

NEWS IN BRIEF

Corps to participate in March to the Brazos Saturday

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will participate in the annual March to the Brazos Saturday as part of a fundraiser for the March of Dimes.

The Corps will begin its march at the quadrangle and will march seven miles to the A&M Beef Center, off of Highway 60 beginning at 8 a.m., said Sam McAnally, Corps Wing commander.

At the Beef Center, the Corps will have lunch, listen to a speaker from the March of Dimes and do some physical training.

The march also symbolizes the transition of leadership, as the juniors take on their positions from the seniors and lead the march back to campus at about 3 p.m.

The Corps will return to campus at about 3 p.m.

Bike

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bicycles to work. "I think this event is good for cycling, and I think it's important for the city as well as local businesses to recognize the need to make our environment more bicycle friendly," Wagner said. Baker said that in past years the event has always been very successful.

"Your point is simple: Ride your bike and get involved in cycling," Baker said.

AIDS

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works with. Evans said the students who help raise the money are young philanthropists working for a good cause.

"We are amazingly grateful and inspired by all the work that gets done on college campuses today," Evans said.

The concert will kick off at 10 p.m., and to attend, students must first RSVP by sending an e-mail to thairman@tamu.edu.

"Come out, raise money, and have a great time," Hartman said.

Bonfire

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"The city is expanding, and land has been going fast around here," Lopez said.

Lopez said attendance at Student Bonfire's off-campus bonfire has grown by 5,000 people per year since 2002, when attendance was 10,000. Attendance in 2004 is projected to be 20,000.

A representative from the on-campus organization Bonfire Coalition said it is not planning any similar concerns but that it does not condemn the fund-raiser.

"Our official position is that we don't support or condemn off-campus bonfire, and that is the same for the concert," said Bonfire Coalition Co-Chair and senior finance major Alex King.

Doors open at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, and the concert is expected to last until 2 a.m.

Friday, April 30, 2004

FISH



BY R. DELUNA

NOISE & POLLUTION



BY JOSH DARWIN

DUNNBOYZ



by Will Lloyd

Archery

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Raffaelli said Stanford University recently hired Arizona's archery coach, and that The University of California has a fully-funded archery team and coach.

Raffaelli said she felt that this would be one of the emerging rivalries in the nation, and would lead to significant growth. She also cited several grassroots movements in Kentucky and the Dallas-Fort Worth area where elementary and middle schools were adding archery to their curriculum.

"If we continue to fund our varsity programs, these children will have something to shoot for and will want to attend A&M so that they can compete on the varsity level," Raffaelli said.

Raffaelli also pointed out that of the small budget the archery team uses from the Athletic

Department, \$250,000, the team only uses about 68 percent.

"One of our biggest problems with this cut is the fact that Mr. Byrne has given us approximately two weeks of notice. We leave for nationals the Wednesday of finals," she said.

Raffaelli said that if funding for the archery program is cut as Byrne intends, the archery team would not be able to compete in the national competition this summer even if they qualified, as they would not have the funds.

Byrne cited the archery head coach's resignation as one of the reasons for the review.

"Our head coach, Kathy Eissinger, has done a terrific job with the program and she is an Aggie, Class of 1986," Byrne said. "She has sacrificed her personal life for this program, serving as our head coach while her husband is employed in Utah. It is her desire to join him at this time, and I support that decision. With

this decision, the timing is right to review our archery program."

Senior national champion Mary Zorn said the majority of the team is from out of state and that cutting the program would hurt archery's recruiting efforts.

"If we lose our funding from the University we won't be able to attract top shooters from across the nation, and most of our team will no longer be able to afford to go to Texas A&M," Zorn said.

If returned to club status, the women's varsity team will be forced to receive funds from recreation sports, which has already budgeted money for the men's team.

"I don't know what more the Athletic Department could want from a team: The archery team has multiple national and world championships, a collective 3.0 GPA and a clean record of each, and every one of it's members," Raffaelli said. "We have brought nothing but honor and prestige to this University."

Gates

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like to see a balance between University tuition increases and state tuition increases.

Speaker of the Senate Logan Renfrow said he wanted to know if there were going to be any more tuition increases in the future, and that Gates must have a ballpark figure as to what any future increases may be.

"Overall, the Texas legislature has been very kind to higher education when compared to the legislatures of other states," Gates said. "However, everything depends on the upcoming legislative session."

Gates said A&M has never been in the recruiting business, and A&M has only recruited a small amount of students.

"The only types of students we have actively recruited in the past have been national merit scholars and student athletes," Gates said. "A&M is a minority in regards to merit-based admissions and is essentially pioneering the process."

Gates said these types of admissions increased diversity and were ultimately in the best interest of Texas A&M.

"I think his merit-based admissions plan is phenomenal, and it distinguishes A&M from other universities across the nation," said Philip Shackleford, speaker pro tem of the Student Senate. "While other universities cave into the pressure of race-based admissions, A&M is leading the way toward success."

Gates also spoke about the numerous challenges A&M faced.

Gates said although the number of black and Hispanic applicants has increased by 19 percent and 8 percent respectively and the number admitted has increased 32 percent and 10 percent, the University still faces challenges in convincing more from these groups to enroll in the University.

"We want minorities to know that they are welcome at Texas A&M and that we want them to attend our University," Gates said.

Gates said that during the admission application review process, the field with the applicants' race is not available to the reviewers and that each applicant is treated individually and evaluated as a whole.

Gates also talked to senators about Dean L. Bresciani, the recently appointed vice president for student affairs.

THE BATTALION

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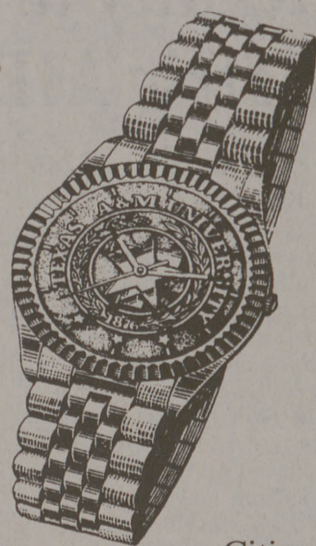


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