

The bonfire as it was



"Do you remember which dorm we were living in before the break?"

Pedestrians

Though the administration has been saying for a long time that A&M is to become a pedestrian campus, it came as somewhat of a surprise to most students when they returned and found that it had become just that over the semester break.

This is not to say that spacious, tree lined malls have appeared all over campus; no, instead they just went and put a hole anywhere you might want to drive and quite a few places you want to walk.

The problem is that they decided to put the holes in the middle of the main streets on campus, thereby making it difficult to do anything like go from the Chemistry building to the Memorial Student Center without having to go to North Gate to get there.

It's hard to criticize this work, being on the level of good for the ecology, progress, motherhood and apple pie, but it sure is a pain.

Environmental controls needn't cost: researcher

An A&M researcher believes environmental control in agriculture doesn't have to be costly, and has the statistics to support the belief.

Dr. Ronald D. Lacey, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, has found that a tax on environmental polluting chemicals, as well as a marketing quota farm program, will not only reduce the use of these chemicals in agriculture, but may even mean more profit to the farmer.

According to Lacey, also an economist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, a combination of these programs would reduce agricultural pollution and have the side benefit of minimizing the economic strain on the farmer.

The study took place in a five-county area of the Northern High Plains of Texas where the primary agricultural crops are grain sorghum and wheat. Factors such as amounts of nitrogen, herbicides and acreage were included in a computer program model. The acreage for each crop was further broken down into dry and irrigated.

Lacey, and William R. Masch, formerly a researcher in the same department, showed that a price increase in the chemical 2,4-D, a pesticide, from \$.52 per pound to \$2.26 per pound (due

Editor's note: Though it is now late after bonfire and the situation, for this year settled, the contents of this letter to the former university archivist, Ernest Langford, and The Battalion still apply. In it are some facts not known before and some opinions that need to be heard.

Some one planted a tree in the ashes of the recent bonfire. Some one wrote an article for The Battalion in which it was stated that the first log bonfire was built and burned in 1951. There is a wide range of opinion as to the worthwhileness of this tradition. Mr. Langford, the University Archivist, has asked me to give you the following information about the history of the bonfire.

Back in the fall of 1920, as one

Bulletin Board

- Tonight**
Wheelmen will meet at 7:30 in room 002 of the Services building.
- Ag Eco Club** will meet in room 112 of the Plant Sciences building at 7:30.
- Thursday**
Cepheid Variable will meet in the physics building at 7:30.
Williamson HTC will meet at the Memorial Student Center at 8. Pictures will be made.

Fake meteors being created on campus

A two-stage hydrogen gun which fires tiny balls of metal, glass or plastic to simulate meteor impact was fired for the first time last week.

The miniature meteorite range gun measures 14 feet and is a gift from NASA to the College of Engineering as part of a grant.

The gun will be used, according to Dr. James L. Rand, associate professor of aerospace engineering, to "simulate the effect of a meteor impact on various objects and surfaces such as the moon or space crafts."

The tiny ball travels approximately 17,000 feet per second (12,000 miles per hour) and researchers hope to increase that speed, said Dr. Rand.

The gun is powered by the compression of hydrogen in the first stage. This gas is then used to push the artificial meteor into a target. The target used was a half inch aluminum plate. The tiny ball bore a hole in the plate.

NASA has already given \$23,000 this year as part of the grant.

2 students

(Continued from page 1)
ial will follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery, under the direction of Jack H. Rowe Funeral Home, League City.

Hjornevik is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley L. Hjornevik of Reston, Va.; four brothers, David of San Marcos and Daniel, Douglas and D. Quincey, all of Reston; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Hjornevik of Moorehead, Minn., and maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ostby of Seattle, Wash.

