

THE BATTALION

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Saturday's kickoff changed

Kickoff time for Saturday's Texas A&M-SMU football game has been changed from 1:30 p.m. to 11:50 a.m. The change was made to accommodate ABC-TV's regional television coverage, which starts at 11:30 a.m.

Sex bias arguments figure in Bonfire policy change

By GRETCHEN GARRETT
Battalion Reporter

The change in policy allowing women to participate in Bonfire construction came about mainly because of the legal arguments of sex discrimination.

According to a memorandum issued by Col. Thomas R. Parsons, chairman of the bonfire and yell leader committee, Parsons said at an Oct. 18 committee meeting that Bonfire is a Texas A&M-sponsored activity, and that the University believes that any activities relating to it must be opened to all students under equal rules, without regard to race, sex or creed.

Parsons also said that to his knowledge, there had never been a policy statement issued by the University or a University official which specifically excluded women from participation in any aspects of Bonfire construction.

The purpose of the committee meeting was to discuss the role of women at Bonfire activities and to make a recommendation to Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, for a University position in the matter. Twelve committee members and approximately 35 visitors were present, most of whom were red and yellow pots (Bonfire safety advisors).

At the meeting, Parsons said Ron Hilton, Bonfire adviser, had reported to him that around Oct. 8, five women in the Corps of Cadets came to the Bonfire cutting safety class and were told by those conducting the class that they would not be permitted to enter the cutting area be-

cause it was prohibited by University policy.

The women, Parsons said, attended the class but they were not issued cutting cards, which are a requirement for entering the cutting area.

In the memorandum, Parsons said that he asked for discussion on the role of women at Bonfire, and with no objection from the committee, invited visitors to participate in the discussion.

The principal arguments against participation by women in the cutting area, Parsons said, were made by red pots. Objections were that safety would be jeopardized since most women have not had much experience in that type of work. The red pots gave other arguments: the women had no trained supervisors within their ranks, they would not be physically able to perform the work, women in the cutting area would lead to more "horseplay," and not enough red pots were available to supervise large groups of women workers.

Various members of the committee responded positively to the arguments, Parsons said, and some suggested that a program could be developed to train and supervise women.

Members voted to make a recommendation to Koldus that women be given the same opportunities to participate in Bonfire activities as men, provided they abide by the same training, safety, and procedure rules. All but two members voted in favor of the motion.

Koldus approved the recommendation.

"I think it's fine (for women to work on Bonfire)," he said. "My daughters have been helping me for a long time with things like that, and I don't see anything wrong with it."

"It was a legal question and there were no grounds for this proposal not to be passed," Hilton said.

He said he thinks some of the committee members voted affirmatively not because they agreed, but because they knew that legally, there was nothing that could be done.

This year at the cutting area, the women are put in a separate area from the men and have a male supervisor with them.

"We put them in a separate area," Hilton said, "to show them what to do so they can learn safety procedures. It's easier to teach them when they're in a group."

"Next year, they'll have their own supervisors, so this practice won't have to be carried on," he said.

Tom Murray, who is co-adviser with Ron Hilton, said he doesn't do much advising because this is his first year to serve on the Bonfire committee and he is still learning the basics of the operation.

"My experience before this year was one visit to the stack a year, and that was to see it burn," he said.

"I can say, however, that I can see the red pots' views about this," he said. If there was some sort of serious accident, he said, the Texas Municipal Power Authority, which owns land used for the cutting

site, might not ask Texas A&M back next year.

"Changes always come. We need to accept that fact and set out to provide the best training and supervision we can," Murray said.

Dr. Kerry Hope, committee member, said she was for the proposal because of the legal and emotional sides of the matter.

"The point I was trying to make at the meeting was that women cannot be kept out of such activity," Hope said. "I feel like if women are part of the Corps they should participate in whatever the Corps men participate in. Those women who were asking to cut were in the Corps and were in excellent physical condition; therefore I think they can keep up with the men."

