

# THE BATTALION

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## Off-campus bonfire will be open to public

By Melissa Sullivan  
THE BATTALION

An off-campus bonfire will be held at the High Meadow Ranch Golf Club in Magnolia Nov. 26 and will be free and open to the public, golf club officials said.

David Goff, general manager of the golf club and Texas A&M Class of 1980, said the event is similar to the Muster events that take place around the world each April 21.

"We think this might be a solution to the University's legal problems, at least from a former student's perspective," Goff said. "It is great to support and remember what Bonfire meant."

Goff said the project is an ongoing effort by former students to keep the fire burning and remember the tradition that began in 1909.

Several off-campus bonfires took place last year, but most were at undisclosed locations and were not open to the public.

The golf course held a bonfire last

November that drew a crowd of 600. Planning began three weeks before the fire burned, so fewer people knew about it ahead of time, Goff said.

Other events of the day include the Aggie Bonfire Golf Classic tournament at noon, a barbecue, the bonfire burning at 6:30 p.m. and a concert featuring Dub Miller and Owen Temple.

The golf course staff and maintenance crew will be in charge of building the 30-foot stack, made mostly of timber from dead trees in the area

which did not survive the summer drought, Goff said.

"There are so many trees to dispose of and (building a bonfire) is a good opportunity to do it," he said.

Safety issues should not be a problem because of irrigation pipes throughout the golfing range, Goff said. Goff hopes most of the funding for the event will come from the golf tournament.

A&M officials caution any participation in an off-campus bonfire.

"We continue to discourage any

attempt to build an unauthorized bonfire, including any effort off campus," University spokesman Lane Stephenson said. "Our paramount concern stems from safety — the safety of our students and anyone else who might be involved."

Stephenson said A&M officials will not participate in the golf course's bonfire activities.

Goff said he respects the University's position, but thinks this is a

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## Spooks and ghouls



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

First-year veterinary medicine student Michael Allen hangs a spider at the College of Veterinary Medicine's haunted house.

The haunted house will run Oct. 24-26. Participants can bring a canned good to receive a dollar off admission.

## Jiang to visit A&M amidst controversy

By Rolando Garcia  
THE BATTALION

When Chinese President Jiang Zemin steps up to the podium to deliver his speech today, he will be greeted by a carefully selected crowd of students and donors to the George Bush Presidential Library Complex.

But the thousands of demonstrators expected outside the auditorium to protest Jiang's visit underlie the highly controversial nature of China's communist regime, which many human rights activists allege to be among the world's most brutal and repressive.

According to reports from Amnesty International, an independent human rights group, and the U.S. Department of State, the Chinese government employs widespread torture and execution against political dissidents.

Since 1999, the government has cracked down on Falun Gong, a religious movement which teaches meditation and healthy living. Amnesty estimates that tens of thousands of

Falun Gong supporters have been detained and tortured in prisons and labor camps, and at least 500 have died from torture in custody.

Despite China's poor human rights record, University officials say Jiang's political baggage will not blemish A&M.

"Students should have the opportunity to hear different points of view, including those that may be repugnant to many people," said Charles Hermann, associate dean of A&M's Bush School of Government and Public Service.

He said that engagement and dialogue with Chinese leaders may, in the long run, improve the human rights situation in China. Hermann said the government's free market economic reforms may eventually translate to new political freedoms as a growing middle class demands self-governance.

"Rather than in-your-face protests and boycotts, it might be better to engage (China)," Hermann said.

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## Polls open for early voting in B-CS

By Amy Adams  
THE BATTALION

Brazos County voters are heading to the polls to cast their votes for this year's state and local elections. Early voting began Monday for the Nov. 5 general elections.

"The greatest benefit that one can receive from voting is the satisfaction that your voice has been heard," said Brady Creel, communications director for College Republicans and graduate student in the department of management.

Creel said he encourages all students to vote, although many choose not to.

"My concern is that students will pay less attention to these elections because they occur at midterm and they usually tend to have a lower voter turnout," he said.

Jonathan Steed, president of Texas Aggie Democrats, said students are more unaware of elections this year than usual. The elections seem to be overshadowed by other news, and are not receiving enough coverage, Steed said. He said about 15 percent of students vote.

