

THE BATTALION

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College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High 57	High 49
Low 49	Low 32
Rain 0.0 inches	Chance of rain good

Death toll from earthquake passes 1,000

United Press International
NAPLES, Italy — In a grim litany, radio announcers listed more than 100 southern towns devastated by Italy's monster earthquake, which struck with a force 50 times stronger than the Hiroshima A-bomb and killed more than 1,000 people. Rescuers feared the death toll would soar past 3,500.

"We've asked the authorities to send us 500 coffins," said a city worker in Laviano, one of the towns ravaged by the quake. "Whole families are missing and they're all under the debris." The city worker spoke of the need for more coffins, the frail case of a woman could be heard calling out from beneath a pile of concrete and stone, "Help me. Help me."

Interior Ministry officials in Rome confirmed that by Monday at least 1,012 bodies had been pulled from the rubble left by the quake, which measured 6.5 to 6.8 on the open-ended Richter scale and hit with the force of a million tons of TNT exploding at

once, or 50 times the force of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The Hiroshima atomic bomb exploded with the equivalent force of 20,000 tons of TNT.

Besides the 1,012 confirmed dead, about 2,500 people were missing from four isolated villages east and south of Naples — Laviano, Santoremma, Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi and Lioni — and rescue workers said they were believed dead, buried under debris from the Sunday evening quake that rumbled through more than 100 communities.

The government-run radio and TV confined themselves to reading long lists of towns and villages ravaged by the quake — Senerchia, Morra de Santis, Carife, Gesualdo, Teora, Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi, Lioni, Soloprog, Monteforte, Battipaglia, Soriano, Laviano, Castelnuovo, Santomenna.

Ninety percent of the buildings in Laviano were destroyed, leaving only two houses and a discotheque still standing. Eighty

percent of Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi was flattened, including a modern hospital. Lioni and Santoremma were similarly devastated.

Almost all of Laviano's victims were believed to be women, since most of the town's men work in West Germany and northern Italy.

As darkness fell over the village, which was flattened in 60 seconds by the tremor, the survivors picked through the debris with their bare hands, by makeshift lights.

Working feverishly to remove debris from a spot where they heard cries, the townspeople found sobbing 5-year-old Ivo Falivana, clinging to his dead mother Olga and sister Antonella.

The women of the town, huddled around a nearby campfire to keep warm, began swaying rhythmically and broke into the keening wails common to southern Italy and cried, "He has abandoned us. God has abandoned us."

In the village of Balvano, 75 miles east of Naples, where the village church collapsed on 300 worshippers attending vesper services, the church's priest Don Salvatore Pagliuca moaned, "I don't know why us. These people have enough trouble as it is."

More than 100 were killed in the village, most of them in the church.

In Rome, Vatican officials said Pope John Paul II would fly by helicopter to the devastated region during the day, stopping at several destroyed villages to pray with survivors.

The main quake was followed by more than 100 aftershocks, some of them measuring up to 6 on the Mercalli scale of intensity.

Professor Giuseppe Panza of the seismic observatory of Bari predicted the shocks, and possibly more strong earthquake jolts, would continue in the region for some time.

"If this quake follows the normal patterns there will be more shocks over the next few days," he said.

Weekend schedules

Texas A&M University facilities will observe the following schedules over the Thanksgiving holidays:

Sterling C. Evans Library
Wednesday 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Thursday Closed
Friday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. — 12 a.m.

These MSC facilities will close at the following hours on Wednesday for the Thanksgiving holidays:

Student Snack Bar 2 p.m.
Main Cafeteria and Snack Bar 3 p.m.
Reading Library 5 p.m.
Bowling and Games 5 p.m.
Book Shop 5 p.m.
Student Programs Office 5 p.m.
Main Desk 10 p.m.

These facilities will reopen again during the following times on Sunday:

Bowling and Games 1 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Reading Library 6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Student Programs Office 4 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Main Cafeteria and Snack Bar will remain closed until Monday.

