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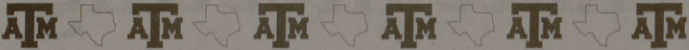
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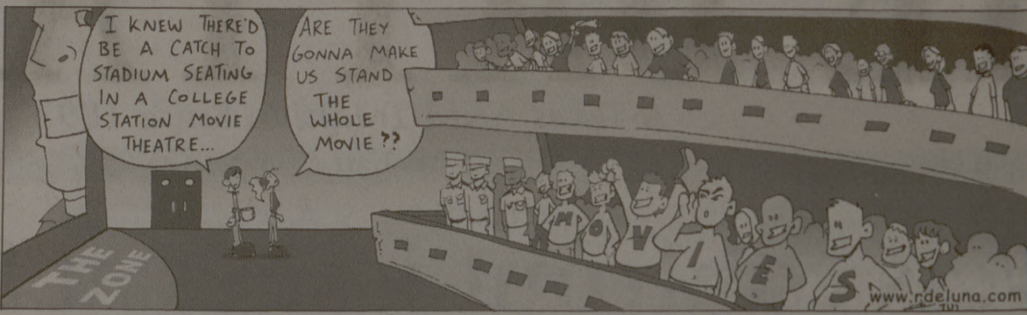
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FISH



BY R. DELUNA

Lawsuits

Continued from page 1

district court in Galveston that University officials have immunity under the law. The case is now being brought back for reconsideration to federal district court level.

Kerri Ward, speaker pro tempore of the Senate and sophomore business major, asked Gates if he had considered what leaving a Bonfire site out of the campus master plan (a design plan architects drew up last year to pinpoint areas for growth) said to A&M students.

"There's no future Bonfire site on the master plan," Gates said. "It's impossible to determine a particular site when you have no idea what it's going to look like."

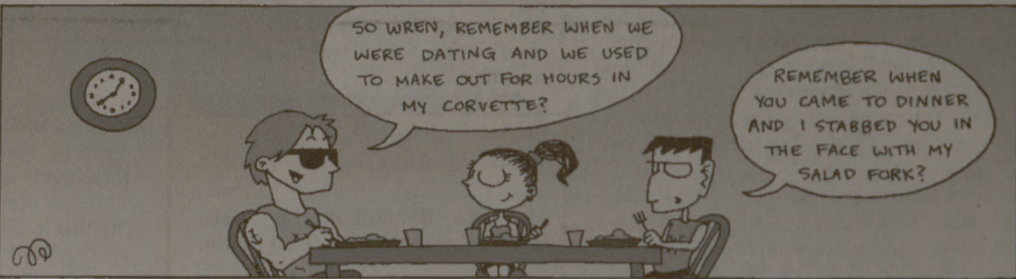
Construction on the Bonfire Memorial, displayed in miniature in the Architecture Building, is set to begin within the next two months, Gates said, and will be completed by Nov. 18, 2004. The center of the memorial is where center pole was, and each of the 12 archways contain a brass silhouette of one of the students killed Nov. 18, 1999, as well as a phrase written on the brass that commemorates them individually.

Gates said the only memorial worthy of comparison with this one would be the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. "It's an extraordinary memorial," he said. "I don't mean to sound irreligious, but it's almost a holy place. It's not a place anyone will ever throw a frisbee."

Chad Wellington, a sophomore computer science major and student senator, asked Gates whether the risk management procedures emphasized in several departments since Bonfire fell are merely to improve the University's image at the expense of students' fun. "None of it has to do with the University's image. Liability is not a trivial issue. We are a terribly litigious society, and it isn't going to get any better any time soon," Gates said. "Forty-five thousand students can think of many creative ways to have fun, and some of them are even legal."

Gates said he could not think of any traditions that matter to the A&M community that have been lost in the past three years other than Bonfire. "Absent Bonfire, what else is missing?" he said.

noise & POLLUTION



BY JOSH DARWIN

Crazy Jake



By M. Mouse

DUMB BOY



BY: WILL LLOYD

House

Continued from page 1

conference committee that could take days to reach a compromise. The House formally rejected the Senate plan Thursday and named its redistricting conferees.

One of the biggest sticking points is a disagreement over how West Texas should be drawn. Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick wants a district that could allow his hometown of Midland, with its oil and gas economy, to anchor

a congressional seat.

Republican Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock has pushed a plan that keeps Midland in a district with the larger agriculture-oriented city of Lubbock.

Neither side showed signs of budging.

"I think we've got to deal with West Texas first," said Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, author of the House map and leader of the House contingent on the conference committee. He predicted slow negotiations.

Craddick said there are other discrepancies between the two versions that must be ironed out. His spokesman, Bob Richter, cited differences over Central Texas, the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Webb County.

Craddick contends the Senate's last-minute decision to split Webb County, where Laredo is located on the Texas-Mexico border, may not win approval from the U.S. Justice Department, which enforces protection of minorities under the federal Voting Rights Act.

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THE BATTALION

Sommer Hamilton, Editor in Chief

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