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Bonfire work creates safety, fire hazards

CS police, fire chiefs take safety measures

By RICHARD OLIVER

While most people are watching the Bonfire light up the sky on Nov. 30, police will be watching to make sure it doesn't light up anything else. College Station Police Chief Douglas Landua said he isn't taking any extra precautions for the fire, but the threat of an additional blaze is always there. "It depends so much on weather conditions," he said. "Numerous fires have been caused because of it (the Bonfire). If the weather is dry and the wind is out of the north, then we have to watch out for the fires away from the campus. If the wind is out of the south, we have to watch for the campus." The Bonfire is being built on the Duncan field on the south side of campus. Landua said leaves and wood shingles on the tops are the main cause of the off-campus blazes. "The worst fire I can recall is a roof fire near Aberdeen Street," he said. "We publicize as much as we can through news media before the fire — if we see the wind will be out of the north — and warn the people of the dangers." The campus is not immune to the Bonfire's dangers, either, Landua noted. Perhaps the most memorable campus fire was caused by sparks from the bonfire was Duncan Dining Hall. "Duncan has sort of a foam-type roof," Landua said. "Any little spark will put a fire through it. It usually costs the University a bit to resurface it." A defense has been found, however. "The University usually puts people on the roof and runs a water hose on it to keep it wet," he said. "There is usually a chore of getting people on top of the roofs on campus whenever the wind is right." Another problem confronting the Col-

lege Station police and fire departments is the crowd size and related traffic.

"The basic problem is handling the traffic," said College Station Police Lieutenant Mason Newton, in charge of traffic control for the Bonfire. "We work with the fire department, and it takes just about everybody we've got in the uniform division, plus calling out a few reserves. The fire department also has to call out quite a few extra men, too."

Newton said the increased population of Texas A&M University will cause more problems.

"The streets are not any bigger," he said. "There are more people, and more cars. It's a big burden on the city."

Landua agrees. "We have everybody on-duty and off-duty working on this thing," he said. "The traffic just jams. If anything happens, it would be difficult to get help in."

The departments, Newton added, usually block off city streets to the south of the Bonfire.

"We limit this area just to the residents of the area and emergency vehicles," he said. "This makes a lot of people mad because they can't park over at their friend's house and go to the Bonfire from there."

The fire department will have emergency trucks on stand-by in specified areas, depending on the wind direction, Landua said.

"The vehicles won't be right at the Bonfire, but they'll be close by," he said. "If the wind is out of the north, we'll park over there; if it's to the south, we'll keep an eye on the campus."

There are no city ordinances concerning the Bonfire, Landua said. The city does not try to enforce city codes on campus.

Both men agreed it costs the city quite a bit to watch the fire, but said figures were not available.



Bonfire workers strain to brace the center pole which will support Texas A&M University's Bonfire, which will be held before the Dec. 1 football game against the University of Texas.

Health center treats 70 injuries from work

By LAURA CORTEZ

Battalion Reporter

Bonfire at Texas A&M University not only means groups of students working together diligently — it means scores of injuries as well.

Since the first cutting weekend (Oct. 20-21), the staff at Beutel Health Center has been treating Bonfire participants for everything from ax injuries to poison ivy.

Dr. C.B. Goswick, director of student health services, said that as of this week, 70 accident reports have been filed at the health center.

He said that although 42 of these cases have been poison ivy, which is traditionally the No. 1 Bonfire ailment, there have been several serious cases as well.

One student dropped an ax on his foot, which resulted in a gash so deep that it cut into the bone, Goswick said.

He added that another ax-related mishap resulted in the partial amputation of a finger.

Heat exhaustion, muscle strain, insect bites, eye injuries, cuts and bruises are also among the Bonfire injuries.

Frances Gough, coordinator of nursing services, said that the number of cases handled at the health center so far this year is about the same as it was during the past few years. She added that this is good considering the steady increase in enrollment.

She said the number of patients depends greatly upon the poison ivy situation and the weather, and that there are generally more accidents when there has been a lot of rain.

Gough said she noticed a decline in the number of injuries around 1973.

"More and better first aid stations at the cutting sites, good weather, improvements in cutting classes, and the fact that the

students have been cutting for less hours at a time than in previous years have cut down on the number of patients we handle here," she said.

Gough said that although there have always been first aid stations at the cutting sites, this is the second year that emergency medical technicians have been on the scene to help out.