Remote Computer Center
Wednesday 8 a.m. — 6 a.m.
Thursday Closed
Friday Closed
Saturday Closed
Sunday 1 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Teague Computer Center:
Wednesday 8 a.m. — 6 a.m.
Thursday 5 p.m. — 12 a.m.
Friday 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. — 7 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. — 10 p.m.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center will close at 4 p.m. Wednesday and reopen Monday at 8 a.m. Emergency services will be available throughout the weekend.

Stack to be lighted tonight at 7:30

Origin of bonfire tradition hazy

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL
Battalion Staff

It was pitch dark; the rain from the day and night before still hung in the air. There was a field, and about 200 people waded around in ankle-deep mud.

It was the last few days before bonfire. That probably explains a lot. Or at least why all those people were strolling around in the middle of the night, trying to put up that thing called bonfire.

One worker walked by, clad in army gear, toward the concession stand that offers the weary workers drink, food and a smiling face to talk to.

The weather has not been good to the students who are working around the clock to get the 65-foot stack ready for lighting tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Bonfire work started with cutting logs on Oct. 11. Last Wednesday students began the "push," hauling and raising the logs 24 hours a day on Duncan Intramural Field.

The origin of the bonfire tradition is hazy. According to Texas A&M history department head Dr. Henry DeTille, while his "A Pictorial History of Texas A&M University 1876-1976," the pre-Texas-game blazes began in the 1890s. In the 1940s, the first center-pole-supported stack was built, and the 1969 bonfire was the tallest ever, at about 109 feet.

However, in recent years participation has declined so much that some people are voicing doubts as to whether the bonfire will remain a tradition in the future.

"Every year the civilian turnout is lower than it could be," Nolen Mears, bonfire adviser, said. "As a percentage they don't have as much as they could have. If only one percent (of all the students) was out there to work, it would be good."

About 1,200 people have been cutting overall. That's a whole lot," David Eppright, senior civilian coordinator, said. He estimated the average turnout for daily work at 600-800 people.

You always see the same people. The ones that have the lowest grades work the most," Eppright said. "I just like staying up all night and forgetting school."

A faculty advisory committee reporting to Dr. John O'Connell, vice president for student services, is in the initial stages of considering recommending limiting the height of the bonfire. The committee members feel bonfire is too much a strain on the grades of the few who work on it.

Bonfire work is not restricted to the Corps of Cadets, but cadets have made up the workforce more than civilian students in the past.

"The Corps wants to do less work," Greg Nicholas, assistant Corps area coordinator, said. "It's not (only) a Corps thing. But they're a military organization and when they say they'll work, they will," he said.

In the past two years restrictions have been placed on

the cadets, which prevent them from spending too much time working on the bonfire.

Freshmen are not allowed to work weeknights after 6 p.m. and sophomores had to have a 2.5 GPR at midterm to be allowed to work at night. This policy is an effort by the Corps to stress scholastics, Mears said.

But there might be other reasons why this year's turnout for the traditional fire building was lower than hoped.

"This year's football season plays a role," Nicholas said. "You can tell by the (football) game turnout. There just hasn't been that anticipation about the (UT) game this year."

Eppright, however, didn't agree. He said there is more to bonfire than just the boosting of the football team.

"People that don't know about bonfire might be influenced by the (performance) of the football team. It's

Preparations for bonfire started long before the work began on Duncan Field.

Funds for the bonfire come from the Texas A&M Bookstore profits, the Association of Former Students, Aggie Mothers' Clubs and fundraisers in dorms, Mears said.

Several companies donated the use of trucks and drivers to haul the logs and lift them onto the stack.

The mothers baked about 600 dozen cookies, which were taken to the site by girls of the Student Y Association. The girls also made a continuous supply of coffee, Michelle Piatt, director of University services of the association, said.

The stack will cost over \$7,000, not counting the logs, and will just go up in smoke, having used a lot of manpower, gasoline, cookies and coffee.

