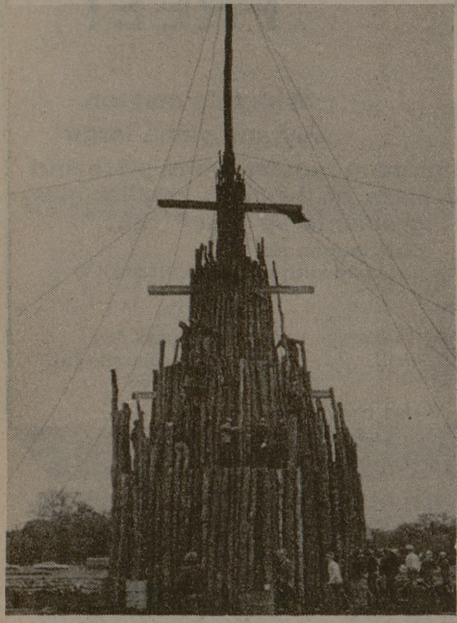


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The Truth about Nitrosamines as we know it.

From the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Oct. 25, 1979

The Food and Drug Administration has received from the U. S. Brewers Association an update on the progress the industry is making in reducing the levels of nitrosamines in beer and other malt beverages.

At the same time, FDA is releasing the results of testing it has conducted of nitrosamines in Scotch whiskeys. The Agency has found only trace levels of nitrosamines in Scotch.

On the basis of the report from the Brewers Association and of its findings on Scotch, FDA reiterates its previous position that there is no reason for consumers to alter their consumption of these products.

The U. S. Brewers Association reported on a survey it took of 44 brewing companies. It received responses from 95 percent of the firms. They make 99 percent of malt beverages brewed in the U. S.

Every respondent reported that it has taken measures to alter its brewing process to reduce nitrosamine formation, the industry told FDA. The method used to reduce nitrosamine formation consists primarily of lowering the temperature of the open flame used to dry the barley malt while extending the drying time. In addition, sulphur is added to the fire during this procedure to retard further nitrosamine formation.

Half the malt beverages now being made in the U. S. are being made with malt processed this way, and that should rise to more than eighty percent next month, the industry said.

In a statement today, Dr. Jere Goyan, Commissioner of FDA, said: "FDA will test domestic beers after January 1 for nitrosamine content. The results of these tests will be made public immediately. Any beers produced after January 1 that contain nitrosamines at levels that can reliably be detected — that is, above 5 parts per billion — will be subject to regulatory action."

It has been known since late last year that trace amounts of nitrosamines enter beer through the process by which the barley malt is dried. This was first reported by tests conducted in West Germany. In addition, tests by the Brewers Association, by a contractor for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and by FDA itself confirmed the presence of trace amounts of nitrosamines in beer. Research by the malt beverage industry to identify the source of the nitrosamines and to develop ways to reduce their presence has been closely monitored by FDA.

The method used to detect nitrosamines is scientifically reliable only at levels above 5 parts per billion. Findings below this level are not regarded as being scientifically reliable because of lack of the method's sensitivity.

FDA's tests on Scotch whiskey also confirm findings by a contractor for NSF. The NSF study found trace amounts of nitrosamines — at an average of one part per billion — in six of seven Scotches tested.

FDA tested 29 Scotches and also found trace levels of nitrosamines ranging from none to 2.3 parts per billion. As with beer, FDA does not regard findings of less than 5 parts per billion in Scotch to be scientifically reliable. The FDA findings are similar to the levels found in the NSF-sponsored study.

advertisement

campus

Aggie Bonfire: 1909 — 1979

By MARY JO PRINCE

The chain saws will be silenced for another year after the few remaining scraps of wood are thrown against the massive structure that will burn back down to the ground in a matter of a few hours.

The traditional Aggie Bonfire is reported to have had its first lighting in the fall of 1909, according to documents in the Texas A&M archives. The stack was about 12 feet high and made of trash and discarded boxes which were collected in an impromptu search of the campus.

That was how a few students, bored with studying and overcome with anxiety over the next day's Thanksgiving game with the University of Texas, began the tradition of Bonfire.

The first picture of Bonfire can be found in the 1928 Longhorn (the ori-

ginal title of Texas A&M's yearbook). Old scraps of lumber, crates, boxes, and even fences and gates were combined for that year's stack.

Bonfire had its first centerpole in 1946. The following year it stood a "towering" 50 feet. Twenty years later, the members of Company 1 provided the Bonfire with a centerpole

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The average overall height of bonfire since 1946 has been between 75 and 80 feet.

The military drill field across from the Memorial Student Center was the site of the Bonfire until it was moved in 1955 to its present location on Duncan intramural field, just south of the Corps of Cadets dormitory area.

Bonfire security has weakened over the last few years. But even as late as 1972, as the Bonfire stack was taking shape, all major landmarks on the campus were heavily guarded round the clock. It was not unusual for a student's late walk across campus to be interrupted at any location by a request for proper student identification.

Security was even tighter around the stacking area itself. Perimeter guard fires were placed at intervals around the stack, as they are today.

But those safeguards could not always stop people from trying to bring an earlier-than-scheduled lighting date. One year, a group of enthusiasts from the University of Texas tried to drop an incendiary bomb on the stack from an airplane. The bomb missed — but some Aggies on the ground did not miss getting the plane's serial number. The perpetrators were expelled from their university.

In 1977, the Bonfire again almost had an early ignition when a College Station policeman used his authority

In 1977, the Bonfire again almost had an early ignition when a College Station policeman used his authority to get close to the stack. But that was as far as his authority took him. A chase ensued after the patrolman, a former Texas Tech student, tried to light the stack with gasoline and matches. He was caught and lost his job.

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Foundation elects chair

Austin independent oilman Joe Hiram Moore has been elected chairman of the Texas A&M University Development Foundation, a non-profit foundation which raises funds in support of the university's academic and related programs.

Moore, a 1938 Texas A&M graduate, succeeds Edward E. Monteith, a 1943 graduate and executive vice president of Republic National Bank of Dallas. The appointment is effective Jan. 1.

Ernest L. "Pete" Wehner of Houston, 1941 Texas A&M graduate and vice president of Blocker Energy, was named chairman-elect for the foundation.

Moore was instrumental in establishment of the Texas A&M University Press and has provided financial support for scholarships and other activities at the university. He served as president of Texas A&M's Association of Former Students and was named last year a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and cancellation of Bonfire. Only after serious deliberation by student leaders and faculty, it was decided that Bonfire would not be held.

Bonfire was marred by a fatal 1955 when a cadet was killed while guarding the stack. James Edgar Sarran, 18, of Brownsville, struck by a car on Old Highway when he pushed a fellow Aggie on the path of an onrushing car.

That year's Thanksgiving game was dedicated to the student who saved the life of a fellow Aggie.

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