Scott Hutchins, one of the redpots (supervisors) of Bonfire, said that most of the people participating in the cutting and stacking have been safety conscious, but said that he and the other redpots are constantly patrolling the cutting areas to make sure that axes are being handled properly and that people are taking proper precautions to avoid possible hazards.

He also said that Bonfire is being handled differently this year than in the past as far as the number of hours people spend at the cutting sites.

"Instead of going out there at 6 a.m. and coming back at 5 p.m. like before, we send out two different shifts," he said. "One group goes out at 6 a.m. and stays until 3 p.m., and the other group goes out at 10 a.m. and comes back at 5 p.m."

Hutchins said that the reason this change was made was to give Corps members more time to study on mandatory cutting weekends, but added that this also decreases the number of accidents because people don't get as tired or as careless when they are out there for shorter periods of time.

But no matter what safety precautions are taken, Goswick said that there will always be many injuries.

He said that it is impossible to prevent certain accidents from happening, and added that "things such as muscle strain and fatigue are inevitable."

A&M backs publication

Editor angry about new magazine

By RHONDA WATTERS

Battalion Staff

When Mike Jones, publisher of an Aggie sports magazine named Gig 'Em, heard his

alma mater was supporting a rival magazine, what he calls his maroon blood began to boil.

"I'm not afraid to tell my story," Jones

said. "I feel I haven't been given a fair shake."

Gig 'Em is a local publication devoted strictly to covering athletics at Texas A&M University. Started in April of 1978, it publishes four issues a year and a minimum of 20 newsletters, putting out one a week during football season. Owned by three people, two of them former students of Texas A&M, it is financed by ads, subscriptions and personal investment. It has a subscriber list of about 700.

Since its beginning, Gig 'Em has been the only magazine that exclusively covered Texas A&M athletics. But come December, it will have a rival called Spirit, which Jones said could run Gig 'Em out of business.

Spirit will be especially threatening because of a contract signed by President Jarvis Miller with Le Duc Enterprises of Kansas City, the publisher of Spirit. The University administration, Association of Former Students and the Aggie Club have all given the magazine their full support.

Le Duc Enterprises publishes athletic magazines for major colleges across the country, including Purdue, Penn State, Florida and Nebraska.

Le Duc has promised the Athletic Department a percentage of each subscription fee once the number of subscriptions passes 3,000. It has also said it will give the Athletic Department free copies of the magazine to pass out to professional scouts.

Jones said it is not the fact that a rival magazine is giving him some competition that has him upset. He said he was upset because the University did not put the magazine contract up for bidding.

"A decision was made to accept the Le Duc publication without any consideration to any other publication," Jones said. "We heard about it through other people too late."

Gig 'Em could not have competed with Le Duc on a money offer, Jones said, because his business is much smaller, but it was not fair for the University to exclude competing publications.

Jones said his lawyer is looking into whether the University can give a contract out without open bidding.

James Bond, lawyer for Texas A&M, said the University did not do anything illegal.

"There's not a competitive bidding statute that requires bidding on anything except construction contracts," Bond said.

Jones said he wasn't sure that was true. "My lawyer is going to check in that area to see if that's the case," he said.

Bond also said that the contract did not have to be approved by the Board of Regents because it had delegated that authority to President Miller.

Jones said that all the official support given "Spirit" will definitely give it an advantage over Gig 'Em at the start of the next subscription year.

"The most (administration) support Gig 'Em ever had was a phone call from Emory Bellard," approving its beginning, Jones said.

Jones said that at the start of Gig 'Em's publication, the Association of Former Students helped the magazine out some, but all the Aggie Club would do was sell them an ad in its publication, the Aggie Sports Club News.

But he said he was not upset with the two organizations' support of Spirit because "who can blame them when the head of the Athletic Department and the president of the University are on its side?"

Marvin Tate, athletic director, and William Lewie Jr., president of the Aggie Club, both have written letters in support of Spirit. The Aggie Club has also offered its members a \$5 discount on the first subscription year.

Tate, who said he was the one who asked Le Duc to bring a magazine to Texas A&M, said he supported it because he felt it was best for the athletic department.

"Tom Le Duc came to us with a proposal of a very professional approach to presenting our overall athletic program," Tate said. "They'll put us out a magazine 20 times a year marketing our product-athletics at Texas A&M."

