

# Campus

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THE BATTALION

Wednesday, November 14, 2002



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## Fish



by R. DeLuna

## SAFETY

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their cars checked before they leave, she said.

"While traveling, no one knows when you're leaving and when you arrive and what route you've taken," Lemay said. "I want to get stranded."

Lemay said she should travel with an emergency kit, including important numbers, pen and paper in change for a pay phone, warm clothing.

"Don't drive when you're tired, ill or sleepy," Lemay said. "Take frequent breaks in safe places. If you leave late, try to arrive late."

UPD Lt. Bert Kretschmer said students need to be cautious against burglary.

"Before you leave, call the post office to hold all mail for you return," Kretschmer said. "Take all expensive gear with you. Mark or engrave your number in case something goes missing. If you have roommates, the last one to leave needs to make sure the windows and doors are locked and secured. Window blind drapes need to be drawn."

In the workplace, Kretschmer suggests that inner offices and building exterior doors be closed and locked.

"Personnel working during holidays should be aware of personal safety," Kretschmer said. "Let someone know you are and when you expect to return. All portable equipment and laptops should be secured or locked away and secure all windows and unlocked window makes access to the rest of the building."

UPD urges faculty and staff to secure or take home valuable personal items during the holiday breaks.

Jerry Moore, a BFD intervention officer, said the department urges the community to be safe during the holiday season.

"We talk about holiday packages, avoiding too many trips, and Moore said, "Do your best of cash, but use credit cards. We have had cases of broad daylight where people are getting robbed. You have to trust your instincts and report anything that seems suspicious."

Another emerging trend involves identity theft. National Crime Prevention Center (NCPC) urges citizens to remain on heightened alert during the holiday season.

"Criminals love the holidays because it is a perfect opportunity to commit a crime," said NCPC Website. "Protect your personal information and caution when using machines or paying with cards. Protect your mail whether it is a card for mail delivery or phone service. If you're online, stay with what you know, keep your password private. Use a secure Web. Pay by credit card and keep personal information private."

For more information on holiday safety, contact the UPD at 845-8900.

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## BUS

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Jackson said. "However, if the number of Blinn students shown riding is statistically insignificant, I don't think it would be worth the effort."

According to ridership figures collected by Bus Operations earlier in the semester, an average of 12,700 students ride on-campus routes per day Monday through Friday. Off-campus routes include Bonfire, Cotton Bowl, Bush School, Ring Dance, Centerpole, Excel, Aggieland, Texas Aggie, the residence shuttle and limited night routes.

An average of 15,700 students ride off-campus routes per day Monday through Friday.

On-campus routes include Elephant Walk, Hullabaloo, Ring Dance, Aggieland, Reveille, Texas Aggie, Centerpole, Howdy, Fish Camp, Aggie Band, and Gig'Em.

Some 29,000 students ride the buses each weekday, compared to last year's average of 23,000 students.

Jackson said the numbers from the survey taken last week indicate that very few faculty ride the buses, but PTTS will subsidize the funding to offset the cost of any faculty and staff using the buses.

## GROFF

Continued from Page 1

school, "and we have the best," Groff said. Then, hire good coaches and great facilities for recruitment.

His most important accomplishment, Groff said, is the immense growth of campus athletic facilities.

The new tennis facility, track, softball field and the Zone have all been constructed under Groff.

"I guess I'll be known as the 'Building A.D.," he said.

He said the athletic department now is seeking donations to build a complex on the south end of Kyle Field, and begin work on a West Campus training facility.

Groff said one of his most difficult challenges is to find creative ways to fund it.

The department has raised about \$18 million of the \$31 million needed for both projects and expects to break ground on the South End Academic Center in September 2002.

Although Groff directs athletics at a school where football is nearly a religion, he is a baseball man. He has never played collegiate sports, but said he still remembers his baseball days from high school.

Groff is in his fourth and

final year as the chairman of the NCAA Division One Baseball Committee — a position with immense responsibility. His tasks include running the collegiate world championship tournament and selecting umpires.

"It's a lot of work, but I get to see a lot of baseball," he said.

He said it is sometimes hard to stay objective as an Aggie fan. He could not vote on some committee matters in 1999 when A&M was in the tournament.

"But I wasn't complaining," he said. "I was proud as a peacock."

Under Groff's rein, women's athletics has grown into a \$10-million program and has gained national attention and recognition.

Despite presiding over a growing and successful athletic program, it is not always smooth sailing.

As initiator of the contract with ESPN's controversial show, "Sidelines," Groff has been in the news lately and has been concerned by the show's often embarrassing portrayal of life at A&M.

"I thought when I made the call to do the show, the exposure would be outstanding," he said. "But I had to get involved after

the second show."

Groff said he did not think the episode that showed two Blinn College student binge drinking was within the contract agreement, so he contacted the show producers.

Groff was again put on the defensive after the athletic department's offer to allow area boy and girl scouts in uniform attend the Iowa State football game on Oct. 27. The department nixed the offer when tickets sold out the week before the game, causing a community outcry and negative publicity for Groff.

Groff said the misconception is that the department had tickets for all the scouts and took them away, but the offer was actually based on seat availability. He said scout leaders are aware of that stipulation.

Groff sits in the 10th floor press box with his family for Aggie home games, but said he takes time to walk around the stadium once or twice a season to make sure everything is good, and to get a feel for the spirit of Kyle Field.

"It's been a pleasure to see this University grow," he said. "And not just in numbers or athletically, but in strength and academics."

## BONFIRE

Continued from Page 1

remain in place during the building of Bonfire and throughout the year — an obvious eyesore, Cole said. A second design featured a telescoping steel centerpole that could be lowered when Bonfire was not being constructed. Cole said that "gave up safety," because problems could ensue if the steel centerpole were to collapse on itself.

A third design, Cole said, was voted out by students on the committee for simply being too far from student expectation.

The three finalist designs all meet Bowen's parameters for a "forever safe" Bonfire of a single-tier tee-pee design in which all logs touch the ground. Traditionally, past Aggie Bonfires were constructed in a six-tiered, wedding-cake structure with the upper levels of logs resting on the logs below them. Cole said the three designs, following Bowen's parameters, look similar.

Turner Construction signed on as the Bonfire 2002 safety firm Nov. 8, making a quick transition to aiding design firm CBM Engineers with the 16 potential designs. Turner had a little more than a week to closely examine the six designs and provide safety and risk assessments for each one during Tuesday's meeting.

Turner's contract was approved by A&M reviewing boards last week, based on the safety firm's bid for an hourly fee of between \$100 and \$125 an hour, Cole said, calling the bid "a reasonable price." Turner and CBM's contracts will be reviewed when Bowen makes a decision on Bonfire 2002.

Students will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the three finalists during the first few weeks of classes in January on the Website, studentaffairs.tamu.edu/bonfire02, and through open forums, Cole said. By Jan. 18, Cole hopes to begin analyzing the student responses to choose the final design in the steering committee by the end of January.

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