

Off-campus effort, Bonfire schedule coordinated

By GRETCHEN GARRETT
Battalion Reporter

Rules and procedures for working on the bonfire this year were explained at the off-campus organizational meeting of Off-campus Aggies (OCA) Monday night. Bonfire supervisors said off-campus students interested in helping with Bonfire should sign up at the OCA cubicle in the Student Programs Office and at all bus stops on campus.

Sid Bouse, a junior supervisor, said the cutting area for lumber will be the same place as last year — the Texas Municipal Power Authority (TMPA) area on Highway 30 near Carlos. Equipment, Bouse said, will be lent by businesses and individuals in the Bryan/College Station area. Students who work on Bonfire should be prepared to spend a lot of time and effort on it, organizers said. Work shifts will be from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. until 'Push' starts; then

work at the stack will continue all day and night until Bonfire is lit. A schedule of dates has been set up to organize working goals: Oct. 12 — The Bonfire cutting area will be marked off. Oct. 14 — Safety inspectors working on Bonfire will look at the cutting area. Oct. 17 — The center pole will be brought in from the cutting area.

Oct. 20-21 — This will be a cutting time at which everyone signed up is required to work. Oct. 27-28 — Civilian students will cut while the Corps goes to Houston for a Corps Trip before the A&M-Rice game. Nov. 1 — The center pole will go up. Nov. 4 and 11-12 — This is a required cutting date for everyone signed up. Nov. 18 — Push starts. Nov. 21 — Push is over until after

Thanksgiving holidays. Nov. 25 — Push starts again and continues until Bonfire is lit. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on or near the working sites, Bonfire supervisors stressed, and anyone even suspected of drinking will be told to leave the work area permanently. Strict enforcement of this is essential, a senior supervisor said, because these students are representing Texas A&M University while working on

land owned by TMPA, and while operating equipment in the stacking area. "We haven't had many accidents in the past," he said, "and we don't plan on having any this year. If students don't obey this rule, the University will be required to close down the working area and not permit a Bonfire to be built." Women will not be allowed to work with the men cutting and stacking wood, organizers said.

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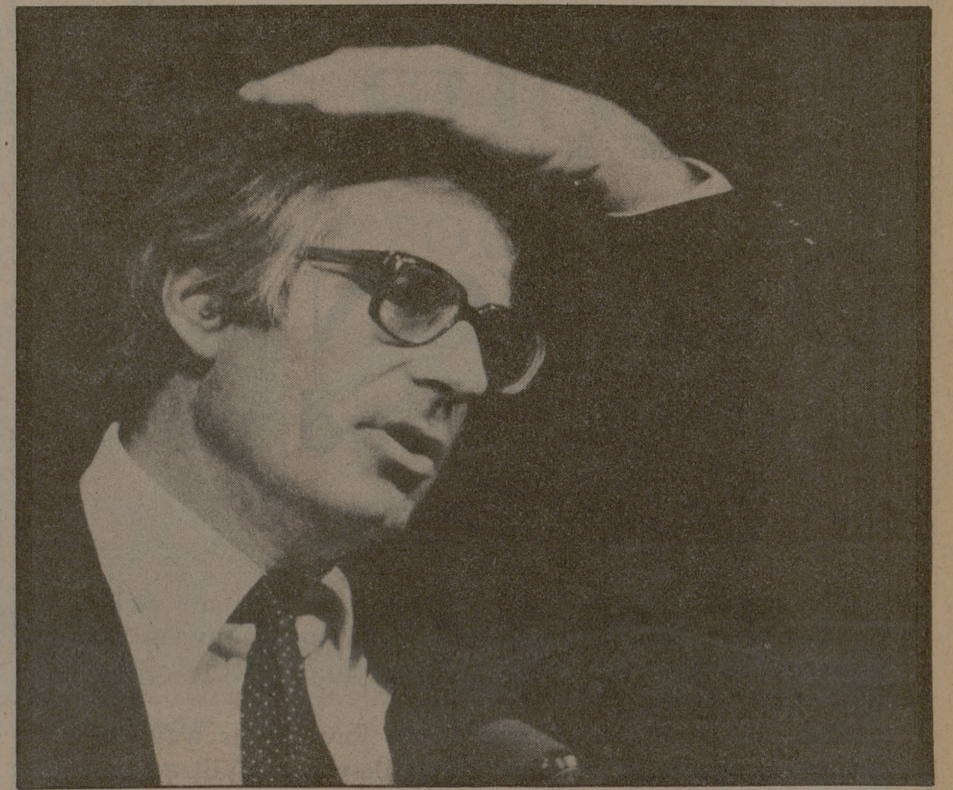
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David Halberstam, one of the most highly regarded political writers in America today, showed his audience many expressions as he spoke at Rudder Theater Wednesday eve-



ning. His speech, "The Political and Social Power of the Media," was presented by MSC Great Issues. Halberstam's



extensive knowledge of the media comes from many years of experience as a journalist. Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Writer says the media create politicians