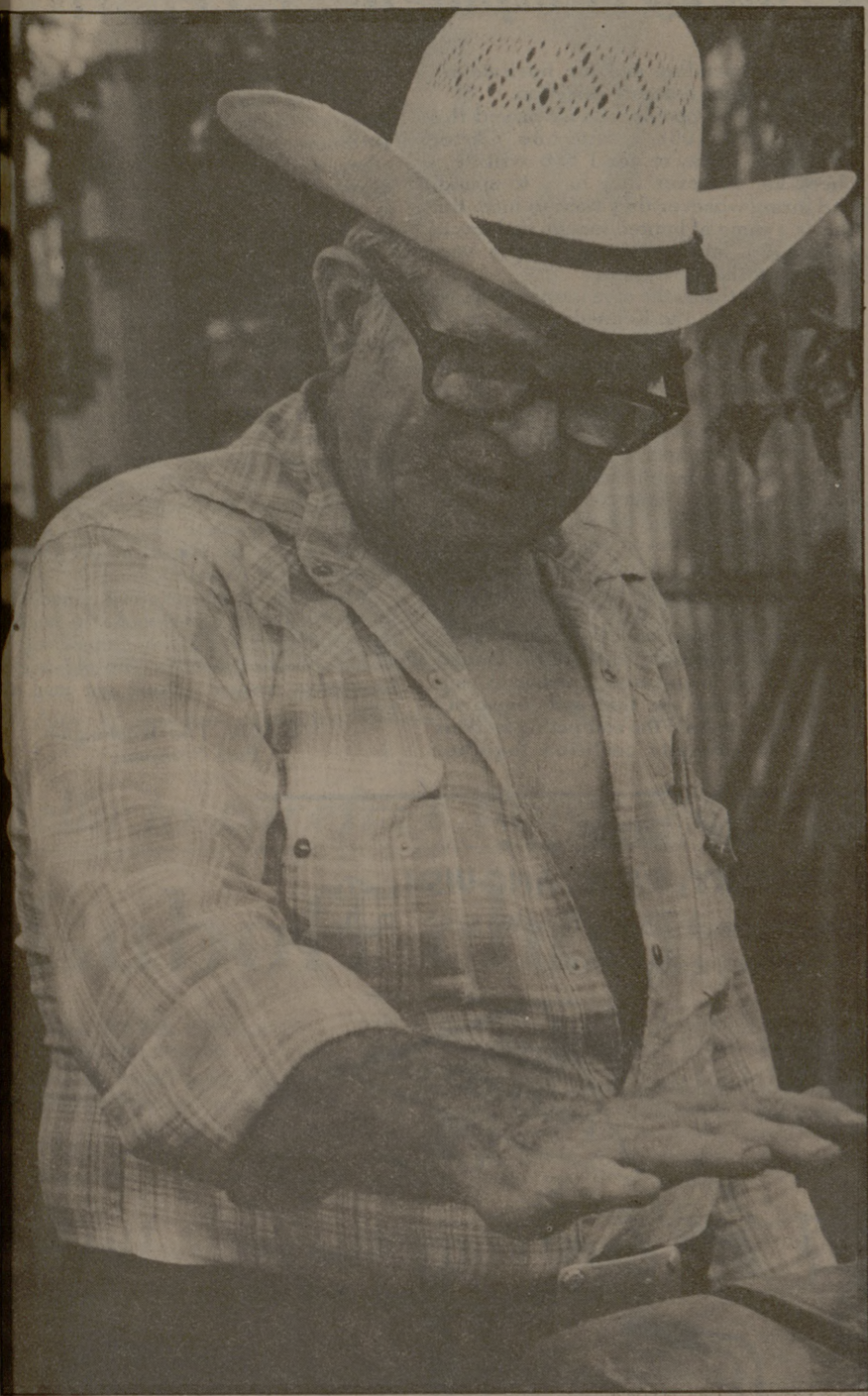
Hope said she recognizes that it's painful for changes to take place, but these type of changes must occur.

About eight women came out to the cutting site the first Saturday they were allowed to cut, Parsons said, and about 18 on Sunday.

Scott Hutchins, a senior red pot, said that overall the weekend ran smoother than they had expected.

Mark Rhea, senior coordinator, expressed some disagreement.

"For the amount of work they did, it wasn't worth the trouble to set them up a separate area and keep a supervisor with them the whole time," he said. "They didn't cut more than 10 logs."



Battalion photo by Clay Cockerill

Water witch?

Ben Polley, an avid user of a divining rod, says that all matter exudes energy waves that make it possible for him to practice his art. Expert opinion varies as to whether dowsing, or water witching, is based in fact or fiction. See related story, page 6.

Freshmen to hold run-offs Wednesday

By ELLEN EIDELBACH
Battalion Reporter

Run-off elections will be held Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for eight freshman candidates running for four class officer positions.

