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Bush Library rates top among Ear tourist attractions in East Texas

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

The George Bush Presidential Library Complex in East Texas was rated the top tourist attraction in East Texas for the second straight year by a tourism association.

The library beat 29 other Texas landmarks in the 2002 Waltz Across Texas Familiarization Tour sponsored by the East Texas Tourism Association.

Tour operators from 11 states took a seven-day tour through East Texas, visiting Houston, Katy Mills, Old Town Springs, Galveston Island, NASA space center and other locations.

Howard Rosser, executive director of

the association and head of the tour, said several operators were given critic sheets to judge each attraction, and several operators gave the Bush museum the highest possible rating.

The judges lavished praise on the museum, noting the warm welcome they received from museum volunteers, Rosser said.

Many of the tour planners will go back to their homes and organize their own tours, putting places like the Bush Library on their itineraries, Rosser said.

"I do believe that the warmth of our volunteers has a lot to do with why we've done so well in the placing," said Brian

Blake, director of public relations at the Bush museum. "We also change exhibits from time to time, which is great for visitors to see something new and the same thing over and over again."

During 2001, the museum had a 100 percent increase in visitors, from approximately 156,000. The museum hopes to increase that number to 200,000 this year, Blake said.

"We are very honored that we were selected as the top in the best attraction category," Blake said. "It affirms our feeling that we're doing good work and that people are responding to our exhibits."

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Continued from page 1A

to formally vote on the different ideas next Tuesday and Wednesday online at vote.tamu.edu, Casares said.

"Once we get feedback, we can move toward getting things planned," Casares said.

Alternative ideas include an Old Army Bonfire, which consists of a trash pile design and is constructed by using wooden pallets to avoid any problems with environmental regulations for burning trash. In addition to the pallets, 6-inch pieces of wood could be put into the bonfire.

A Block T Bonfire is also being discussed with a large block T dug 4 feet deep by 5 feet wide into the grounds of the Polo Fields. This T-shaped hole could be filled with 6-inch logs that could be decorated. Two 6-inch pieces of wood put together would make a foot, symbolizing friendship and unity.

Other ideas not Bonfire related include a game or skills challenge competition, which would be a rivalry between groups

and residence halls held on the Polo Fields. These events would have a lumberjack competition, with activities such as tug-of-war and log rolling and a concert similar to the Bonfire Benefit Concert held two years ago.

Additional activities being considered are a fall formal, a University camp out on the Polo Fields, a Bonfire Memorial Service and a community activity.

Beginning feedback from students shows that no matter how hard the council tries, nothing will replace Bonfire in their hearts.

"The games and the concert sound fun," said Cliff Fisher, a sophomore biology major. "The others seem like repetition of activities we already have. Regardless, nothing is going to replace the tradition of Bonfire."

Students can vote online at vote.tamu.edu or at voting locations across campus, including the Memorial Student Center and Sbis Dining Hall.

PROPOSED FALL ACTIVITIES

- **Old Army Bonfire:**
Trash pile design
- **Block T Bonfire:**
Decorate each log
- **All-University Fall formal**
- **Revised All-U league:**
University-wide programs
- **Bonfire Benefit concert:**
Night of Bonfire
- **Concert Series:**
Different music genres
- **Games/Skills challenge:**
Mainly between groups and residence halls
- **University camp out on Polo Fields**
- **Bonfire memorial service**
- **Community service activity**

Source: Fall Activities Council

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Lawsuit

Continued from page 1A

to have him fired for criticizing Hines' leadership. The System settled with Judd in March. Judd blamed Hines for losing a prestigious \$673,000 federal research

grant. Hines accused Judd of misusing research funds in August 2001 and cancelled the research program. An audit committee cleared Judd of any wrongdoing.

Judd and 17 other Prairie View professors signed a letter in November urging the Board of Regents to take "serious action"

against Hines for inappropriately interfering in academic programs. Also, the dean of the juvenile justice school at the University recently filed a grievance with the Board accusing Hines of interfering in the operation of the school, including wanting to know which doctoral candidates are admitted

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Location: Rudder Theater

MSC Film Society

Students may pick up passes at the Rudder Box Office, beginning Wed. 4/17. Admission is free! Please arrive early! Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis with pass holders admitted first.

By Melis
THE BATTALION

In 1970, U. Nelson turned environment i level campaign of college ca became known issues Nelson and the years b Day remain to mental groups campus are try issues at the fo Earth Day cele

Organization come together i Forum spor Environmental Thursday at 6 p Other organiz in the forum Association of Professionals, Aggies for Rec "We wante nmental con in a forum wl work," said president of t Issues Comm some small c can be difficil (With this for our resources. The forum other students aware of env on campus, C Some majc Earth Day age to wildlife, in water, vanishi mate change.

President I Initiative, unv will help set i toxic fume en mobiles and health effects

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