

Squadron 7's 'Run to t.u.' raises money for children

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff
Bonfire and the Texas A&M — University of Texas rivalry inspires school loyalty and intense competitiveness among some people.

For others, it inspires charity and caring.
This year, cadets from the Corps Squadron 7 will run from College Station to Memorial Stadium in Austin carrying a football, but the traditional rivalry between Texas A&M and UT isn't the only reason for the run.
Money raised from the cadets "Run to t.u." will be used to sponsor a child through the Christian Children's Fund.

Squadron 7 has sponsored three runs to Austin before the football game between Texas A&M and UT; this year is the fourth. Greg Brown, coordinator of the run, said the event began just for fun, but it became a way to raise money for charity during the next two runs.
Brown said the squadron wanted to contribute to a charity this year, and he heard about the Christian Children's Fund from a Texas A&M English professor, Dr. Robert S. Kellner.

Brown said the group has

raised \$585 so far and probably will raise over \$600 — enough to sponsor a child for two years.

Brown said the group took contributions in lump sums rather than in pledges per mile. Most of the money was donated by students, he said, but some cadets got contributions from local businesses.

"We basically got everybody to contribute money," Brown said.

Kellner, who is regional representative for the Christian Children's Fund, said it costs \$216 per year to sponsor a child through the fund. The money helps feed, clothe and educate a child through the fund's missions.

Kellner said the fund can provide for children with the relatively small amount of money per year because missions distribute food, clothing and educational supplies to groups of children each day.

"It really doesn't cost much," he said, "but it requires people who care."

Kellner said the Corps of Cadets sponsors several children through the fund. The entire Corps sponsors a child, and five children are sponsored

through the Corps chaplains.

An article about the Corps' participation, written by Kellner, appeared in "Childworld," the fund's magazine which is sent to more than 300,000 sponsors all over the world. The article focuses on work the Corps of Cadets is doing at Texas A&M to aid children.

"As representative of the Christian Children's Fund here in Texas, I must say I've never come across an organization as humanitarian as the Corps of Cadets," Kellner said.

He said he felt that participating in efforts to help improve the world for others parallels University President Frank E. Vandiver's goal for Texas A&M to become a world-class university.

Kellner said the squadron members have a tough job ahead of them in the run to Austin.

"Even with sore muscles, I

think they'll be quite inspired knowing that little bit of pain will help feed children," he said.

The run will begin at bonfire tonight. After the bonfire is lit, 50 members of Squadron 7 will run around the site seven times and then run to the fish parking lot.

Brown said the runners will be escorted by cars and the cadets will take turns running half-mile shifts.

He said the caravan to Austin will be like a "giant leapfrog," with runners moving forward to the next car with each shift.

The run will end at Memorial Stadium probably between 10 a.m. and noon Wednesday, Brown said.

The football the cadets will carry to Austin was given to Squadron 7 Friday by Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill. The cadets will return the football to Sherrill before the game Thanksgiving Day.



staff photo by John Ryan

Dave Warren and Bob Smith, coordinators of the Walton Hall run, hold the torch that 24 Walton Hall resi-

dents carried from Memorial Stadium in Austin for lighting Bonfire.

Walton runs flame all the way from Austin

by Rebeca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
"There's a light ..." There's a light — actually a candle — burning in a dorm room at Walton Hall. It's burning until tonight, when Walton residents say it will light the torches for Bonfire.

This particular flame traveled a long way before stopping at Walton Hall — all the way from Austin.

The candle flame was lit from a torch carried by 24 residents of Walton Hall. The group ignited the torch at the University of Texas's Memorial Stadium at 1:50 a.m. Sunday morning, did their dorm vells and carried the torch to College Station in half-mile running shifts.

When they reached Texas A&M, runners used the torch to light a candle which will burn until it lights Bonfire torches.

Bob Smith, one of the coordinators of the run, said the run was completed in 11 hours and 45 minutes.

James Carnes, one of the runners, said the run was a way for people who didn't have time to work on the stack to participate in Bonfire activities.

"I think we'll feel more satisfaction when it (Bonfire) goes up after this," Carnes said.

Each runner ran about five miles before the torch made it to College Station.

"Candy bars and beer kept us going," Carnes said.

The group picked up one

souvenir along the way: an Austin parking meter.

Several state Department of Public Safety troopers stopped the runners along the way.

"One DPS guy asked how far we had left to go," Smith said. He said passersby "just looked at us kind of funny."

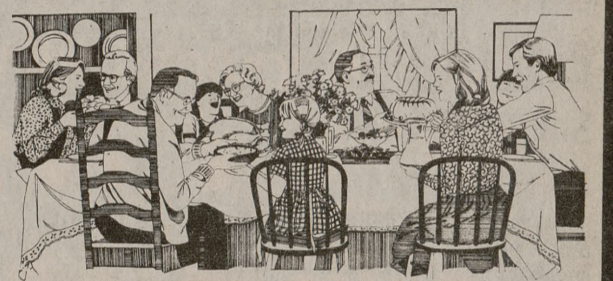
Smith said the runners never dropped the torch and never stopped to rest.

Carnes said his major problem occurred when he fell asleep in the back of one of the pick-up trucks and fell out.

"The whole time you're freezing in the back of a truck you wonder," Nick Gonzalez said, "but it's worth it when you see Kyle Field."

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