Candidates for the runoff positions include: Dan Stedham and Rocky Path for Class of '83 president, Mike Lawshe and Pam Baldwin for vice president, Diana Hordam and Jeff Cantrell for secretary-treasurer, and Kathy Bartholomew and Cindy Smith for social secretary.

Candidates for freshman class president, Dan Stedham of Fairfax, Virginia, and Rocky Path of College Station, explained Tuesday they hope to do if elected.

"I plan to bring unity to the Class of '83 and make it the best that's ever come through," Stedham said.

Path said, "I plan to do whatever work is put before me and do it to the best of my ability." He added he'd like to see the freshman class "unified and rise to the top as soon as possible."

On the list of how to accomplish his goals, Stedham said he'd "listen to all the people's ideas, then choose and implement the best," and "provide an opportunity for each freshman to feel a part" of the

freshman class and inform freshmen by "getting out and talking to them."

Path says he doesn't "know what all the office is going to involve yet."

In order to obtain his goals, he said he "wants to hold class meetings so people will know what's going on."

The two candidates gave differing reasons for running for the class president's position.

Stedham says he believes it is important to contribute to the class and class activities. "I feel I can contribute my best as a class officer," he said.

Path said he ran because of past positions he has held and "just a will to work."

To vote, freshmen should bring I.D. cards to one of the following polling places:

- main floor of the Memorial Student Center
- in front of Sbis Dining Hall
- Commons main desk area
- the Corps of Cadets Guard Room.

Election Commissioner Bruce Russell said the ballots from the run-off elections should be counted by 10 p.m. Wednesday.

Russell said about 1,824 freshmen voted in last week's election, about 23 percent of the class.

New York nuke protest called 'success'

Attempt to close stock exchange fails

United Press International
NEW YORK — Anti-nuclear demonstrators claim their siege of the New York Stock Exchange was a success even though they failed to achieve their aim of shutting it down on the 50th anniversary of the Crash of 1929.

Police said 1,045 protesters who tried to block entrances to the exchange were arrested or given summonses during the

nine-hour rally Monday, the most ever taken into custody in an anti-nuclear demonstration in New York City.

Those arrested included Vietnam War-era activists David Dellinger and Daniel Ellsberg. Ellsberg's son, Robert, was arrested twice.

Most were released immediately, but about 290 who refused to give their names

were held for arraignment.

Mounted police at times pressed into the crowd and there were a few reports of police use of excessive force, but overall the mood lacked the animosity that marked the antiwar protests of the 1960s.

And the Big Board would not be stopped. Trading, although lighter than usual, began at 10 a.m. and ended at the normal 4 p.m. closing.

It was difficult to determine whether the protesters were responsible for the low turnover.

The demonstration was organized by an anti-nuclear group known as Wall Street Action, which had promised to shut down the exchange by surrounding it with teams of 10 to 15 people trained in nonviolent action.

Rumors of murders, threats surface, but area police have verified none

By RICHARD OLIVER
Battalion Staff

Two weeks have passed since the murder of LaShan Muhlinghaus, but many people are still feeling the repercussions.

With the shock of the murder still lingering in the air, many rumors have begun to surface, and the nervousness of the Bryan-College Station community is beginning to show.

The rumors are numerous:

- a report of a weekend murder in the Sevilla apartments.
- a report of rapes in the Travis and Viking apartments.
- reports of suspicious characters haunting apartment complexes and leaving warnings for victims on cars.

The rumors were heightened over the weekend when a Dallas television station reported a murder at the Sevilla Apartments in College Station.

Although the nervousness may be

justifiable, College Station Assistant Police Chief Edgar Feldman says the rumors are false.

"They're not true," he said Monday afternoon. "There have been no murders or threats."

Feldman, however, said the number of police calls reporting suspicious men and prowlers has increased. He said most of the calls concern a suspect sketch released by the police department last week.

"We've received five to ten calls a day on the sketch," he said. "We have to check these out. An increased number of obscene phone calls have been reported, along with prowler calls. Someone sees a suspicious man and calls us up. We have to check all of these out. We're just following different leads trying to get a connection."

"In fact, I just received a phone call from a girl who had heard the exact same rumors you just told me.

They're just not true."

Feldman said the investigation has turned up many leads daily, but the process is slow.

