



Campus issues

Senate calls on AD to maintain archery funding

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate asked Athletic Director Bill Byrne Wednesday night to maintain current funding for the women's varsity archery team and not send the program back to club status.

In a unanimous decision, the Student Senate passed a resolution in support of the women's archery program, citing the fact that the team brought home four national championships over the past four years, has one of the highest team GPAs throughout the entire Athletic Department and have a budget that includes less than 0.7 percent of the Athletic Department budget.

"When we added archery and equestrian to

varsity status, both sports were considered emerging sports for women, and we hoped both would be added to the list of NCAA sponsored championships," Byrne said. "Both sports had done well on a club basis, and so it made sense here at Texas A&M."

Amanda Raffaelli, a member of A&M's archery team and a sophomore accounting major, said Byrne's assessment of the archery program's growth was incorrect.

"Currently there are 25 club-level archery programs across the United States," she said. "We have reason to believe that archery as a sport will grow in the next five years, it just needs time."

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Gates addresses tuition, space allocation, diversity

By Jibrán Najmi
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M President Robert M. Gates said Wednesday night at the Student Senate meeting that he was not aware of the demolition of any residence halls, including Hotard Hall, as he addressed the Student Senate on space allocation, tuition and diversity.

Gates said selected residence halls would be converted into administrative space for new faculty on campus, while having the

least impact upon on-campus students and living communities.

"I want to preserve the blocks of residence halls on the north and south side of campus, and push the faculty and staff to the periphery," Gates said. "Even if (hypothetically) a residence hall is demolished, it is my intention to replace it with another residence hall."

Gates said the Council on Built Environment has not addressed what the second priority will be in the Campus Master Plan.

"The ideal situation for me would be that an old Ag some-

where would want his or her name on the new (life sciences) building for something around \$25 million," Gates said. "That would allow us to begin our second priority of the Campus Master Plan and to proceed without delay."

Gates stressed the fact that it was important to plan the exterior facade of the new life sciences building and all future buildings on campus.

Gates also addressed tuition increases, saying he would

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Building blocks



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Freshman environmental design major Megan Dickerson builds a model cube tower for her ENDS 106 class in the Langford Architecture

building earlier this week. The model cube tower, also called a golden grid model, is the class' last project for the semester.

Bonfire benefit concert to feature Texas country music

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

Student Bonfire said it has organized what it hopes will become an annual benefit concert to help fund its non-sanctioned organization.

"Basically we are trying to raise money for next year to help us with funding bonfire," said senior rangeland ecology major Ram Lopez, a Student Bonfire leader.

Lopez said three country music bands — Cooder Graw, Macon Greyson and The Peter Dawson Band — will perform at Hurricane Harry's on Tuesday, May 4. The event will be hosted by Dub Miller, and all proceeds will be going toward Student Bonfire.

Lopez said Student Bonfire has been trying to organize a concert since 2002, but it wasn't until one of the members, Kevin Jackson, said he would organize it that the plans began to materialize.

Jackson, a senior poultry science major, said he became interested in organizing the concert after the live music at last year's off-campus bonfire was not as entertaining as he thought it should have been.

"(Student Bonfire) had a couple good bands (at last year's bonfire) but they were local, and I was like, 'This is Aggie Bonfire; there is no reason they shouldn't have good bands,'" Jackson said.

Jackson said he started approaching acts when he went to concerts.

He said several bands were interested in performing to promote Student Bonfire's cause.

"Just putting the bonfire name on it has a lot of pull," Jackson said. "Everybody knows that for Texas country, if you are going to be big you got to make it in College Station."

Jackson said that if the concert continues in the future, it may expand beyond a Texas country format to include nationally famous bands such as Pushmonkey, which has shown interest in performing next year. He said that if the concert does expand, ties to Texas music will still be evident.

Jackson said Student Bonfire has received support from the owner of Hurricane Harry's since the inception of Student Bonfire. Jackson said the staff at Harry's helped plan the event and that they told him he could have it on any day not already booked.

BONFIRE MUSIC SHOWCASE



What: Cooder Graw, Peter Dawson Band, Macon Greyson and Dub Miller will perform to benefit Student Bonfire.

Where: Hurricane Harry's

When: Tuesday, May 4

Time: 9 p.m.

