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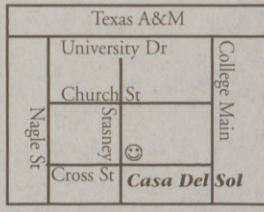
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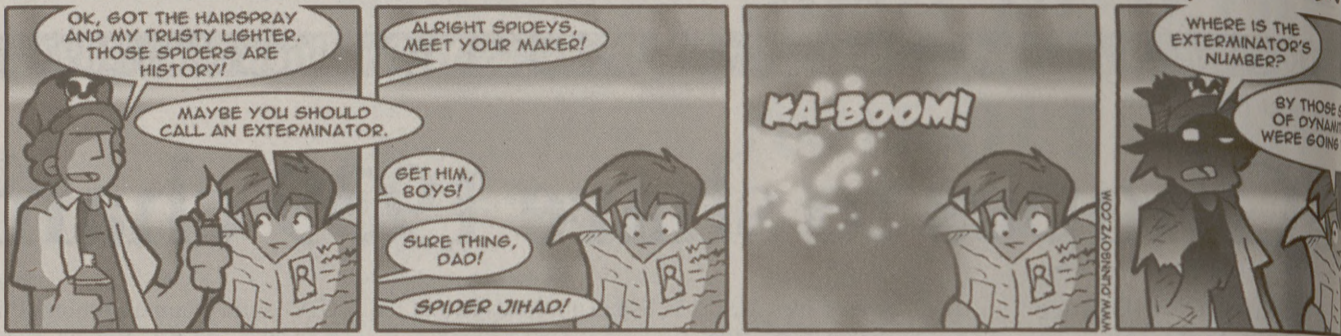
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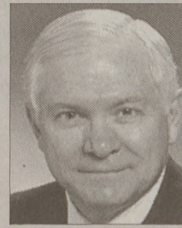
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DUNNBOYZ



Letter from the president

Dear Aggies of the University Apartment Community:



GATES

As many of you know, a fire at the University Apartments on Saturday evening resulted in an international graduate student's family being hospitalized. I and the entire Aggie family are deeply saddened that this tragic incident occurred and that it now has resulted in loss of a life. Other family members continue to receive medical attention. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family in its grief and as it copes in the days ahead. In addition, we are deeply concerned about all those who were affected by this tragedy.

The injured family members were taken to the burn unit at the John Sealy Hospital at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, one of the best medical care facilities for burn injuries in the state of Texas. Friends of the family are with them in Galveston. In addition, other individuals from Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University - Galveston campus, including the Interim Chief Executive Officer and his staff, are personally providing support and assistance.

Representatives of the Department of Student Life and International Student Services

are assisting those individuals who have had to evacuate their apartments. Texas A&M University has provided temporary housing and other daily necessities. University offices are assisting with federal regulations related to non-immigrant visa holders, and counseling also is being offered. I encourage any student who has other needs (academic or otherwise) resulting from this incident to contact the Department of Student Life (979-845-3111).

The welfare of all residents of University Apartments is a priority for us. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. Regardless, as an on-going safety precaution, the University has completed an inspection of the grounds surrounding the buildings and is in the process of conducting an apartment-by-apartment safety inspection. The State Fire Marshal, the state official with the authority to investigate fires and determine their cause, is in charge of the investigation of the fire.

Anyone with information that may assist the investigation should provide that information to the University Police Department (979-845-2345) which is assisting the State Fire Marshal with his investigation.

This incident is a terrible tragedy for the entire Aggie family. We will continue our around-the-clock support and assistance to all those affected. And, in the days and weeks ahead, we will keep you informed.

TCE

Cont. from page 1

The Texas Cooperative Extension releases lists such as the one compiled by Harris as part of its mission to educate the general public.

"We try to provide credible, non-biased information so that people can make their own decisions," Harris said.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks the security concerns of the public were significantly increased. Harris said it is important that people are prepared not only for terrorist threats, but for issues that have been around for a long time such

as natural disasters and accidents in the home.

"For instance we have a group of fact sheets or brochures that help individuals deal with the unexpected, instead of sensationalizing Sept. 11 they need to be prepared for floods, fires and also terrorism. They need to know what their local communities are facing," Harris said.

The Texas Cooperative Extension shares information in the form of press releases for local newspapers, and through a network of county officials across the state.

"There are 254 counties in Texas. There are agents out in these counties, every county is served in some

way. And those agents may take the same information and do a local program if they sense that's a particular need," Harris said.

Alma Fonseca, county extension agent for family and consumer sciences in Brazos County, said the Texas Cooperative Extension is unique in the way that it tailors its programs to fit the unique needs of each local community.

"The Texas Cooperative Extension at Texas A&M University provides us with the research based information that we in turn use to provide the educational programs for our communities," Fonseca said.

Bonfire

Continued from page 1

"The Bonfire Memorial is not just for the collapse in 1999," Raney said. "It is also about the tradition of Bonfire and the Aggie Spirit."

Raney said classes will be cancelled in the afternoon so that everyone will have the chance to hear the speakers and view the memorial. President Robert M. Gates and

Student Body President Jack Hildebrand will be among those speaking at the dedication.

Nueber said that while he was impressed with the symbolism at the memorial, he wishes the timeline at the memorial did not end abruptly in 1999.

"I would like to see some sort of statue or monument representing the hope to see the tradition continue in the future," Nueber said. "I know without a doubt that each of the victims would hate to see the tradition die with them."

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