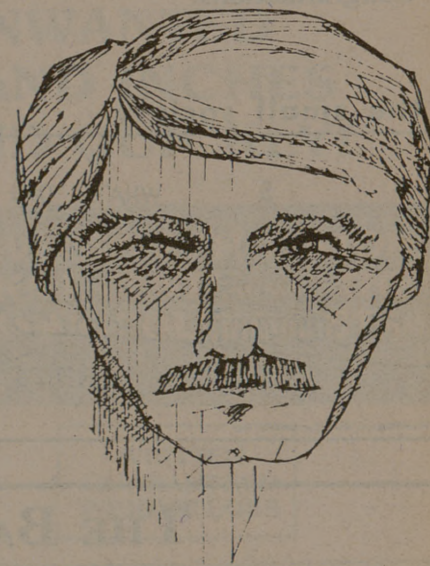
"We have 15 to 20 leads a day coming in," he said, "plus other crimes to investigate. We're making progress in the respect that we're getting different phone calls in response to our investigation. I won't be satisfied until we have a solid suspect."

Feldman said he thinks the rumors have surfaced because people are hopeful for a solution.

"They're wishing we would have a suspect," he said, "and it was all over."

He advised area residents to be careful in whatever they do.

"If you're going to write this up in an article, advise everyone, especially females, to go in pairs," he said. "Always make sure your house is locked before you leave, and leave a light on in the house. Keep your cars locked."



Police developed this composite drawing of the suspect in the LaShan Muhlinghaus murder.

State requires student groups to pay sales tax

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Staff

Student organizations at Texas A&M University must pay state sales tax on all taxable purchases, contrary to the previous belief that they were tax-exempt.

The state comptroller of public accounts has decided that recognized student organizations are not exempt from paying the sales tax and must begin to do so immediately.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, said the comptroller declared the organizations were not part of the institution of Texas A&M and therefore did not qualify for exemption.

"We have been arguing back and forth with them for a few months," Adair said. "The local sales tax people have been say-

ing for a long time that we should pay." Officials in the local state comptroller's office said the current situation has resulted from a series of misunderstandings.

"They (the student organizations) just misinterpreted the law," enforcement officer Hugh H. Krenek said. "It's always been this way."

Fred E. Kolkhorst, another enforcement officer, said the new policy will save his office a lot of the trouble they had encountered earlier.

Kolkhorst said any sales tax money paid by the organizations in the past was sent to Austin through the university's voucher system, bypassing the local comptroller's office. By the time the office was notified of a non-payment, he said, the semesters

had changed and organization officers were hard to locate.

"This (the policy change) is something we got into as a result," Kolkhorst said. "The organizations were working under the assumption that since they existed on campus and may have received funds from the school, they were exempt."

Kolkhorst said organizations must apply for exemption, but he was not sure of the specifications they must meet in order to qualify. A few examples of those who might qualify, he said, are those that are part of a national organization, those solely state or federally funded and those who have federal exemptions.

"If you qualify under federal exemptions, we will recognize that and honor it," he said, "but we must be notified if this is the case."

Denton said exemption is determined by the Internal Revenue Code and the Texas Tax Code. Under the latter, some educational and charitable organizations are exempt, as are those who do not have to pay federal income taxes.

However, to qualify for the IRS exemption a 13-page form must be filed, along with periodic additional returns. This is not very practical for student organizations, he said.

Organizations interested in applying for exemption must do so on an individual basis with the student legal office, he said.

Student Legal Adviser Lowell Denton said a meeting was held to explain the new policy to student organizations, but few representatives attended. At the meeting, questionnaires were handed out to those

interested in applying for exemption. Of the dozen or so distributed, he said, only three have been completed and returned.

"We are trying to determine which organizations have substantial economic interest," Denton said. He explained that if an organization would gain only \$5 per year from the exemption, they would probably not want to go to the trouble of applying for it.

At least two or three organizations may find it to their benefit to apply," Denton said. A few (Campus Crusade for Christ, the Student Y and the Floriculture Club) may already be exempt.

Taxable items are those meant for immediate consumption, Denton said.

The agricultural clubs that sell turkeys and hams during the holidays would not have to pay taxes on the meat because they

are not for immediate consumption, he explained.

Kolkhorst said the new policy is not retroactive, but added that it is effective immediately.

Organizations applying for exemption should pay sales taxes now until a decision is reached regarding their eligibility. If they are granted exempt status, the tax money spent during the waiting period can sometimes be recovered, although the expense may not be worth it.

"They can petition to recover the back taxes," Kolkhorst said, "but applying and recovering are two different things. You might spend \$100 trying to recover \$50."

Student organizations that did not have representatives at the meeting should contact either the student attorney's office (845-5821) or Dr. Adair (845-1133).