

Why Bonfire and why not Stallings

Editor:

I am sending copies of this letter to President Williams, Commander Col. Parsons, Student Senate President, Head Yell Leader, The Battalion and others in hopes of stimulating some rethinking of bonfire policy. In some ways this letter is difficult for me to write for I was once a head cheerleader in college and I know the value of building school spirit. Yet like many others, I find myself opposed to the idea of the Aggie Bonfire. However, my arguments are not ecological, neither side has given cogent arguments enough to convince me.

First of all, I got my dander up after my wife and I lost 2 nights' sleep from the construction noise and p.a. system—we live just 2 blocks from the site. Thankfully, my complaint was heard, and last night we got a

good night's sleep. I do thank those involved for this.

But then I read that the Student Senate voted over \$1500 for insurance for the bonfire workers; That's when the whole thing began to seem silly.

\$1500 is three partial scholarships for disadvantaged students. \$1500 is 100 thanksgiving meals for needy families.

\$1500 is enough to keep the Boy's Club center open a while longer. If you remember, one of them closed recently from lack of funds.

Then there's the manpower expenditure . . . how many Aggies would put the same effort and time into studying? They say probably 3500 students will end up helping; at \$1 an hour, how many more thousands of dollars would that be worth? Suppose this effort were directed to a Campus United Fund Drive, a carnival, solicitation drive or other

money-raising projects? Suppose the effort were directed to collecting food for the needy or setting up a free community thanksgiving meal as found at some other universities? Or perhaps toward a massive cleanup campaign in the area?

And I can't help but question the wisdom of a unconstructive project that is dangerous enough to call for hard hats, special insurance and traffic blockage and complex enough to call for construction equipment, communication vans and day and night labor by volunteer and semi-volunteer workers. It smacks of megalomaniacal pyramid building—proving we are the best because we have the largest bonfire. Is that what A&M wants to be remembered for?

I know others who feel as I do but are resigned, figuring they can't buck tradition or fight the machine. I assume though, that there is plenty of reasonableness and responsibility at A&M that constructive reconsideration is possible.

Aggies, consider the situation and its alternatives. Sure, we hate to see it go as it is now, but wouldn't it be more in keeping with Aggie ideals to replace the unreasonable and unconstructive with something reasonable and constructive? Wouldn't you rather your school be known for this rather than just for the fact that you can build the biggest bonfire?

Larry G. Mavner

Editor:

Another "Aggie Bonfire" has come and gone; and with it has gone any respect that Texas A&M University deserved as a conservation-conscious institution. By condoning and encouraging participation in the bonfire, administrators and students of A&M are promoting the attitude of thoughtless and unlimited consumption which has proven to be so disastrous to our environment. In the face of mounting national concern for readjustment of our priorities and responsibilities, Texas A&M blunders along in the spirit of the nineteenth-century frontiersman whose overwhelming primacy was one of personnel profit over social profit.

Each year this barbaric practice destroys acres of post oak and blackjack oak trees for the sole purpose of satisfying the hedonism of "True Aggies." Like their prehistoric ancestors, Aggies happily revel in this destructive adventure with the inner assurance that a blazing fire possesses the magical spirits to spur their warriors (football team) on to greatness. Trees which could be used as fuel are burned to ashes for no other purpose than to awe-inspire thoughtless onlookers. Not only

are vast numbers of trees destroyed by burning each year, but, according to workers in the cutting areas, many trees are cut down and left to rot because of overzealous cutting. Apparently all of these considerations are subordinate to the gratification of Aggie frolics.

The Aggie Bonfire is purportedly a symbol of the burning desire of Aggies to "beat the hell out of TU." On the contrary, in this era of awakening responsibility for environmental protection, it can only stand as a symbol of greedy and profligate consumption. If Aggies must build a symbol of their "burning desire" let them build an enduring and worthwhile symbol. Let them channel their manpower, ingenuity, and monetary resources into constructing rather than destroying.

The administration's active support of this wasteful expenditure of trees, money, and effort is a pitiful example of the prevalent attitude of "passing the buck." The protection of our environment is the responsibility of every individual, and A&M should be a leader in this field. Just what are your priorities, "Aggies"?

Mrs. Harriet Allen '70

The university does not actively support Bonfire. Whether or not there is a Bonfire is up to the students, if they want one, they'll have it, if not, they won't.—Ed.

Coach Stallings:

In 1964, when you first came to coach at A&M, I was president of the Houston A&M Club. You may recall that I had a special meeting one afternoon at the Rice Hotel for you to meet the press, the former students and the public. At that time, I was very much impressed with you—and I am still impressed with you. It has been apparent through the years that you are genuinely interested in each of the players under your supervision and that, as a former student yourself, your heart is with A&M.

I know that the late General Rudder assured you of a five-year contract, and I would like to see it honored, not only for your sake and in the interest of the reputation of A&M but also out of respect for the General. I was privileged to know General Rudder, and from my experience with him, I know that he was a man of his word, even in the face of conflict.

If A&M had beaten Texas Thursday, the situation would look differently. But how many coaches have beaten Texas in the past fifteen years or so? For that matter, how many times have A&M coaches beaten Texas since 1894?

