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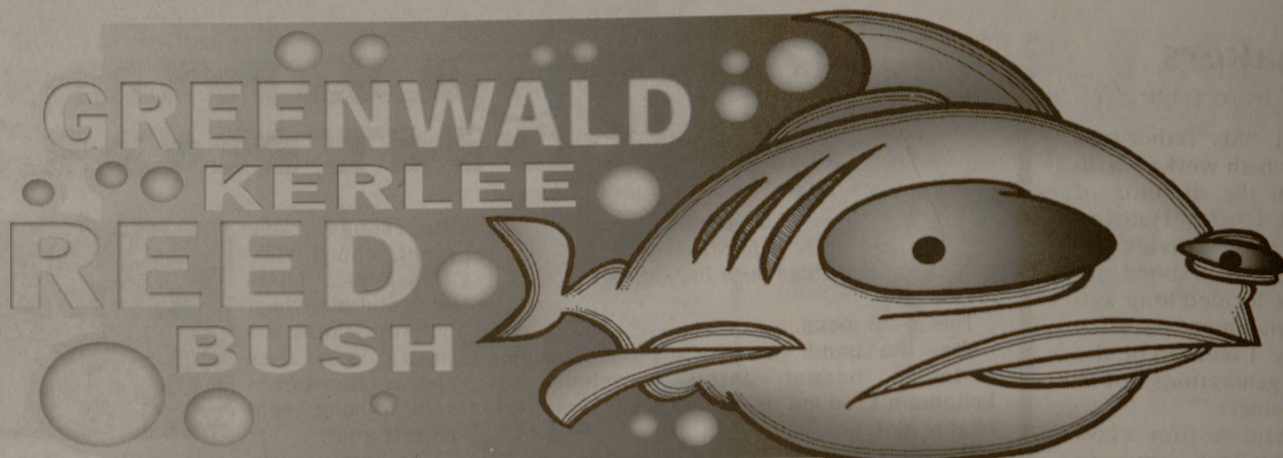
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For goodness sake

Faculty, parents honored by Fish Camp, T-Camp

By Kelcey Rieger
THE BATTALION

Dr. David Reed, professor of horticultural sciences at Texas A&M, never saw it coming.

"I did not know I was nominated for T-Camp namesake," Reed said. "However, I knew something was up a couple of days before the announcement. One day I came in and found a word puzzle on my desk, then red balloons all over the floor, then strange emails, all of which were dropping hints about Aggie spirit."

Little did Reed know that T-Camp co-chairs were planning an ambush of his Introduction to Horticulture class to announce he was a 2002 T-Camp namesake. Students in T-Camp T-shirts flowed down the classroom aisles with red balloons and a gigantic banner reading "Camp Reed."

"It is one of the best honors that can be bestowed on a faculty or staff member of Texas A&M," Reed said. "Because to be [a namesake] you are nominated and selected by the students. I have a wall full of teaching honors, but most of them are from faculty colleagues and were simply supported by the students. However, this honor is significant because it shows I have greatly impacted them as a person and as a student."

Frequently the professor or faculty member does not know who nominated them or why. Reed said he feels his teaching style and commitment to teaching have had a positive impact on his students' educational experience, thus leading to his nomination for namesake.

"I guess I am an instructor that stands out in their mind, so when they are asked who they think would make a good namesake, I assume my name is on the tip of their tongue," Reed said.

In the fall, Fish Camp and T-Camp accept

namesake nominations in which anyone can write a letter to the camp directors nominating someone they feel should have a Fish Camp or T-Camp named after them.

Erick Sandlin, director of Fish Camp 2002 and a senior political science major, said the namesake selection process can be difficult because of the many wonderful candidates that are nominated.

"This past semester we received approximately 200 letters for around 130 positions," Sandlin said. "The director staff for Fish Camp then reads the letters and selects namesakes based on how much of an impact these nominees have made on the students and faculty of Texas A&M."

Namesakes are usually members of the Texas A&M faculty, but sometimes there is an exception when someone like the President of the United States is nominated to be a namesake.

"Former President George Bush had a Fish Camp named after him in 2001," Sandlin said. "He had the camp's counselors over to his apartment at the George Bush Library to meet and get to know them. It was a little out of the norm, but it was an awesome experience."

Contributive members to the College Station and A&M community also can be nominated for the coveted honor of namesake. Tim and Janice Kerlee, respected members of the Texas A&M family, were 2001 Fish Camp namesakes.

"It was truly an honor and very special to us," said Tim Kerlee. "It was definitely a surprise to be nominated, although we still don't know who nominated us."

Tim Kerlee just happened to be eating lunch with a Fish Camp director when he was given the news of this honor.

"I was at the 12th Man Diner in the MSC eating lunch with Ricky Wood and a group of Fish Camp co-chairs came and surrounded our table," Kerlee said. "They had purple balloons, purple cookies and 'Camp Kerlee' sign. They also gave us a fish in a fish bowl, which we still have."

One of the most valued roles of being Fish Camp or T-Camp namesake is the privilege of visiting the namesake camp. Dr. Michael Greenwald, a professor of theater arts at Texas A&M, said he was being a 1999 Fish Camp namesake and getting to visit the freshmen was great experience for himself and his son.

"I went to Camp Greenwald for a couple of days and I took my son, who was about to make the transition from junior high to high school," Greenwald said.

"The students and counselors really made an impact on him and that made my experience as a namesake even more special. As a matter of fact, he is waiting for his acceptance letter from Texas A&M right now."

Greenwald said seeing a new batch of Aggies being shaped was an experience he will never forget.

"I still have the baseball cap they gave me for my time spent at the camp," Greenwald said. "I wear it quite frequently and it is one of my most prized possessions because it represents what I mean to the students and how I have made an impact on their lives."

"This honor is significant because it shows I have greatly impacted them as a person and as a student."

— Dr. David Reed
Professor of horticultural sciences

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