About 2,000 gallons of fuel will be poured on the blaze before it is lit. Bailing wire to tie the logs together and money for administrative staff to take care of electrical cable and telephone lines to Duncan Field were also needed to make bonfire happen this year, Mears said.

The wood that will make the bonfire about 65 feet high was donated by Granada Land and Cattle Company of Bryan.

Though bonfire has its problems, it is still lauded as one of the best experiences on campus.

"The work out here pulls people together. I thought it was corny when they told me that (it would) as a freshman, but I don't think it is now," Eppright said.

"The Corps freshmen get a lot out of it. Carrying out the logs is the best thing," Nicholas said.

"In the Corps, the spirit is there. In the whole University, the freshmen might even have a more eager spirit than the others," Mears said.

"We need someone to take the lead," he added. "It's gonna be built. You can't blame it on anybody but the students themselves if it doesn't," Nicholas said.

But Eppright views it differently. "There are different people going to A&M now. The University used to let people out of class to build the bonfire. Students now look at grades and are also getting lazier," he said.

"The school is getting more impersonal. People come out here with their buddies. If I didn't know anybody, I probably wouldn't come out either."

"There is a general consensus that bonfire will screw your grades around, but that's an excuse," Keith White, senior redpot, said.

The only complaints about bonfire work came from some residents living across from the site.

"There have been some complaints from people across the street about the constant (taped) Ronnie Milsap music, but the people have been pretty cooperative. They really don't have any choice," Eppright said.

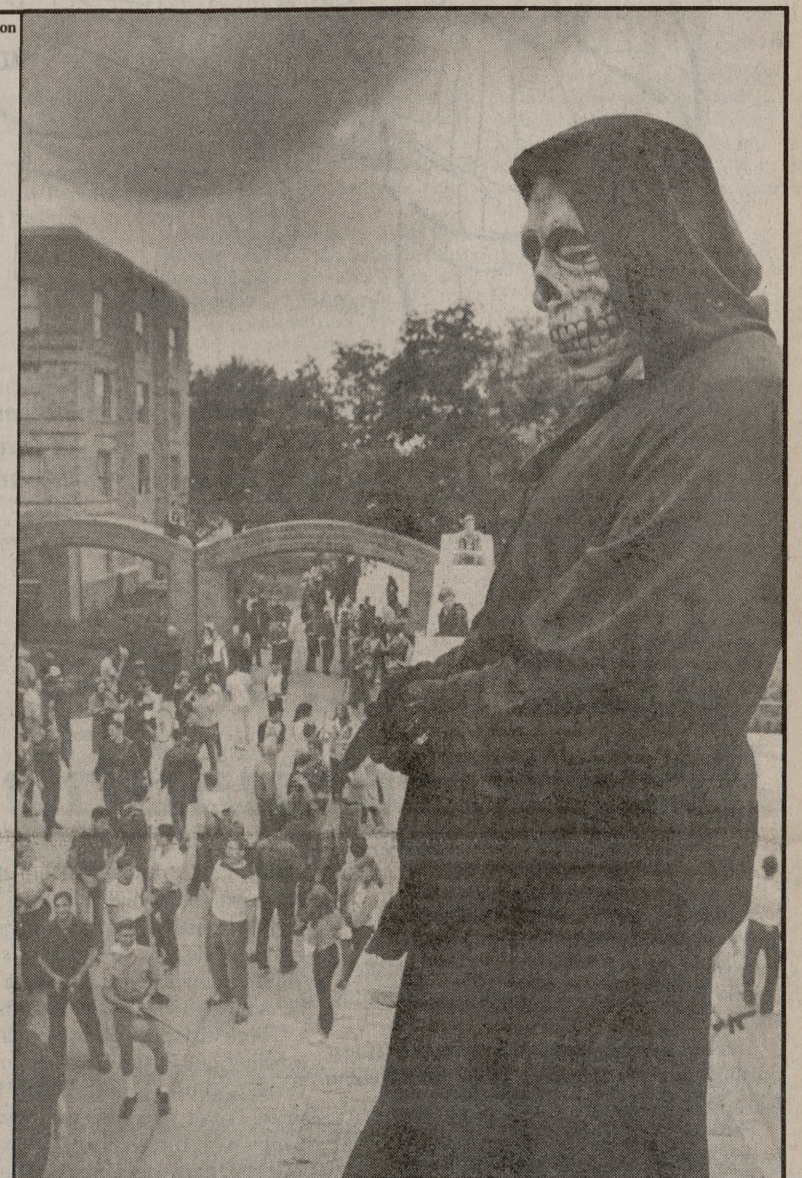
Have you seen any elephants?