Your situation reminds me of my Army days. A Pfc. having

trouble keeping up with clerical work would be reprimanded by his C.O. and transferred, only to be replaced by a second lieutenant, two master sergeants and four corporal clerks. It is entirely likely that your replacement will be given a salary increase, and the new one thousand-girl dormitory won't hurt A&M's recruiting program. These advantages should rightfully be yours.

Raymond C. Loomis '42

Editor:

I would like to address this letter to the Sophomore Class.

In the past we have used a class council with representatives from the corps, civilians and coeds. This council had been responsible for making plans and decisions concerning the Sophomore Class and especially Sophomore Weekend.

The council realized that there were people who would be interested in serving the class, but would not attend the meetings because it bore the name "council" and they were not a selected representative. Because of this, the Sophomore Council has changed in name to Sophomore Class meeting. This was a change in name only because the function will remain the same. This change will allow all interested sophomores to attend, participate and vote.

The Sophomore Weekend has been set for Feb. 11-12. We have a woody scheduled for Friday night, a barbeque for Saturday afternoon, and the formal dance Saturday night. We can still use people on committees to help carry out the plans for the weekend.

The first Sophomore Class meeting will be Wednesday Dec. 1 to 7:30 p.m. in room 241 of the Physics building. I would like to invite any interested sophomore to attend.

Randy Maness '74

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"You remember that doctor's appointment I had last Wednesday, well, he had to see me again Monday so I'm just now getting back . . ."

Bored

Immediately after the football game Thursday, the Board of Directors and President Jack K. Williams met to decide the fate of Coach Gene Stallings.

That he was fired came as no surprise. Almost everybody saw that it was coming — except perhaps Gene Stallings — and not too many people voiced strong disapproval.

But if anything has caught flak, it was the board's tasteless and unfeeling way of doing so.

And that is exactly what it was — tasteless and unfeeling. If anyone ever needs a lesson in how to shaft a trusting person, he should become an understudy to our board.

Why they had to hold their inquest after the game has yet to be answered. Perhaps the question yet remains unanswered because very soon after the meeting everybody that had anything to do with the decision left town. Whether for good reason or if they just wanted to "git while the git'in' was good" is another question. Whatever the reason, it looked pretty bad.

Something else that looked pretty bad was the way Gene Stallings went to the meeting expecting to have a year's extension given him. According to Stallings, Williams had told him that as long as we had an improved season and were a contender for a bowl game, he would have his contract renewed.

Well, we had a pretty good season and right up until 4:00 p.m. Thursday we were contenders for a bowl game. That speaks for itself.

Too, the board hadn't found a replacement for the man of which they so quickly rid themselves. They now leave the Athletic Department in limbo with all the assistants out trying to find different jobs. They have also started up one of those ever present rumor mills that dot this campus.

But perhaps the thing that made the board look worst was the way Gene Stallings acted. For a man who had ample opportunity and perhaps even reason to lash out at the board, Stallings acted with the utmost courtesy.

The Board of Directors could have taken a lesson from him.

Graduate courses to open in Galveston during spring

Graduate credit courses in education will be offered by A&M during the spring semester in Galveston, announced Dr. Don Seaman, director of field services for the college of Education.

Courses in adult education, curriculum and instruction, educational administration, educational psychology and industrial education will meet for three hours one night each week at the Texas Maritime Academy on Pelican Island.

Dr. Seaman said the classes provide a service to educators because they keep the people in touch with current trends and accelerate work on advanced degrees.

The courses are open to anyone with a baccalaureate degree. Pre-registration is from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 at the Texas Maritime Academy offices at Fort Crockett. Delayed registration is from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at the new TMA building

on Pelican Island. Classes begin the week of Jan. 17.

Additional information is available from Dr. Sammy Ray at the A&M Marine Laboratory in Galveston or from Dr. Seaman, Office of Field Services, College of Education, A&M 77843.

The Battalion

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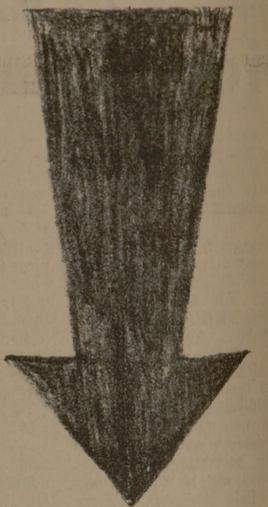
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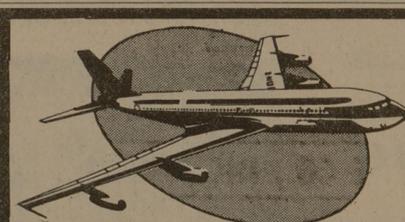
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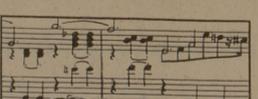
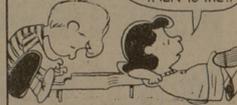
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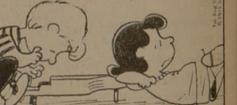
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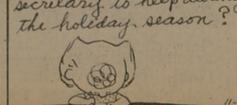


THAT'S CALLED ANSWERING WITHOUT ANSWERING



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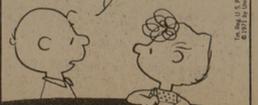
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WHY NOT? EVERYONE KNOWS THE OLD GUY IS LOADED!

