

Local



Bonfire barbecue

Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Duke Bonilla, chairman of the Bonfire Committee, looks on as H. B. Zachry speaks with Texas A&M University President Frank E. Vandiver and Assistant to the Presi-

dent Malon Southerland at the barbecue held Saturday at the Grove to benefit bonfire construction. More than 1,600 people attended the barbecue.

Smoke, steam set off fire alarms on campus

By LISA SURMAN  
Battalion Reporter  
Activated fire alarms are common at Texas A&M University, but they are not always the result of fires, University Police Officer Cameron Moore says.

Of 759 alarm responses last year, only nine were actually caused by fires, Police Chief Russ McDonald said. In spite of this, officers "must respond to every alarm as if it's the actual thing," he said.

"We answer two or three calls a day like this," Moore said. "We answer these calls to keep the fire station from having to come on campus all of the time."

He said the alarms may sound

because of cigarette smoke, cleaning solvents or even steam from a shower. The sensor heads on an alarm may get "so sensitive they actually set each other off," Moore said.

A spokeswoman from the electronics shop of the University Physical Plant said an alarm may set itself off because of too much radioactive material in the air. But this "can be helped by a simple adjustment," she said.

Any time a system is put in a new building, there is a lot of dust in the air which gets into the return air vents, she said.

The spokeswoman said each building on campus has a transmitter in the ceiling of its main

office which sends out a code. The code is picked up by a computer in the radio room at the Physical Plant, she said.

Moore said the computer puts out a number which tells where the alarm has sounded. He said a new computer system was installed at the Physical Plant to process the incoming information.

One of the most recent false alarms was Oct. 4 in Underwood Hall, the new modular dormitory located in the Commons Area.

Meredith Ross, Underwood head resident, said an alarm on the first floor sounded but no switches which activate the alarm were pulled.

Procedures set for complaints

By JOYCE HALLBAUER  
Battalion Reporter

If a faculty member has a complaint concerning official actions such as dismissal, tenure, salary or academic course assignments, Texas A&M University has a specific grievance procedure to follow.

The faculty member should talk to his department head first, Clinton Phillips, dean of faculties, said.

If he could not settle it with his department head, then he could appeal to his dean and through the system to the vice president for academic affairs," Phillips said.

After Vice President for Academic Affairs J.M. Prescott is consulted, the final decision is left up to University President Frank E. Vandiver.

The basic policies and procedures are outlined in a manual on academic freedom, responsibility and tenure published in 1979, Phillips said. Tenured faculty can appeal a decision for dismissal to an advisory committee, which is elected by faculty, but a non-tenured member cannot, he said. A hearing may then be recom-

mended and the decision will be sent to the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure, which sends its recommendation to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents for review and a final decision, Phillips said.

In the case of faculty being denied tenure, there are many factors involved, and the normal procedure is followed, Phillips said.

"Contrary to what a lot of students may think, inadequate teaching may be just as important a reason for not granting tenure," he said, as lack of research. Service function involvement and student advisement are also considered.

Faculty may also have complaints about salaries, which are increased yearly by cost of living and merit raises. Recommendations of deans are reviewed for individual faculty salary increases, he said.

When faculty feel they are not given the courses they are most capable of teaching, or have hours they feel are unfair, they may file a grievance to have these changed, Phillips said.

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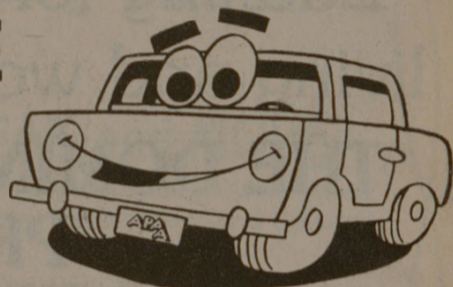


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October 13 & 14

The Midland National Bank, Midland, Texas, will conduct interviews for reservoir engineering positions in the bank's Oil & Gas Division. Applicants should be eligible for a B.S. degree in Petroleum Engineering in December or May.

Interviews will be conducted by E. H. Blackaller, Senior Vice President, Manager/Oil & Gas Division, and Pete Bauerlein, Vice President, in the W. T. Doherty Building on October 13 and 14.

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