

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 76 No. 61 USPS 045360 14 Pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, November 24, 1982

Bonfire falls; outhouse hits senior cadet

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff

"No spectacle is nobler than a fire." — Samuel Johnson.

Even when the blaze was a collapsed bonfire, it still was a noble sight for many people Tuesday night, but it also prompted gasps and concern when the outhouse atop the stack fell on one of the bonfire coordinators.

The outhouse plummeted to the ground as the structure collapsed into a disorganized pile at 8:04 p.m. — just 30 minutes after the stack was lit.

The outhouse, which hadn't caught fire, fell on Air Force Senior Coordinator Jose Lucas "Pep" Guerra, but he was unhurt.

"It (the outhouse) just fell on him and we rolled it off," said Redpot Joe Starr, a senior engineering technology major. Redpots coordinate the building of the bonfire.

Redpot James Starr, a senior political science major, said the outhouse fell on Guerra and within three seconds other redpots had lifted it off him.

Starr said an emergency medical technician and a doctor checked Guerra and said he wasn't hurt. But Guerra was taken to St. Joseph Hospital as a precautionary measure.

Win or lose, class Monday

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said Tuesday that classes will be held Monday — regardless of the outcome of Thursday's football game against the University of Texas.

Guerra was treated and released later Tuesday night.

Redpots disagreed on the cause of the collapse.

Starr said bonfire could have collapsed for any number of reasons.

"There is really no explanation," Starr said. "It was built the same as it always has been."

Lee said the bonfire began to twist, which often occurs, but this year the stack continued to move.

"It twisted from the base where the second and third cross ties are, and since everything is attached to the centerpole, the whole thing twisted," he said.

Before the stack collapsed, the bonfire scene was similar to past years.

Redpots, yell leaders and Aggie Band drum majors carried torches to light the stack while the Aggie Band played the War Hymn.

Numb fingers, the smell of beer, little and big kids perched on people's shoulders and "humping it" were all part of Tuesday night's bonfire.

"This is better than any Girl Scout fire," said Peggy Bryan, a freshman computing science major from Olean, N. Y., who was at her first bonfire.

University President Frank E. Vandiver and Head Coach Jackie Sherrill spoke at the yell practice.

Sherrill's introductions of seniors on the football team were interrupted when the bonfire collapsed.

"It (the collapsed bonfire) looks like a box of pretzels," said Mary Milan, a freshman elementary education major from Houston.

But the collapse didn't seem to dampen Aggie spirit.

"It's no less a bonfire because it fell," Starr said.



The 1982 Texas A&M bonfire

staff photo by Rob Snider

Reagan thinks jobs

United Press International
SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — President Reagan today began the first full day of a holiday vacation trying to decide what measures beyond a job-creating highway repair program to recommend to stimulate the economy.

Reagan arrived in California Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving with his family at his secluded mountaintop ranch and prepare for a five-day trip to Latin America next week.

Aides expect his stay to be subdued, but before leaving Washington Tuesday he made a splash by announcing support for a 5-cent gasoline tax hike to finance a \$5.5 billion program to repair the nation's deteriorating roads and bridges.

Reagan said the program would cost the average motorist \$30 a year. And while insisting the bill is a response to the state of the federal road system and not 10.4 percent unemployment, administration officials estimated it would help spawn 320,000 jobs.

Aides said the gas-tax increase is one of several initiatives Reagan will recommend for congressional action during the post election-session that begins Monday.

After appearing on short notice in the White House press room to endorse the gas-tax rise, Reagan promised "a series of other measures that would help give our economy a fresh boost as we head into 1983."

Presidential counselor Edwin Meese told reporters accompanying Reagan to California there are "a few things floating around" that could be used to stimulate the economy, but provided few details.

Said Meese, "It will not be a vast, extensive package, but will be a number of things Congress should look at in a comprehensive way."

One option still under consideration, aides said, is a six-month acceleration in the 10 percent tax cut scheduled for next July 1.

Reagan and some top advisers believe speeding up the cut would be a boost to the economy, but the proposal is opposed by other members of the administration and congressional leaders because it would add to a deficit many already consider unacceptable.

Administration officials said Reagan also may offer a proposal to attack high unemployment among young people, possibly in the form of a "subminimum wage" to encourage the hiring of teenage workers.

White House aides went to lengths to dispute suggestions Reagan had been a "Johnnie-come-lately" to the gas tax plan, which he endorsed only after it had received broad bipartisan support in Congress.

Board names new A&M vice president

by Denise Richter
Battalion Staff

A former student has "come home" to serve as vice president for fiscal affairs.