Hjornevik received his bachelor's degree from A&M and was completing requirements for a master's degree.

of the coaches in the Athletic Department, I witnessed my first bonfire. It was a well aged tradition at that time. It was made up of community trash, boxes etc. that the merchants stored for the pick-up week preceding the bonfire, the wood piles of all the professors and every piece of loose wood and much that was not loose which was on or near the campus. The students particularly transported the one or more holer back yard outhouses, of which there were a great many in those days, to add to the bonfire. All of these materials were quickly combustible, even though the pile might be quite large the fire seldom outlasted the speech-making. The students had a big time. Yes, those were the great times? Please note the question mark. The College had 1700 students. The spirit was great. We had not been scored on in football for the past two seasons and went to the last game that year before a single touchdown was scored on our team. The bonfire was well on its way. It continued to be built in a similar manner for the next 15 years. The students were 100% for continuing this type of bonfire and were very unhappy when the present log bonfire was forced upon them.

In the summer of 1935, Dr. T. O. Walton, the College President, asked me to take the job of Commandant and Dean of Men. During the building of the bonfire my ideas about the bonfire, as a coach, began to take on a different slant in my new assignment. The morning following the 1935 bonfire, a very irate farmer came to my office to say that the boys had carried off his log barn, lock, stock and barrel. He demanded payment for the barn. We assessed each company and battery for enough to pay the man. There were many other complaints for less raids and it was evident to me that something should be done about this tradition. Jurisdiction in this case rested with the office of the commandant.

Prior to the time when the 1936 bonfire would be built, we issued

orders that no one would be allowed to collect bonfire materials or place them on the bonfire other than authorized personnel, and that the manner of building a legal bonfire would be under the direction of the commandant. This made the student body very unhappy, but being boys of an earlier generation, they figured that those in positions of responsibility should call the shots.

At that time there were many dead trees in the wooded area between the railroad and Easterwood airport. I got permission to cut and remove these dead trees to construct the 1936 bonfire. It was then when the first log and legal bonfire was built. The manner of building was as follows: an agency of the college furnished saws and axes and a couple of trucks. I personally marched the "bull ring" to the spot and took my turn at the saw. The sophomores and freshmen had a good time and thought it was "good bull". In a manner an old tradition was ended and another one was begun. I have mixed emotions about the present bonfire situation. The first log bonfire was not large but was large enough to get the job done. I think it is silly to strive each year to make it bigger than ever before. The work group has increased in size from the small disciplinary bull ring of the past to an annual bonfire which seems to breed a wide degree of fear or against opinion, with great numbers involved.

As a coach, I thought most of A&M's traditions were good. As Commandant, I thought many of them were bad, and managed to get rid of a few of those that kept the enrollment down.

As an oldtimer, I'll line up with my side of the generation gap. Many aspects of building the bonfire contribute to making a closer knit association among the students. I can't like a bonfire which destroys trees. Thanks to those who planted the tree.

Frank G. Anderson
Former A&M Coach
and Commandant

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PEANUTS
By Charles M. Schulz

PEANUTS: I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE STUDENT COUNCIL SNOOPY, BUT HERE WE ARE.

PEANUTS: EXCUSE ME, SIR, I WAS JUST TALKING WITH MY COUNSELOR..

PEANUTS: I'LL NEVER FORGET MY MOST FAMOUS CASE, "JOHN DOE VERSUS RICHARD ROE!"

PEANUTS: YES, SIR, I KNOW HOW SERIOUS THIS IS..

PEANUTS: "DE MINIMUS NON CURAT LEX... THE LAW DISREGARDS TRIFLES"

PEANUTS: THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT ALONG MY ATTORNEY..

PEANUTS: "HE WHO OWNS THE SOIL OWNS UP TO THE SKY!"

PEANUTS: I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TELL ANOTHER PERSON WHAT SHE SHOULD WEAR..

PEANUTS: IN MY OPINION THE DRESS CODE IS PIGGY

PEANUTS: "WHEN THE REASON FOR A RULE CEASES, SO SHOULD THE RULE ITSELF"

PEANUTS: I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY

PEANUTS: "HE WHO TAKES THE BENEFIT MUST BEAR THE BURDEN"

PEANUTS: I'M JUST GOING TO FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF MY ATTORNEY

PEANUTS: ACTUALLY, I THINK I PREFER THE TITLE "BARRISTER"