• Tickets are \$10 at Cavender's or at www.studentbonfire.com
• Tickets are \$12 at the door

RUBEN DELUÑA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: STUDENT BONFIRE

Jackson said drafting contracts and getting approval from Student Bonfire's attorney and the bands' booking agents were the most difficult parts of planning the concert.

Lopez said the costs of an off-campus bonfire have increased from \$26,000 in 2002 to \$39,000 in 2003. Next year, he said, he expects costs to be more than \$39,000. Student Bonfire plans to buy 500 acres of land, where it can grow trees and hold bonfire every year.

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Freebirds offers free burritos to cyclists

By Brian D. Cain
THE BATTALION

Ride Your Bike to Work and School Day is an innovative way to come together and improve the community through the collaboration of several organizations, businesses and patrons in the area, said Pierre Dube, Freebirds World Burrito owner.

This is a community effort sponsored by several local organizations and businesses including Freebirds, Brazos Valley Cyclists and the League of American Bicyclists, said Keri Krueger, brandmaster of Freebirds.

Friday is Ride Your Bike to Work and School Day, and everyone is encouraged to ride their bikes to Freebirds for a free burrito, Dube said.

"Bike to Work and School Day embraces all that Freebirds is known for," Dube said.

To celebrate the day, Freebirds will be giving away free regular burritos to anyone who rides a bicycle to the Northgate Freebirds between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday, Krueger said.

This is the 11th year that Freebirds has sponsored the event. Texas A&M graduate student Kevin Baker said he is proud that his organization, Brazos Valley Cyclists, is a sponsor of the event.

"The point of Bike to Work and School Day is to reward and encourage cyclists, as well as increase awareness of bicycles on the road," Baker said. "We want to change the attitude of some drivers who believe that bicycles don't belong on the road, even though it's legal to ride a bicycle on the road in all 50 states."

Baker said several members of the Brazos Valley Cyclists will be at Freebirds to help hand out free burrito coupons and that there will be a band out on the Promenade.

Texas A&M Transportation Services Web Designer Jennifer LeGrevelle said several TS representatives will be at Freebirds handing out water bottles as well.

Free ride

Friday is Ride Your Bike to Work and School Day, an event sponsored by Freebirds, the Brazos Valley Cyclists and the League of American Bicyclists.

• Ride your bike to the Freebirds on Northgate and receive a free burrito from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• Members of the Brazos Valley Cyclists will be at Freebirds to hand out free burrito coupons

• This is the 11th year Freebirds has sponsored the event



RUBEN DELUÑA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: PIERRE DUBE, OWNER OF FREEBIRDS

"We are definitely supporting Bike to Work and School Day," LeGrevelle said.

Rod Wagner, owner of Aggieldand Cycling, said companies should give more consideration to people who ride their

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Fraternity to 'rock' for pediatric AIDS research

By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity will host a concert at Margarita Rocks Sunday to raise money for pediatric AIDS research.

Robert Wolf, a junior marketing major, said Sigma Alpha Mu, a new fraternity at A&M, will donate all of the concert's proceeds to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to eradicating pediatric AIDS. Wolf said pediatric AIDS is an important issue that students need to be aware of.

"These kids don't want to have AIDS, but they weren't given that chance," Wolf said. "I think it's good for people to raise money so these children won't suffer."

Ian Hartman, a junior economics major, said the concert will feature alternative rock band "building g" from Austin. Hartman said that although no cover will be charged, there will be a suggested donation of \$3 at the door.

"It's important to give money to the pediatric AIDS foundation

because it raises awareness in the community," Hartman said. "And every time you donate it puts a smile on your face."

Hartman said the fraternity has already raised \$600 for pediatric AIDS last week with its "Bounce for Beats" fund-raiser on campus. The fraternity spent two days bouncing basketballs, symbolizing the heartbeats of children with AIDS to drum up donations for the foundation. Hartman said the fraternity is expecting 250 people to attend the concert.

Patty Evans, a senior events manager for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, said the foundation was co-founded by Elizabeth Glaser, who was infected with HIV, and two of her friends in 1988 to help Glaser's two HIV-infected children. Evans said the 15-year-old foundation is now the international leader in the identification and funding of pediatric AIDS and HIV research.

Evans said a lot of the research funds are raised at the 100 college campuses that the foundation

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