

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

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NEWS IN BRIEF

A&M rooting out personal mail from on-campus service

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Citing increased volume and the risk to handlers of its University Mail Service, Texas A&M has asked employees not to send personal mail through the campus mail service. The request came in a memorandum this month from Charles A. Sippial, vice president for administration. He said only mail in appropriate departmental envelopes and clearly identified as originating from the university system or its affiliates should be sent through the service.

Perry hands out higher education awards Wednesday

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry handed out awards Wednesday to five higher education programs for their efforts to close educational gaps in Texas.

The "Texas Higher Education Star Awards" were given to Southwest Texas State University for its Mathworks summer program; Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi for its First-Year Learning Communities program; Texas Association of Community Colleges for its Virtual College of Texas program; Texas Tech University's writing center and University of Houston-Downtown's Jesse H. Jones Academic Institute.

PUBLIC EYE

NFL teams that have at least one Aggie on its current roster

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TODAY

AGGIELIFE

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To fly or NOT to fly

• Students discuss how Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have impacted their travel plans

SPORTS

Page 1B

Ags back into action in Virginia

OPINION

Page 7B

When ties are broken

• Court's ruling denying A&M a law school was wrong

WEATHER

TODAY

30% HIGH 44° F LOW 30° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 60° F LOW 32° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

State upholds records decision

By SOMMER BUNCE
THE BATTALION

The Texas Attorney General's office upheld the decision of Texas A&M officials Monday to keep secret the records and minutes of the Sept. 3 closed session of the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Council, which resulted in the removal of MSC Council President Josh Rowan.

MSC meeting votes, minutes kept secret

Rowan, a senior agricultural development major, was investigated by the University and later removed from his position by the MSC Council after allegations of alcohol abuse, drug use and inappropriate sexual advances on a University-sponsored trip to Italy last summer. Rowan was a student leader on the two-week Champe Fitzhugh, Jr. International Honors Leadership Seminar,

and was protected under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Officials said they withheld the meeting minutes because the MSC Council dealt with the investigation and included it as part of the meeting records. In a letter addressed to A&M Deputy General Counsel Scott Kelly, Assistant Attorney General James Morris said the Attorney General's office agreed with A&M's decision to withhold the records.

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Bonfire designs announced

Cole unveils proposed plans to Student Senate

By SOMMER BUNCE
THE BATTALION

Bonfire 2002 planners unveiled the three potential designs for the stack that could burn next November at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday.

One design is a classic teepee, one design stacks logs of equal height against the interior framework and one design holds true to the recent Aggie Bonfires—a stack with logs of three different lengths that resemble previous Bonfires' wedding-cake structure. All three meet A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's parameters of a single tier in which all logs touch the ground, and each stack will collapse inward as it burns, said Steering Committee Facilitator Dr. Bryan R. Cole.

Each design stands 45 feet tall, is made of wooden logs and topped with an orange "t.u. frathouse" outhouse.

Designs are posted on the Bonfire 2002 Website, at <http://studentaffairs.tamu.edu/bonfire02>, and at the Memorial Student Center and the Sterling C. Evans Library complex.

The infrastructure of the three proposals is the same: four 40-foot central poles in the middle with a cross-bracing framework that creates a support system for the center of the stack. Four 30-foot independent logs will stand outside the central poles, and four more poles will stand outside those at the 15-foot level. All will be trussed and linked together, continuing the support system from the middle, Cole said.

Professionals will put the 12 poles in place, burying them approximately 12-15 feet in the ground at the fenced-in site.

A centerpole exists in each design, but that pole will not support the stack and will only support the weight of the outhouse, Cole said. Students, not professionals, will put in the center pole and fill in all the existing framework and logging, he said.