"I chose to vote because I believe that the decisions lawmakers make often directly affect me and I want to have a voice in those decisions," Steed said. "Voting is the best way to defend our nation

and make sure its values are encompassed."

About 1,000 people voted Monday and Tuesday, a good predictor of turnout for remaining early voting days, said Brazos County Clerk Karen McQueen. There are 92,659 registered voters in Brazos County.

"Normally students vote more heavily in the presidential race," McQueen said. "Students may only be in College Station for a short time, but they are still a part of the community, so why not vote and make your opinion heard."

Early voting began this week and runs through Nov. 1.

Brazos County polls will be open at the

Brazos County Courthouse on East 26th Street, Arena Hall at Tabor Road and North Earl Rudder Freeway and Galilee Baptist Church on North Logan Street.

In College Station, citizens can vote at the Memorial Student Center or the College Station School District's central office on Welsh Avenue.

The polls are now open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The week of Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Nov. 5, election day voters can vote from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Where to vote**

**Bryan**

- Brazos County Courthouse on East 26th Street
- Arena Hall at Tabor Road and North Earl Rudder Freeway
- Galilee Baptist Church on North Logan Street

**College Station**

- Memorial Student Center
- College Station School District Central Office on Welsh Avenue

**When to vote**

**This week**

- Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Week of Oct. 28 - Nov. 1**

- 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Election day, Nov. 5**

- 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

## Scientists conducting experiment to kill fire ants

By Sara Runnels  
THE BATTALION

Phorid flies, nature's enemy to fire ants, were released in a pasture area outside Caldwell in an experimental attempt to find a solution to the growing fire ant problem.

"If this release is successful, we should enjoy phorid flies in our backyards within the next few years," said Dr. Bart Drees, director

of the Texas Imported Fire Ant Program and Texas Cooperative Extension entomologist.

Fire ants were first introduced to the United States from South America in the 1930s and the population has since grown to infest more than 310 million acres in the south.

"The fire ant is a persistent pest," said Dr. Charles Barr, extension program specialist.

With few natural enemies in the

United States, the fire ant has the opportunity to continue spreading on its own, Drees said.

Phorid flies are being imported from South America for experiments and may eventually become a biological method for controlling the ant problem, Barr said.

"Our purpose is to eliminate the ant as a social and economic nuisance," he said.

The Texas Imported Fire Ant

Research and Management Project and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are working together to carry out these tests.

"Without using chemicals, we are taking the biological approach to get a hold on the fire ant problem," said Elizabeth Hickman, extension agent for fire ants in the Dallas area.

See **Experiment** on page 6A

## Symposium speakers denounce censorship

By Sarah Darr  
THE BATTALION

The government has attempted to censor material on the Internet, but experts argued at a symposium Wednesday that no one really knows how to apply laws against obscenity to online material.

Despite moves to filter content on the Internet, indecency is a personal preference which one country's laws can't effectively regulate, said Intellectual Property Attorney Daniel Kloke.

Showing a series of slides depicting what some activists labeled indecent, Kloke said

others would call the same material artistic. "These monuments are building blocks of tomorrow," Kloke said. "The decisions we make today will either inspire future artists or abolish them."

A panel of professionals spoke out against censorship at the symposium, hosted by the MSC Literary Arts Committee.

Students should be allowed to make their own decisions about what they want to view, said Joseph M. Hutchinson, a professor in the Department of Architecture.

"Students should have the opportunity to get another mature opinion that is not parental- or church-guided."

Hutchinson spoke about the censorship

of art in America, saying there has always been public criticism about unusual or expressive art. Artists are supposed to think about the uncommon to create something new, Hutchinson said.

"Artists are supposed to be on the cutting edge, finding new things," Hutchinson said. "Their purpose is to make a statement about the age in which they live, and people may not like it."

Hutchinson said culture leads the artist, and American culture is on its way to becoming more open to ideas.

"Censorship will be less tolerated as

See **Symposium** on page 6A



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Esquire intellectual property lawyer Daniel C. Kloke (right), Class of 1991, discusses censorship in today's world at the Censorship Symposium held Wednesday night at the J. Wayne Stark Galleries.