By DARREL LUCKEMEYER
Battalion Reporter

Today's politicians are being groomed to look and act appealing to the public through media exposure, political writer David Halberstam said Wednesday night. "We have an electronic president who is better at creating images than running the country," Halberstam said in his speech, presented by MSC Great Issues. "Candidates are creations of media or people who know the media," he said. Politicians today run for office through a party apparatus instead of the primary system, Halberstam said. With the 1980 presidential elections ap-

proaching, Halberstam said all candidates must be media figures. Halberstam, author of the best selling book "The Powers That Be" which describes the rise to power of the American press, said the power rise began with the Kennedy-Nixon debates in 1960. Kennedy ran through the media instead of the party system, he said. "People began to gather around television sets in their own homes watching political programs," Halberstam said. Politicians want to get into these homes, he said. Halberstam said the rise of electronic media has brought about:

- a more powerful media,
- a volatile society,
- confusion between events and pseudo events which are hard to prove,
- a rise in the expectations of the society faster than the government can satisfy them, and
- a difference of style and substance.

Television inflates a president, then destroys him," he said. "We live increasingly in a presidential society so whenever anything goes wrong, blame it on the president." Everytime a president is seen on television, he becomes less of a mystery and is taken for granted, Halberstam said. Halberstam said the Pope is another example of an electronic media public official. "I suspect that the Pope was selected through the electronic media because of his

ability to reach people through the use of media," he said. Electronic media has brought changes to other areas of media reporting, Halberstam said. "In cities that had seven or eight competing newspapers, television has caused many to die leaving only one or two powerful papers to rival the government," he said. "People are suspicious of power." As for the upcoming presidential elec-

tions, Halberstam predicts that Sen. Edward Kennedy will be the heir to the Democratic nomination. "Kennedy is a classic media politician," he said. On the Republican side, Halberstam said Ronald Reagan is "very, very far ahead" but should not forget about John Connally, whose self-confidence should not be taken lightly.

FBI charges two in bombing plot

United Press International

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The FBI said Wednesday it arrested two leaders of the American White National Party and charged them with plotting to explode a bomb Wednesday at an elementary school. The school was attended by one of the children of U.S. District Court Judge Robert Duncan, who ordered the desegregation of the city's schools this year. The FBI identified the men as John Gerhardt, 26, and his brother, Edward Gerhardt, 28, both of Columbus. Joseph Yablonski, special agent in charge of the Cincinnati Division of the FBI, personally arrested the brothers in suburban Westerville. The Gerhardt brothers were indicted early Wednesday by a federal grand jury and by a Franklin County grand jury. The federal indictments charged them with conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Columbus school children, malicious attempt to damage an institution receiving federal financial assistance, and obstruction of justice.

The first two federal counts carries a maximum sentence each of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The county charges are conspiracy to commit aggravated arson and attempted aggravated arson, each of which carries a penalty of 5 to 15 years in jail and a \$7,500 fine. The brothers were to be arraigned Thursday on the federal counts and Monday on the county charges. Columbus Police Chief Earl Burden said the American White Nationalist Party, which is headquartered in Columbus, is affiliated with the White Unity coalition, which he described as a "racist hate group."

"We have been aware of the Gerhardt brothers and the group for some time," Burden said. "When we became aware of the bombing plot we notified the FBI and they provided assistance in this case."

Burden, Yablonski, County Prosecutor George Smith and U.S. Attorney James C. Cissell all refused to discuss details of the investigation, citing fears that pre-trial publicity would damage the prosecution. But Burden did say that "their intention was to place a bomb in the school during school hours today (Wednesday)." Judge Duncan was not available for comment, but school officials said Duncan's daughter was in attendance Wednesday. "School officials were not notified of the plot until the arrests were made," said Burden. "We did not want to alarm them and we had the situation in control."

Burden said the two men were arrested at 10:30 a.m., but he would not comment on whether they were on their way to the school or whether they had a bomb in their possession. But county officials said "physical evidence" was found.

