

Veep Challenges Critics

(We take you now to the northeast room of the Memorial Student Center where the vice-president of bonfire activities, Faden Centerpole, is about to address his fellow Aggies.)

Tonight I want to discuss the importance of the Aggie bonfire to the American people. No operation depends more on the intelligent judgment of its workers. No operation has a more profound influence over Aggie spirit. Nowhere in our school are there fewer checks on vast power. Nowhere should there be more conscientious responsibility exercised than by the bonfire workers. The question is... are we demanding enough of our bonfire? ... And, are the workers on this project demanding enough of themselves?

When the work is completed—a task that we spend weeks in preparing—the height, the width and even the general appearance is subjected to instant analysis and querulous criticism. This criticism comes basically from

two directions. The right and the left.

It is obvious that these minds are made up in advance. One critic twice questioned the amount of spirit exhibited by this year's bonfire. Another challenged the ability of the Aggies on the gridiron. A third asserted that "these bonfires just don't compare with those back in the days of 'old army'."

The purpose of my remarks tonight is to focus your attention on this little group of men who not only enjoy a right of instant criticism to every bonfire except THEIRS, but more importantly, wield a free hand in selecting, presenting and interpreting the "Aggie Spirit" to the Nation.

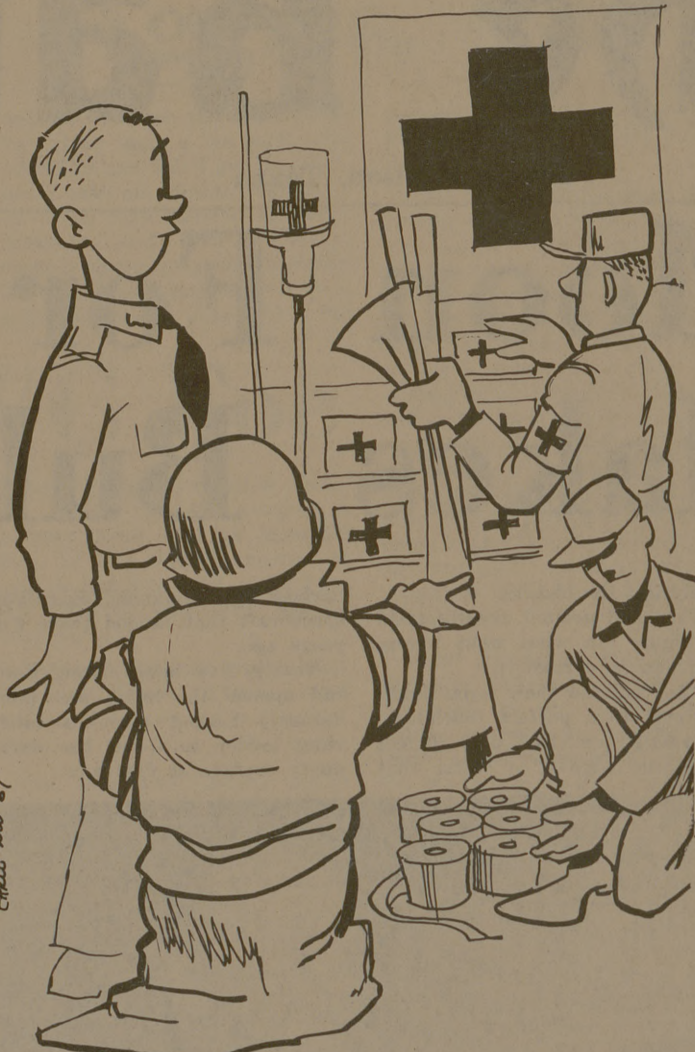
What is behind the Aggie bonfire? Some say that "a spirit of university masochism prevails, encouraged by an effete Corps of impudent snobs." This I resent. Some of the best people on this campus are in the Corps and they aren't encouraged. Of course, as

they say, "if you've seen one Corps, you've seen them all."

These people who have a comparison to make as each bonfire is constructed are known by many names. At times they are known as two percenters. Other times as "Sip lovers." And at still other times as former students and exes.

Some have even suggested that Aggies channel their energies into the building of such things as a playground instead of a bonfire. That's right, a playground. What do they want us to do? Show our desire to "swing the hell outta tu."

Tonight, I have raised questions. I have made no attempt to suggest answers. These answers must come from Aggies. They are challenged to direct their energy, talent and conviction toward improving the quality and objectivity of their bonfire. They are challenged to structure their own civic ethics to relate their great freedom with their great responsibility.



