

Starting at 11:00 a.m.

Monday - Friday

We accept Aggie Bucks!

Thursday, August 1, 2002

Gates supports Bowen's stance on Aggie Bonfire

By Kevin Espenlaub THE BATTALION

In the wake of several new developments concerning the legal issues of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse, incoming President Dr. Robert Gates supported the decisions of outgoing President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, including the decision to hold off on Bonfire in 2002.

On July 24, 2002, U.S. District Judge Samuel B. Kent ruled that University officials were aware of the dangers associated with Bonfire but government immunity applied in the cases.

On July 27, according to the Bryan-College Station Eagle, the Texas Board of Engineers approved an agreement with A&M requiring professional engineering oversight and supervision for any future Bonfires that was signed by Bowen.

'There is still a lot that I don't know about Bonfire,' Gates said. "I was here at the time and I watched President Bowen's decision making process and I can't see where anywhere along the way he has

put a foot wrong on these issues.'

However, Gates showed concern about future Bonfires under the new regulations that would be in place if the tradition were to resume after 2002.

There are two aspects that I want to look at more closely,' Gates said. "The first is that the liability issues seem to be very serious to me. The other is total ly different. Just in listening to the students it seems a big part of the Bonfire tradition was the engagement of the students in every aspect of it.

'It sounds like under the new rules, the students couldn't participate in the cut, they couldn't participate in putting the stack together, and it sounds like the only thing that would be left for the students would be figuring out who puts the match to the thing.'

Gates encouraged the idea that students create a new tradition to imitate the complete student participation that made Bonfire unique stemming from Bowen, when he announced in February that Bonfire would not take place in 2002.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Citizens group seeks removal of Prairie View A&M dean after alleged lewdness

PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS (AP) A half dozen demonstrators were on the Prairie View A&M campus on Tuesday, calling for the resignation of a dean accused of public lewdness. Gerald Rambally, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, lacks

the "moral expertise" to continue in his position after he pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of disorderly conduct.

Paul Nugent, lawyer for Rambally, said the dean entered his plea July 17 to the lowest-level misdemeanor - equivalent to a traffic violation – to avoid the expense and disruption of a trial. Rambally paid a \$200 fine after entering his plea.

The case began in March after a neighbor complained that Rambally performed a lewd act in front of an open window of his apartment so she could see him.

The SRPH was founded in 1998 and is

The school remains the only school of

public health in the country that puts rural

health issues in the forefront, Sumaya

Dorsey said.

said.

further its current masters programs. From College Station are televised through the beginning, SRPH offered a masters of public health, a master of science in public health, and a master of health administration.

Courses will be offered that will count toward a doctorate in health services research beginning in Fall 2002, but courses that will count toward a doctorate in public health (with two different focus areas) will not start until Fall 2003,

are very familiar with for ration as he takes on the lenges of one of the

largest universities. 'The person I look to than anyone in this job a model is General Rudder." said. "He was a non-ar who came in and basical lutionized this Univer made it co-ed, made th no longer mandatory, a of this while still keepir the traditions in play

showed it could be done challenge is to see if I can The good news is that I've lot of help."

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be balancing it with what dents want.'

Gates, who has degree the College of William Mary, Indiana Universit Georgetown, served as the im dean of the George School of Government Public Service from 1999.

However, students sa being a former student w hinder his presidency.

"Because he is relative to the school, he will be have new discussions with perspectives," Hammond He has the best interest University at heart. I don't loving A&M requires grad ing from here.

Reaction

Gates

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most about A&M is the number

of old Aggies that came here

with little more than the shirt on

their back and became extremely successful in one way or anoth-

er," Gates said. "I think of this as

the University that offers an

opportunity for young men and

women in Texas that don't have

much, but have a great deal of

potential. We need to remain

many people on A&M's campus

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tradition has been on hold since

the 1999 Aggie Bonfire col-

lapse, sparking much debate by

students and the administration.

who has an opinion about

Bonfire is heard," said Burke

Wilson, the spokesman for the

Corps of Cadets and a senior

speech communications major.

'I don't think Bonfire needs to

burn unless it is safe. I think

Gates will need to look at every-

thing and weigh all of the

options before making his deci-

sion. The hard part for him will

"It is very key that everyone

Gates is looking to a man

accessible to people."

Students

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Gramm as an excellent candidate. The Presidential & Committee never named Gramm as a candidate.

However, both organizations applauded Gates at the meet his leadership qualities and said he was the best of the threen candidates

"We feel that he will expect and demand excellence in all of the University, including athletics," Marks said. "Bob Gates will be magnificent," said outgoing Univ

President Dr. Ray M. Bowen. "A lot has been written about Board of Regents not having a unanimous vote in his selection well, mine was not unanimous either.'

McClendon said Gates' primary goal will focus on improve academics.

"The University's primary purpose is teaching and research McClendon said, "We must support teaching and research exer A&M ope However, lence

Gates is internationally known through his experiences in th government and the Central Intelligence Agency, McClendon "He not only knows how to manage and lead, but he has the ity to work with people (to build unity)," he said.

TTVN to all of these locations.

The types of certificate or grad degrees offered is specific to each lo tion, she said. The SRPH campuses Temple, Tyler, Corpus Christi, Kingsv Laredo and McAllen currently offe masters of public health.

viously see As a professional school, SR free for st includes a wide range of students, Don According said.

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