Burden said the bomb was "intended to do major damage," but he would not disclose the type of explosives or the size. He said Columbus officials were pleased that the desegregation of the city's public schools had gone "without incident" this fall and said if the plot had been carried out it "would, obviously, been a major disaster for all of us."

The court-ordered busing plan to desegregate had been ordered to go into effect a year ago by Duncan but had been held up in the courts. The busing proceeded peacefully this fall.

Salvadoran party calls for overthrow

Firm threatened into buying ads

United Press International
FULLERTON, Calif. — At the demand of Central American terrorists who kidnapped two of its executives, a U.S. electronics firm is financing an expensive newspaper advertising campaign calling for a leftist overthrow of the government of El Salvador.

Two-page ads costing more than \$58,000 appeared Wednesday in the Los Angeles Times and The New York Times, calling for "popular insurrection and liberation war" against the government of the Central American nation. The ads also will appear in Central American and European newspapers.

The ads, signed by the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, were

paid for by Beckman Instruments Inc. The Salvadoran party has claimed responsibility for the Sept. 21 kidnapping of two Beckman executives, Dennis R. McDonald, 37, of Whittier, Calif., and Fausto Bucheli, 41, of Fullerton.

Gunmen ambushed the Americans as they drove past a women's prison on the outskirts of San Salvador, forced them into a pickup truck at gunpoint and killed their Salvadoran driver, Jose Luis Paz Tratarra, when he tried to resist.

Since the victory of the Sandinista guerilla movement over the Somoza regime in neighboring Nicaragua, revolutionary violence has increased in El Salvador.

"It was demanded we run the ads in the

interests of our people, the implications being that something would happen to them if we didn't," said company spokesman Bill Gregory. "The PRTC says the men are well — and run the ads if you want to keep them that way."

He would not say whether the kidnapers had promised to free the executives in return for the ads, but said, "We expect our people to be released once the ads have appeared."

The ads, in clumsy English poorly translated from Spanish, are illustrated with three photos of bloody bodies, including what appears to be a disemboweled young boy.

The company made no attempt to change or edit the ad, Gregory said.

Beer-by-the-bucket forbidden at family-oriented Wurstfest '79

United Press International
NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas — Beer lovers will have to buy their suds by the cup at Wurstfest '79 because sponsors of the annual festival are banning sales of beer-by-the-pitcher or bucket.

Wurstfest organizers said they want to return the Nov. 21 German-style festival to the family entertainment category and

avoid difficulties experienced in some past years.

"We have had the problems of too many people, crowd control, excessive consumption of alcohol," said Wurstfest Committee executive secretary Tom Purdum.

"We started this thing out to be a family affair, and in recent years it seems like the younger group was becoming dominant, and their likes and desires were being ca-

tered to, rather than the family," Purdum said.

In addition to the ban on sales of beer in hefty pitchers or buckets, Purdum said a \$2 charge will be collected for admission to the Wurstfest grounds.

"This will primarily give us a way to control the flow of people," he said.

There is an additional \$3 charge for admission to the Wursthalle for dancing.

Cullen Davis says he was trying to stall as he 'followed McCrory's lead' on tape

United Press International
FORT WORTH — T. Cullen Davis testified he was trying to gain time and appear cooperative in his tape recorded responses to David McCrory's statements about the faked murder of a judge and plans for hiring hitmen to kill other Davis enemies.

Davis, on trial a second time on charges he solicited the murder of his divorcee judge, Joe Eidson, who was not harmed, said Wednesday he thought he was helping the FBI by meeting with the tape recorder-equipped McCrory.

Asked by defense attorney Richard "Racehorse" Haynes about his Aug. 20,

1978, statement that it would be two days before he could get the money to hire hitmen for his other enemies, the millionaire said he was just following McCrory's lead.

"What I said was trying to stall him. I thought he was going too fast. I wanted time to talk with the FBI," Davis told the jury.

No bootline at U of H game

Once again, Kyle Field construction has thrown a monkey wrench into the workings of an Aggie football game.

However, this time it's not the freshmen who are "sucking it up," it's the seniors: there will be no bootline after halftime of the Texas A&M-Houston football game.

Pete Greaves, head yell leader, said that construction and the necessity of seating 8,000 people on the track would make a bootline impossible.

"There's not going to be enough room to have it," he said.

However, he said, there will be a bootline for the remaining home games.

"We will have one at SMU, Arkansas and Texas," he said. "This week is only because of the construction problems."

Bootline is a small yell practice for seniors only, held after halftime to greet the football players as they return to the field.