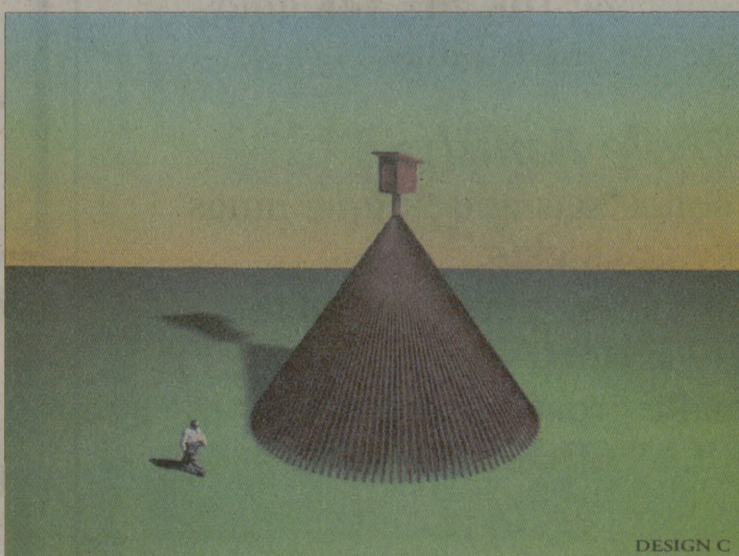
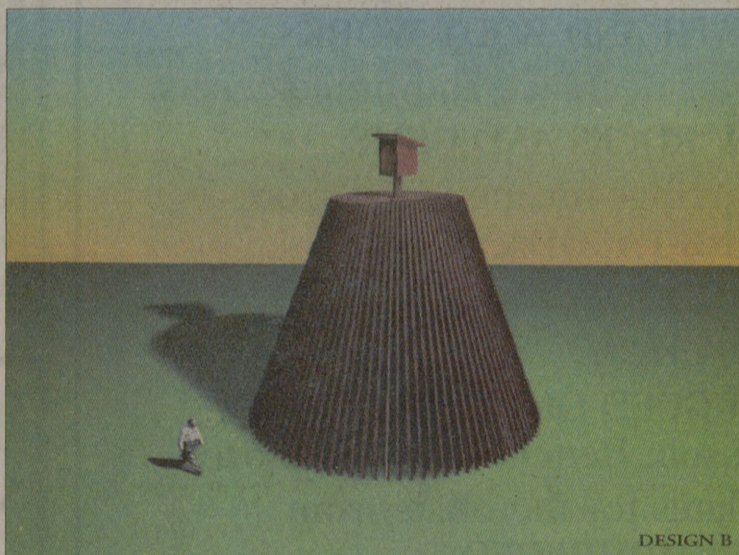
After a final design is chosen and potentially approved by Bowen in late January, planning for 2002 will continue. A staff Bonfire director will be chosen, the design will go through extensive reviews, top-level student leaders will be selected and a prototype of the design will burn in May. If all goes well, Cole said, Bonfire construction will take place Nov. 11-24 between 6 a.m. and midnight each day.

Each design uses 25,000 logs that will be cut and delivered to the site by professionals, Cole said.

Students will vote and provide feedback on the designs Jan. 16-18. This period will be key to the success or failure of Bonfire 2002, Cole said. The feedback will serve as a gauge of student interest, and if not enough students respond, Cole said the committee will reevaluate if students want to see a Bonfire burn in 2002.

Students will receive notification and provide feedback through Neo, the University's official email system.

Lack of student support is one of the three potential obstacles to seeing a Bonfire burn next November, Cole said. If the safety firm does not sign off on the final design after the student feedback time this January, and if the cost becomes prohibitive, Cole said, Bonfire could be potentially stalled or stopped entirely for 2002.



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF BONFIRE 2002 STEERING COMMITTEE

Hopgood announces retirement

By EMILY PETERS
THE BATTALION

Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hopgood, the 37th commandant of cadets, announced Tuesday that he will retire May 31, 2002.

The man in charge of Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets will step down after six years at A&M. Hopgood will also step down as head of the A&M School of Military Sciences.

"When I retired from the Marine Corps to become commandant here, I anticipated five years of service," Hopgood said Tuesday. "I decided to stay an additional year in order to move several projects forward and to celebrate the Corps of Cadets' 125th anniversary."

"Mentoring and teaching Aggie cadets have been privileges I shall treasure forever," Hopgood said.

Under Hopgood, whose motto is "recruit, retain and graduate," the Corps placed an emphasis on academics that has resulted in the highest level of cadet grades ever. He improved cadet recruitment policies, establishing a constant recruitment rate during a nationwide period of decline in military

See HOPGOOD on page 7A.



HOPGOOD

Anti-war sentiment not present at A&M

By ROB PHILLIPS
THE BATTALION

Despite reports by a nonprofit educational advocacy group that universities are responsible for much of the anti-war sentiment in America, political science professors at Texas A&M believe the University is not among those opposed to the war.

"There's no hotbed of opposition over here, by any means," said Dr. Edward Portis, a political science professor.

Results from a study conducted by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) show that college and university faculty are the "weak link" in America's response to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11. Although 92 percent of the population is in favor of military force, academia is cited as the major sector showing opposition.

The study cited more than 100 statements by faculty and students on college campuses across the

See WAR on page 7A.

Senate endorses services fee proposal

By ELIZABETH RAINES
THE BATTALION

The Student Service Fee Advisory Board rejected the proposal from Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland to spend the \$1.1-million Student Services Fee surplus on a student leadership retreat center.

In a plan unveiled to the Student Senate Wednesday, the board, comprising nine students, recommended reallocating the surplus among departments already receiving student service fee money, such as the

Memorial Student Center and Student Health Services.

"We didn't feel like the student service fee should be used to build buildings," said Suzanne Bolduc, SSFAB chair and senior mechanical engineering major.

But the SSFAB suggested a separate fee to fund the construction of the proposed \$37-million leadership center.

The board also recommended maintaining the current Student Service Fee rate of \$11.86 per semester credit hour for

See SENATE on page 7A.

	RECOMMENDED STUDENT SERVICES FEE ALLOCATIONS		
	FISCAL YEAR 2002	FISCAL YEAR 2003	INCREASE
STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 500,000
MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER	\$ 2,254,679	\$ 2,451,478	\$ 196,799
MULTICULTURAL SERVICES	\$ 947,431	\$ 704,931	\$ 154,500
STUDENT GOVERNMENT	\$ 159,470	\$ 172,800	\$ 43,330

ADRIAN CALCANEO • THE BATTALION