Some juniors from Company D-1 borrowed a National Guard jeep armed with machine guns but no ammunition Monday, to drive through the campus looking for marching elephants to shoot during Elephant Walk. Many elephants, also known as outgoing seniors, participated in the annual walk, which began at the Academic Building and ended with a yell practice at the Bonfire site. Meanwhile, the Grim Reaper himself was stationed on the wall in front of the Corps Quad, predicting gloom for the dying elephants prior to their arrival. Underneath the Grim Reaper's gloom exterior is David Heiligman, Class of '82.

Staff photo by Greg Gammon



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley



Corps plans parade in Austin before game

As the Aggie-Longhorn football confrontation draws nearer, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is preparing for its second Corps trip of the year.

Midnight yell practice will be held in Austin on the steps of the Capitol on Congress Street where it has traditionally been held in years past, Head Yell Leader Mark Outlaw said.

Prior to the 1 p.m. kickoff Saturday, the Corps, including Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, will complete a parade through Austin beginning at Congress and East 3rd streets at 9:30 a.m., said Corps Operations Officer Phil Greilich.

Led by Corps Commander Ken Cross and accompanied by the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, the Corps will proceed up

Congress to the Capitol, turn left on 11th Street, and continue on 11th Street to Colorado where they will break.

Major General W. L. Scott, adjutant general of the Texas National Guard, will review the cadets from a stand on 7th and Congress streets in front of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel.

Corps trips are a century-old tradition that began in 1878 when special trains transported the cadets to the San Jacinto Battlefield to stage mock battles. A year later the Corps traveled to Dallas for the State Fair of Texas.

Around the turn of the century, however, the trips more frequently coincided with away football games.

Attorney general speaks to regents

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

Texas Attorney General Mark White visited Texas A&M University Monday, speaking to the Board of Regents behind closed doors.

White's appearance highlighted an otherwise routine day for the regents, who considered various items in Monday's committee meetings.

Neither White nor the regents would comment on the attorney general's appearance before the Board's Executive Committee. Joining in the executive session were System Chancellor Dr. Frank W.R. Hubert and the presidents of the four academic institutions of the System.

In addition to hearing from White, the regents considered a number of building and construction items.

The Planning and Building Committee approved \$43,000 for the preliminary design of the Animal Husbandry Pavilion at Texas A&M. The renovated pavilion will house several student activity-related offices and a snack bar; it will also serve as a permanent headquarters for registration of University students.

Also approved was \$60,000 for preliminary design of the Texas A&M Cyclotron. The addition to the "atom smasher" will enhance its position as one of the finest in the world, Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, said.

The contract for the new \$13.2 million Engineering Laboratory Center at Texas A&M was awarded to Allen M. Campbell Co. General Contractors, Inc., of Tyler. The new center will be built south of Zachry Engineering Center, and will house research and extension laboratories of the System.

A report prepared by a System study group on System marine programs was presented to the Academic Campuses Committee. The committee took no action on the recommendations, which propose a more comprehensive organization of the programs. A consulting firm presented a similar set of recommendations at the September Board meeting.

The construction items, as well as other matters related to the System, were scheduled to receive final action at this morning's general board meeting.