

THE BATTALION

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University plans Bonfire commemoration

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

After a year in which Texas A&M did not officially commemorate the anniversary of the 1999 Aggie Bonfire Collapse, several University organizations have banded together to honor the 12 Aggies killed and 27 injured in the early morning hours of Nov. 18, 1999.

Last year, families made their way silently to the Polo Fields to hold their own memorials with wreaths and candles. This year, University staff and students say they don't want the family members to stand alone.

Instead, Albritton Tower will sound 12 slow tolls at 2:42 a.m., the time in 1999 when

the 60-foot stack began to sway and tumbled to the ground, carrying students with it and trapping them under the stack.

An open reception will allow students and family members of the Bonfire collapse to mingle and share memories, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Administration Building. Wreaths will be laid at the site where Bonfire fell at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 17, in an area now scarred by construction.

Sponsoring organizations include the Student Government Association (SGA), Bonfire Coalition for Students, Traditions Council and the Memorial Student Center (MSC) Leadership Enrichment, Action and Development (LEAD).

Bryan Barton, a member of the SGA plan-

ning committee for the Bonfire remembrance and a senior economics major, said planners wanted to keep the University-sponsored remembrance small to allow people to mourn in their own way.

"We want to bring people together but also to keep it short and simple," Barton said.

In 2000, the first-year anniversary, the remembrance ceremony was too big in scope, and most attendees couldn't hear the ceremony through the rain that night. Bobby Tucker, staff adviser for the SGA, said this year's events are an attempt at achieving balance between too much ceremony and no ceremony at all.

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1999 Aggie Bonfire Remembrance Events

- Nov. 17**
- 4:30 p.m.** Reception in Administration Building
- 5:30 p.m.** Wreath laying at the Polo Fields
- 6 p.m.** MSC educational program for underclassmen, place TBA
- Nov. 18**
- 2:42 a.m.** Albritton Tower tolls 12 times

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

Wall of memories



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

On the way back from the Oklahoma State University football game in Stillwater, Haley Tenbarge, a sophomore general studies major, visits the Oklahoma City National Memorial, where a bomb blew up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building at 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995.

Student charged with taping sex without consent

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M student Brennan Jasper Bice was arrested Oct. 31, after he admitted to videotaping intercourse with a female student without her knowledge and then showing the tape to fraternity members.

Bice, 21, a junior information and operations management major and member of Lambda Chi Alpha, told police that he videotaped himself and a sorority member having consensual sex at his home last month, said Lt. Rodney Sigler of the College Station Police Department (CSPD).

"The woman was completely unaware they were being videotaped at the time," Sigler said.

Court papers show that up to 15 people saw the videotape on different occasions at the fraternity house, which is located at 1400 Athens Dr.

Bice told College Station police that he showed the videotape to his fraternity brothers as a way to brag about the encounter.

"Bice was arrested and charged with improper photo or visual record with the intent to arouse or gratify," said Wayne Dicky, jail administrator for Brazos County.

The offense occurred on Oct. 8, but the woman in the videotape did not file a police report with the CSPD until Oct. 16, Sigler said.

A source close to Bice said he is a respectable student with good grades who volunteers and was president of his class in high school.

"Brennan has absolutely loved going to A&M," said the source, who asked not to be identified. "He has so much pride and has been so

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Business School among top 10

By Esther Robards-Forbes
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Lowry Mays Business School has been ranked among the top 10 Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Programs based on Return On Investment (ROI) by *Business Week Magazine*.

In the current job market, where starting salaries for MBA grad-

uates have dropped 12.6 percent in the last year, this means that A&M MBA graduates can pay off their education faster, usually after about 4.9 years as opposed to the national average of 5.6 years, *Business Week* reported.

The yearly rankings published in the Oct. 21 issue ranked A&M number nine in providing inexpensive education that leave its graduates better prepared to handle living and student loan expenses, said Dr. Jerry Strawser, dean of the Mays Business School.

"We've always been ranked very high in ROI. We're a good buy and students realize they can get an outstanding education at the end of the program," Strawser said.