Dr. Eddie J. Davis, Class of '67, was named to the position Tuesday by the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

Davis, 37, currently serves as vice president for fiscal affairs and treasurer at North Texas State University.

The appointment of a vice president for fiscal affairs completes Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver's reorganization of the top University administration. Under the reorganization, the position of vice president for planning has been eliminated and the duties of the vice president for business affairs have been divided between the vice president for opera-

tions and the vice president for fiscal affairs.

The board also passed a resolution commending regents H.C. "Dulie" Bell of Austin, John R. Blocker of Houston and Dr. John C. Coleman of Houston for their service as members of the board. The three regents' terms expire in January.

"This isn't to say these individuals won't be back here in January," Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright of Dallas said. "The resolution just expresses the appreciation of the System for the work, attention and interest they have given."

A resolution of appreciation also was presented to Robert G. Cherry, secretary to the board and vice chancellor for public affairs. Cherry, who has been with the System for almost 40 years, will retire in January.

In other business, the board decided to seek state support for the new Institute for Ventures in New Technology, known as INVENT. The institute, which is designed to help small firms and inventors develop new products, is operated by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

INVENT was recognized in the governor's Texas 2000 report as an example to be followed in the development of a stronger and more diversified high-technology industrial base.

Other action approved by the board included:

- a \$360,000 appropriation for the purchase and installation of computer software for an on-line registration system.
- a \$500,000 appropriation for a 128-

terminal system that will provide interactive computing.

- a center for engineering geosciences, which will be established under the Earth Resources Institute in the College of Geosciences.

- a center for retailing studies, which will be established in the Department of Marketing in the College of Business Administration.

In action Monday, regents selected the west campus as the site of the Texas A&M industrial park and approved the establishment of a research and extension center in San Antonio. The board also called for the formation of a four-member steering committee, made up of local officials and a Texas A&M System representative, to oversee the development of a regional air facility at Bryan Air Base.



Say goodbye to summer

photo by Karen Giles

Now that fall's here, this is a sport most of us won't be enjoying. Sophomore John McGhee of the Aggie swimming team

demonstrates his diving form — just a few warm days ago. McGhee is a biology major from the Woodlands.

Staffer to sue System over pay held for IRS

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff

An assistant training specialist for the Texas Engineering Extension Service says he plans to file suits today against both the Texas A&M System and J.R. Green, an Internal Revenue Service agent.

Jim B. Hendrix said he will file the suits because the TEES fiscal office, at the request of the IRS, is withholding money from his paycheck to pay for delinquent taxes.

Hendrix said that according to his contract he can be fired only for incompetence or moral turpitude — both of which fail to apply in this case, he said. By withholding his pay without his consent, the System is, in effect, firing him without a legitimate reason, he said.

John Skrabonek, TEES fiscal officer, said the agency is bound by law to

comply with the IRS request.

William Briggs, controller for the Business Office of Engineering Services, said: "If we were to give this check to him, we could be liable to the IRS."

Hendrix said the second suit charges Green with denying him due process in filing a levy on his paycheck. The levy was not court-ordered and therefore is illegal, Hendrix said.

Green was unavailable for comment.

But, Bob Branson, public affairs officer for the Austin district of the IRS, said that while he is not familiar with Hendrix's case, IRS agents do have the authority to place a levy on the paychecks of people who owe the government tax money.

The Internal Revenue Code states that an agent can place a levy on a

person's property, property rights or paycheck 10 days after he has been notified that he is delinquent in the payment of taxes.

Hendrix does not deny that he has not paid his income tax. In fact, he said, he has not paid income tax since 1976.

Hendrix said he does not pay income tax — or file a return — because he disapproves of such governmental actions as government-supported abortions. He said income tax laws are unconstitutional and he does not plan on paying taxes again.

"I think I can safely say that I will never file another income tax return as long as I live," Hendrix said. "I don't care whether they put me in jail, take my possessions or what they do."

"I've come too far now. I've gone through too much. And I'm not going to give up."

Bond set for men charged in kidnap

United Press International
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Bond has been set at \$1 million cash for two Texans facing federal charges in the "Army of God" abduction of an Illinois abortion clinic owner and his wife.

Authorities continued their search for a third suspect described as poss-

ibly armed and dangerous.

Wayne A. Moore, 18, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Charles Evans in Springfield while his 20-year-old brother, Matthew M., went before U.S. Magistrate Frank Waltermire in Houston Monday.

Both men, formerly of New Caney, are charged with extortion.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Cool skies today with cool temperatures and a 30 percent chance of rain. High in the mid 50s, with tonight's low in the upper 30s.