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**Fish**



by R. DeLuna **Bonfire**

Continued from page 1

great opportunity for former students in the Houston area to bring their families and watch bonfire with their children.

The Bonfire Coalition and the Bonfire Coalition for Students are trying to convince A&M President Dr. Robert M. Gates to bring the tradition back to campus. The tradition was held on hold after the November 1999 collapse that killed 12 and injured 27.

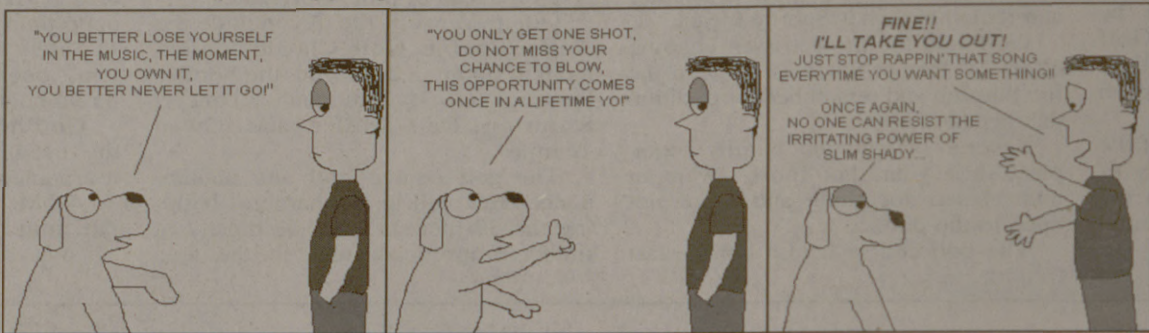
No one was available for comment from either organization.

Bonfire Unity Project spokesman Luke Cheatham said the organization fully supports Goff's plans for a bonfire and planning on having a representative present at the site.

Goff said the bonfire will not be as elaborate as the University's Aggie Bonfire, but it is a tradition many Aggies want to see rekindled.

"This is a great and economic way to keep the tradition alive," he said.

**Beernuts** by Rob Appling



**Jiang**

Continued from page 1

The U.S. Congress passed a resolution in July condemning the persecution of Falun Gong members, and urged investigation of allegations that Chinese government agents are harassing and intimidating Falun Gong supporters in the United States.

The Chinese government has said Falun Gong is a subversive cult, but members say the movement is entirely spiritual and has no political agenda. The Chinese consulate in Houston could not be reached for comment.

Diana Roberts, a Falun Gong practitioner in Houston, said, as many as 3,000 Falun Gong members will be outside the Bush Library, peacefully protesting Jiang's visit.

"We'll just sit calmly and project positive thoughts, and hopefully Jiang will sense the positive atmosphere and change his mind," Roberts said. "(Jiang's) persecution against Falun Gong is brutal and savage, and we just want it to end."

The U.S. State Department has documented government persecution against Tibetan Buddhists and Christians, and has

forced abortions to limit the country's population growth.

Jiang will meet with former President George Bush and tour the presidential library, and will meet with President George W. Bush Friday at Bush's ranch in Crawford.

Besides the perennial issues in U.S.-China relations, such as human rights and trade, Hermann said the two leaders will grapple with recent developments in Iraq and North Korea. The United States is seeking China's support for a United Nations resolution that would require Iraq to comply with rigorous weapons inspections, Hermann said.

North Korea recently announced it is continuing its nuclear weapons program, after it had agreed not to. China's cooperation will be key to resolving the tension with North Korea, Hermann said.

"Both sides see a number of issues they have a common interest in cooperating on," Hermann said.

Roman Popadiuk, executive director of the George Bush Library Foundation, said the majority of the 600 tickets to the event were reserved for students, with blocks

given to the Corps of Cadets and the University Provost's office to distribute. When British Prime Minister Tony Blair spoke at A&M in April, the ticket distribution was less controlled, with student tickets given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

The protests and controversy surrounding Jiang's human rights abuses will dampen the occasion.

"This is a great opportunity for students to see and listen to a major world leader," Popadiuk said.

According to Amnesty, pro-democracy activists in China, many of whom are students, are imprisoned and often subjected to torture.

Human rights activists have criticized the Chinese government for refusing to hold a public inquiry into the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, in which troops fired on unarmed student protesters, killing hundreds.

China is a one-party dictatorship, and Jiang holds the title of president through his leadership of the Communist Party. Other political organizations are permitted, and no free elections are held.

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NEWS  
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