"I'm just a freshman and haven't worked on a Bonfire, but I can't see how these guys can be getting ready for it! All they're doing is sortin' medical supplies!"

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Listen Up the batt forum

Editor: Since Bob Peek has taken upon himself the task of free lance crusader for the motoring press via editorializing in The Battalion, something should be said in defense of Texas International Speedway and its management.

They successfully accomplished the enormous task of constructing the facility in less than nine months. The vast majority of their personnel were local people and did an outstanding job. The race itself was sanctioned by the FIA and SCCA and the SCCA conducted it, which includes establishing procedures under which the race was run. I'm sure there were security problems and unhappy journalists, including Mr. Peek, but would you believe these exist at old established tracks and races like the Grand Prix at Monza, Italy, or the Nurburgring in Germany? I assure you they occur.

The press, in general, is a great inconvenience to the drivers, crews, trying to work in their cars and race officials. These officials must remain calm while trying to convince some journalists the optimum positions for shooting assignments may be the middle of the track or the apex of the most

dangerous corner, however, someone, like the driver or the journalist, is likely to be killed. The real pros, like Bernard Cahier, have vast experience at getting their stories and will do so under the most extraordinary circumstances. Seldom, if ever, are even allowed the free access to the course you indicate. It just is not safe. Who is to decide what is safe and what isn't? It certainly can't be left up to Johnny-One-Time Photographer.

I talked with several drivers—Jack Brabham, Pete Revson, George Eaton, Bruce McLaren, Dennis Hulme and others and the consensus of opinion is the track needed running in for several races to improve conditions. TIS ran one shake-down race several weeks ago and the NACAR drivers had conducted a number of hours in tire testing prior to the Can Am. There simply wasn't time for more. The drivers said they would return if there is a Can Am at TIS next year. Eaton, in particular, said the track would become a good one. None specifically complained about dust and rocks. I looked over about ten cars after the race and didn't see any unusual chipping

from loose rocks or other objects on the track.

Admittedly, it was hot. The only comfortable crew around was Red Adair's, whose line of work is considerably warmer than Texas weather. It's really unfortunate the TIS management didn't arrange for a domed speedway with a constant 72° F. temperature, 20% humidity, and a steady 2 m.p.h. wind.

Incidentally, a high ranking member of the Ferrari crew said their engines failed due to lack of enough development time conflicts with your "dirt in the fuel" statement.

There are various forms of inexcusable ineptness, Mr. Peek, and yours is a failure to consider the facts and logical reasons which produced these things you complain about.

Your Bush League reporting is far more obvious than the faults of Texas International Speedway's management.

John M. Bozardt, '61

Editor: It is time for someone to point out to Professor Davenport that his recent attempt, via Listen Up, to start a logic revival here is quite unnecessary. It is unneeded because we have something far superior, namely Tradition. And, of course, when Tradition holds full sway there is no need for logic. Possibly, after a few more years of contemplation at the feet of Sul Ross, Professor Davenport will accept these self-evident truths.

Unfortunately he may have already "hooked" some persons on the lesser good of logic. Realizing that these persons may not be able to quit "cold turkey," I will take time, while preparing Professor Davenport's hemlock, to present them with a small problem: Which is more important? 1) Discussing the future of our country. 2) Gathering wood for a bonfire. For which activity are classes cancelled?

J. J. Malone Assoc. Professor of Mathematics

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Aggie Christian Fellowship will hear the Rev. Harold Wells and Col. Logan Weston present a panel on the "Christian View of Warfare" at 5:30 p.m. in Room 145 Physics.

Panhandle Hometown Club will plan for a Christmas party at 9 p.m. in the MSC Art Room.

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will distribute tickets to the Christmas party and dance at 7:30 p.m. in Room 2D MSC.

Brazos County Post 4692 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars will have a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Post Home.

Brazos Ornithological Society will hear Al Folweiler discuss identification of woodpeckers in Bryan-College Station at 7:30 p.m. in the Flame Room of the Lone Star Gas Co.

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Garland Hometown Club will elect officers at 7:45 p.m. in the Dorm 1 Lounge.

Sailing Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 110 Architecture.

THURSDAY

Houston Hometown Club will

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

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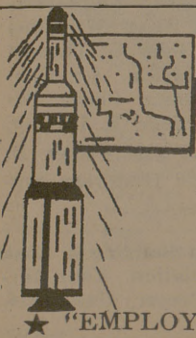
Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 4 1/2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

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By Charles M. Schulz

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