Tate said the Athletic Department does not "get one tax dollar." All its financial support comes from donations and money it generates itself.

"We're trying to do the best job we can to keep our program in the black," he said. "When an opportunity presents itself for the athletic department to make some money, I feel as athletic director, I should take it."

Tate said he did not bring in Spirit to hurt Gig 'Em magazine.

"I didn't get where I am by kicking people in the teeth, or by being unfair," Tate said.

"But the simple fact that he (Jones) went to Texas A&M does not mean we have to go to him."

"My whole approach was to do something to benefit the athletic department," he said. "In doing so, if someone got hurt, I'm sorry. That wasn't my intent."

Tate said that the Athletic Department did not have any control of what went into Gig 'Em, but that with Spirit it would.

"That doesn't mean we're going to manipulate it," he said. "But we will control it and make sure it's in Texas A&M's best image."

Tate said that the editor of Spirit, Jim Butler, would report directly to Tate and the Athletic Department.

Butler used to be assistant sports information director for Texas A&M, until he resigned Oct. 1.

He said that getting the job as editor of Spirit "had nothing to do with me resigning."

Student senate passes increase in service fee

By ELLEN EIDELBACH

Battalion Reporter

A bill to increase student service fees by \$5 in order to make up for an eliminated medical service fee was passed by student senators at Wednesday's meeting. The senate also discussed a bill which allow only one Silver Taps ceremony a month.

The medical service fee was created this fall to cover increased health center costs because state law limits health center fees to \$15.

However, state legislation in the spring raised the ceiling on student service fees from \$30 to \$90 and made the medical service fee illegal.

The effect of the bill is to increase student service fees from \$23 to \$28 to make up for the loss of the medical care fee.

The senate heard the first reading of a resolution to hold Silver Taps at 10:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April.

The resolution was proposed because the increase in student enrollment, makes it more likely that Silver Taps will be held weekly, which might lead to a decrease in attendance and significance of the ceremony.

Silver Taps has been held four times this school year in only eight weeks.

Other bills which passed included a request for reserved seats in Rice Stadium at future Texas A&M-Rice football games and the endorsement of a project called "A Thanksgiving Meal" which would collect items for the needy in Bryan-College Station.

Ayatollah refuses to meet emissary

United Press International

TEHRAN, Iran — President Carter today dispatched former Attorney General Ramsey Clark to Iran to negotiate the freedom of dozens of Americans held captive in the U.S. Embassy but Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said he will not meet with Clark.

Khomeini declared he fully supports the Moslem students holding the American hostages, a spokesman for the Islamic leader said.

Khomeini also forbade Iranian government and revolutionary leaders from meeting with Clark.

He said talks on the fate of the hostages could only be held if the United States handed over the shah, now hospitalized in New York, and stopped its spying activities in Iran.

Clark was scheduled to arrive in Tehran tonight to meet with the "highest authorities," according to a House aide.

In Tehran, Moslem militants seized two more Americans from a hotel and delayed the departure of at least three others from the country, Western sources said today. The militants are holding 60 to 65 hostages in the U.S. Embassy including 28 U.S. military personnel.

But a spokesman for the ayatollah said in a telephone interview: "The imam will not meet with this man that Carter is said to have dispatched."

"Imam Khomeini fully supports the stand taken by the students," the spokesman said. "He made this quite clear in today's broadcast."

He said Khomeini's criticism of the students threat to kill hostages in the event of

U.S. rescue efforts did not mean Khomeini opposed the students' stand.

"The point is there was no need for them (students) to make such a statement."

"The question of U.S. intervention does not arise, because it is impossible. Therefore any statement tied to such a possibility is meaningless," the spokesman said.

State Department officials also said American companies in Iran have advised their officials and other employees — about 300 to 400 private Americans in Iran — to leave that country.

"But there is no real urgency about this," one official said.

