another student on the trip, who also asked for anonymity, said Rowan frequently went out and consumed alcohol with some of the freshmen.

"It really bothered me that a small group were going drinking almost on a daily basis," the source said. "Josh would go out drinking with the guys, but in a way, it was good because he took care of them. Some of [the freshmen] got pretty drunk, and [Rowan] made sure they got home safely and that they got up on time."

However, Rowan set a poor example

See ROWAN on page 6.

Boo Boo is back



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Senior Yell Leader Arouna "Boo Boo" Davies, a recreation, park and tourism sciences major, leads a yell at Monday's All-University Night in Rudder Auditorium. Davies' eligibility was questioned after his election because he did not

meet academic requirements. Davies was placed on inactive duty during the summer and was required to gain a cumulative grade-point ratio of 2.25 this summer to keep his yell leader position. His active status has been restored.

Safety firm needed for Bonfire 2002

By SOMMER BUNCE
THE BATTALION

If the Bonfire 2002 Planning Group can contract a safety firm in the next few weeks, Bonfire might burn again in November of 2002, officials say.

Valen Knowledge Systems Corporation, first selected in April to help plan the safety aspects of the Bonfire 2002 design and student leadership structure, revamped the terms of their contract in June, adding stipulations that "we couldn't accept," Steering Committee Facilitator Bryan Cole said last week.

"In my perception, they wanted out of the contract," Cole said. "And they wanted us to be the ones to pull out."

The Planning Group rejected the other original applicant as unqualified to work with Bonfire and in June began to solicit contractors, sending invitations to more than 600 firms. By the July 10 deadline, only one firm had replied to the planning group's request for qualifications.

That firm was deemed unqualified by the reviewing board of planning group and Physical Plant members, Cole said.

A safety firm is essential to the work of the Bonfire task forces, Cole said. Following A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's parameters for a "forever safe" Bonfire, the design, risk management and student training plan cannot be completed without the input of safety professionals, he said.

"Part of our problem is this is such a unique thing to request

from a firm," Cole said. "There isn't anybody out there who is a real Bonfire expert."

The Planning Group sought a proposal from Marak Safety Services of Houston in mid-July after looking for a qualified safety consultant who might not have been contacted before. Marak, which specializes in construction and the safety of construction workers, stands as the only contender for the bid to help design Bonfire.

"Chances are very good that we will be able to work with Bonfire," said Jay Marak, owner of Marak Safety Services, and general safety consultant for the

AGGIE 99 BONFIRE

Houston division of the Association of General Contractors. "I don't think anyone has ever done a bonfire before. But especially when dealing with the training aspects, there are hazards that are similar to construction aspects."

Marak will submit his proposal to CBM Engineers — the design firm hired to create Bonfire — this week, he said. After a review process, which could last a few weeks, the planning group will decide whether to accept Marak's offer. If accepted, the next step will be finalizing the legal agreement between A&M and Marak.

Cole said that although it is likely Marak will be hired as a consultant in the next few weeks. If the proposal is deemed unacceptable, he said he does

See BONFIRE on page 6.

PTTS errs spelling on new parking permits

By CHRIS BUSTA
THE BATTALION

Beneath the picture of the Texas A&M-engineered maroon bluebonnet on the 2001-2002 parking permits are the words of the scientific name for the flower, "lupinus texensis." But look in any book or on the horticulture Website, and you will see the correct spelling of the maroon bluebonnet is *lupinus texensis*.

Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) communications specialist Angela Newman said the department feels no embarrassment for the misprint. In an official statement, PTTS blames the misspelled word on a printing error.

"We apologize," Newman

said, reading the statement. "We did not mean to offend anyone. The mistake was a printing error. A reprint would be too costly. We wish we would have caught it before the printing process. We sincerely apologize."

If officials feel no embarrassment in the misspelling, some students do. Junior management information systems major Conor McGuire, who noticed the error when he picked up his parking permit Monday morning, said he was disappointed.

"You would think that something created here would be accessible enough that the administration of PTTS would be able to spell it, and not embarrass themselves with this incident," McGuire said.

The exact cost of reprinting the tags could not be confirmed by PTTS.

Newman said that she was unaware of the spelling error until a horticulture student called the PTTS office Monday.

"The mistake was a printing error. A reprint would be too costly. We wish we would have caught it before the printing process."

— Angela Newman
PTTS communications specialist

"I do not believe that we actually knew about the problem with the spelling ahead of time," Newman said. "We are not

embarrassed about the problems with the tags."

University Relations Executive Director Cynthia Lawson said Monday that the misprint was brought to her attention last week.

Junior environmental design major Laura Langford did not notice the misspelling, but said now that she knows, she will probably just laugh every time she gets into her car.

"It's very embarrassing," Langford said. "They're always looking for things to say we're [Aggies] are stupid about, so this will just be another."



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