The reason A&M's business school ranks so high may be due to low tuition costs for both in-state and out-of-state students, as well as the Aggie network of employers, Strawser said.

"A lot of Aggies out there know that our graduates leave with good business and people skills," he said.

Students said the ranking helps as they face a rough job market with an MBA in hand.

"I've received an outstanding education at a cost much less than if I had attended another program," said Angela Williamson, Mays MBA student. "I am especially relieved that I will not be repaying student loans for the next 10 years."

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Mays Business School = Good return on investment

- A&M MBA graduates earn a median starting salary of \$71,200
- A&M MBA graduates can pay off student loans in 4.9 years, compared to national average of 5.6 years
- A&M ranked 9th by *Business Week Magazine* in return on investment

Source: Business Week Magazine

MANDY ROUQUETTE • THE BATTALION

Campaigners urge Texans to cast ballots

DALLAS (AP) — President Bush ended a final whirlwind day of campaigning with a stop in his home state Monday night, rallying a crowd of more than 6,000 to get out and vote for Republican Senate candidate John Cornyn and Gov. Rick Perry.

Democrats also spread out across the state to energize voters to get to the polls Tuesday.

Cornyn faces Democrat Ron Kirk, a former Dallas mayor, in the race to replace retiring GOP Sen. Phil Gramm. Perry is challenged by Democrat Tony Sanchez, a Laredo businessman.

Bush's speech was interrupted twice by boos from protesters holding a sign saying "No War in Iraq" and a Perry political sign held upside down.

The anti-war sign was ripped from their hands and they were led away with their hands up. The crowd chanted "USA, USA" in response to their protest.

More than 1 million people in the state's 15 most populous counties cast ballots during the two-week long period for early voting, which ended Friday, the Secretary of State's office said.

Wet weather in South and Southeast Texas could keep some voters at home Tuesday, however. A storm threatened to bring up to 8 inches of rain in some areas and could cause widespread flooding.

Perry campaigned along with Cornyn and lieutenant governor candidate David Dewhurst earlier Monday at a Cedar Park warehouse.

Sanchez, who has spent tens of millions of dollars of his own money on his campaign, rallied in his hometown of Laredo on Monday.

Polls released over the weekend by *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Houston Chronicle* and KHOU-TV showed Perry with a double-digit lead over Sanchez. The polls showed the U.S. Senate race closer, with Cornyn slightly ahead.

"It's too early to celebrate so we're going to continue to work hard throughout the day until the time the polls close (Tuesday) evening just to encourage everyone to get out to vote and take 200 of their closest friends," Cornyn said in Cedar Park.

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Holiday season merits cautious donations

By Amy Adams
THE BATTALION

With the holiday season approaching, people are advised to be wary about donating money to charities without taking the proper precautions.

Jim Titus, operations manager for the Brazos Valley Food Bank, said to research charities you plan on donating to. Find out if members of its board of directors are leaders in the community, and if the charity is publicized and recognized by the United Way.

"Most importantly, know where your money goes and how it will impact the community," he said.

Ron Rolett, president of Boys and Girls Club, said it is always a good idea to visit the charity to see what it does and who it serves.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of the Brazos Valley suggests not giving out cash donations, and when writing a check, write the full and official name of the charity. Check to see if the organization is listed with the IRS as a tax-exempt public charity and that the donation will be tax deductible.

The (BBB) also advises potential donors to check the name of the charity, as some charity names sound the same as other well-known organizations.

Public information, such as annual reports about the charity, is

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TIPS ON GIVING TO CHARITY

- FIND OUT IT IS RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED WAY**
- DO NOT GIVE CASH**
- CHECK WITH THE IRS TO FIND OUT IT IS LISTED AS A TAX-EXEMPT CHARITY**
- SEE IF YOUR DONATION WILL BE EXEMPT**

SOURCES: BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY & JIM TITUS, OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE BRAZOS VALLEY FOOD BANK, MANDY ROUQUETTE • THE BATTALION