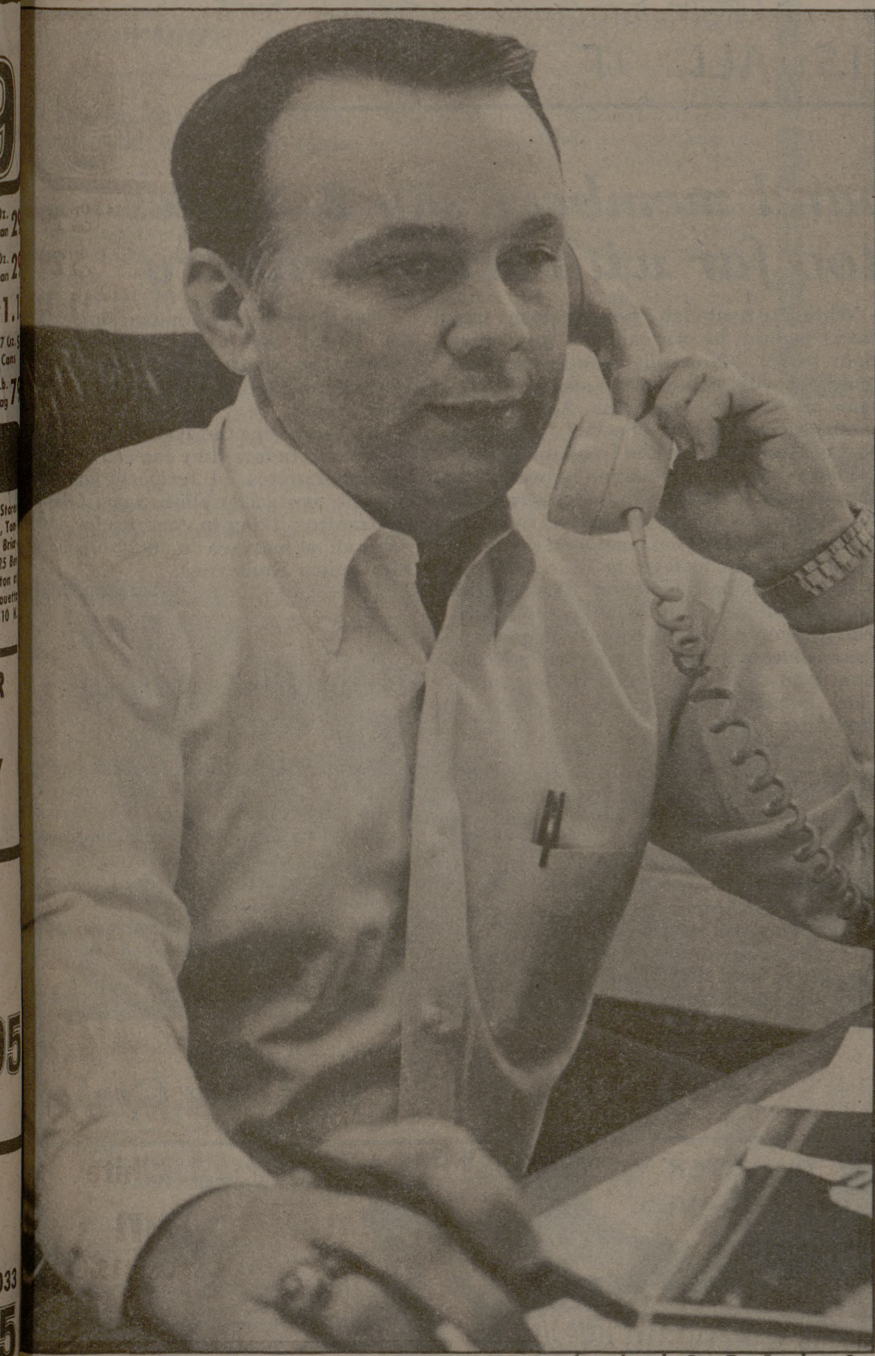
Carter, who has previously ruled out any military action to free the hostages, apparently decided to send Clark following emergency meetings with foreign policy advisers Tuesday.

Carter also was working through Moslem countries which have good relations with the religious leaders in Iran to try to ensure the safety of the Americans held in the embassy.

Rep. William Moorhead, D-Pa., who attended a White House breakfast meeting with other Democratic leaders, said "the president is very concerned" about the safety of the Americans in Iran.

"I think he's doing his best," said Moorhead of Carter. He's sending a delegation over there."

Rep. George Hansen, R-Idaho, said Wednesday he has prepared a resolution calling for President Carter's impeachment if strong steps are not taken immediately to protect lives and property in Iran.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Mike Jones, owner of A&M Printing and publisher of an Aggie sports magazine named Gig 'Em, will soon have to deal with competition from a rival called Spirit. The new magazine will be especially threatening because of a contract signed by President Jarvis Miller with Le Duc Enterprises of Kansas City, publisher of Spirit.