

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 78 No. 60 USPS 0453110 20 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, November 23, 1983

Presnal to aid A&M Regents

by Brigid Brockman
Battalion Staff

Robert G. Cherry announced Tuesday that state Rep. Bill Presnal will succeed him as executive secretary of the Texas A&M Board of Regents on June 25.

Cherry will continue working as secretary to the board on a part-time basis. He has worked for Texas A&M for 40 years.

On Jan. 15, Presnal will begin his work by assisting Cherry until he officially takes over June 25.

Cherry said the five months will serve as a learning period which will take Presnal through two complete cycles of board meetings.

Texas A&M is very fortunate to have Presnal appointed to this a strategic position, Cherry said. "I am elated at

having a man of such stature succeed me," he said.

Cherry said Presnal has unique qualifications for the job because he knows the academic organization very well having served at one time as a University teacher and having served as commandant in the Corps of Cadets.

Cherry also said that Presnal's work with the Texas A&M Research Foundation has familiarized him with University research activities.

"He has a complete familiarity of all budgets in the System through serving as chairman of the House Education Committee," Cherry said.

"Moreover, he is an Aggie — graduate of Class of '53, and by his depth of character he has earned the respect of the Texas Legislature."



Dave Scott, Battalion staff

Dying elephants make a splash

The trail of seniors, known as "dying elephants," splashes its way through the fountains located between the Chemistry Building and Thompson Hall during Elephant

Walk Tuesday. Elephant Walk is an acknowledgement of the seniors' impending "death," for after the Texas game, they are of no further use to the Twelfth Man.

Bonfire mascot won't be eaten

by Christie Johnson
Battalion Reporter

A junior civilian bonfire coordinator says bonfire workers do not intend to roast this year's official bonfire mascot at the bonfire barbeque.

Richard McLeon says bonfire workers have never intended to roast the mascot, a goat named Zippo, in spite of rumors to the contrary.

"We were keeping it hushed," McLeon said, "because it's a tradition to roast the mascot," he said.

McLeon said Zippo is on loan and will be back to his owner as soon as bonfire is over.

He said the 19-month-old goat is too valuable to be roasted and eaten at the barbeque because it is registered breeding stock. He also said male livestock more than one year old usually has an unpleasant taste to it.

Dr. Arthur Blair, assistant to the president of Texas A&M, said the president's office received several complaints after a picture of the goat was

printed in the Nov. 9 issue of The Battalion. The caption beneath the picture read that Zippo would be the "main course of a celebration barbeque before the bonfire."

Blair said one of the letters sent to President Frank Vandiver's office was from The Humane Society of Brazos County. He said some Texas A&M students also voiced complaints.

Blair said Vandiver was opposed to the idea of roasting the mascot and consulted with Dr. John Koldus, who is the vice president for student services at Texas A&M.

Dr. J. Malon Sutherland, who is an assistant vice president for student services, said Koldus met with civilian and corps bonfire coordinators to determine if bonfire workers intended to roast the goat.

At the meeting, bonfire coordinators assured Koldus the goat was not going to be roasted and eaten at the bonfire barbeque.

CS offers to make bonfire signs

by Karen Wallace
Battalion Staff

Last year, an Austin city limits sign decorated the outhouse atop the Texas A&M bonfire held before the annual University of Texas football game.

Friday night, there again will be an Austin city limits sign, but this year, it will be bought.

The idea of buying the sign came during a conversation between Cadet

Lt. Col. Kevin Smith and College Station Mayor Gary Halter, an associate professor of political science at Texas A&M.

Smith and Halter were discussing the four Texas A&M students who had been charged with stealing Austin city limits signs.

Buying the sign will be a lot easier than the previous methods of sign gathering, Smith said.

"Times change," Smith said. "That's the way we want to do it now. It's going to cause a lot less trouble."

Malon Sutherland, assistant vice president for student services, agreed.

"It's a real good thing for students to identify a problem like the these signs and come up with a good solution," he said.

Placing an outhouse atop the bonfire

started as a tradition the same way placing signs on the bonfire became a tradition, Sutherland said.

Now is the right time to start buying the signs instead of "picking them up in the community," Sutherland said.

The sign is being made by College Station's street department.

Smith said the cost of the sign should be about \$23.

Redpot

Barker makes sure bonfire gets built

by Barbara Brown
Battalion Reporter

Small groups of people gathered around scattered campfires to visit quietly on a chilly November day. A Waylon Jennings tape and the buzz of a saw is heard in the distance.

Bonfire — the symbol of the undying Aggie spirit and the burning desire to beat the Longhorns — looms only a hundred yards away.

"I guess if no one wanted to participate in the construction of bonfire, then we would build it," said Craig Barker, one of the eight senior "redpots" in charge of the bonfire. "We're the ones that make sure there's a bonfire each year."

"Redpot" is the Aggie term for one of the eight senior students in charge of bonfire construction.

Speaking from the splintered porch of the shack that serves as headquarters, Barker's emotion-filled voice and eyes reveal the extreme devotion this 22-year-old agricultural education major has for bonfire.

"It (bonfire) brings students, both Corps and civilian, together like no other tradition," he said.

Bonfire is the only major activity that every student in the university can participate in without having to be chosen, Barker said.

An estimated 300 onlookers come to the site each night, he said, and very few go away without having met other people and experiencing the real meaning of what bonfire is all about.

Barker explained that to become a redpot, a person needs at least one year's experience working on bonfire as a sophomore. Then he must be chosen to serve one year as a junior redpot. After completing his apprenticeship, he becomes a senior redpot.

Barker, a Corps Christi native and platoon leader for Company B-1, is the chief coordinator for the stack, referred to as "head stack".

"There is no single redpot in charge," he said, "but someone has to be the spokesman, the negotiator, and — if anything goes wrong — the blame-taker."

"I am the liaison between the University officials and the stu-



dents," Barker said. But if any decisions are to be made, he has the final word.

As "head stack," one of Barker's duties is making sure bonfire is built safely.

"I observe from both on top of the stack and on the ground to see if anything unsafe is going on," Barker said. "If anything is unsafe in my opinion, then it is immediately corrected."

Although bonfire is a time-consuming responsibility, Barker says he has never missed a class. He said desire is the key to being a part of bonfire.

"A person has to make time for the things that are important to him," Barker said. "And since I first saw bonfire as a freshman, I knew I wanted to be a redpot."

Barker's duty ends immediately after the lighting of bonfire on Friday night and his "son" will become the "head stack" for the 1984 bonfire.

Barker's official duty may end this Friday but his devotion will not.

"I'll be back every year that I possibly can," he said, "because I love bonfire."

Poor planning blamed for Poland's problems

by Michael Piwonka
Battalion Reporter

Poor economic planning and political policies during the 70's are two main reasons for Polish political problems that exist today, a noted Polish political scientist said here Tuesday.

Dr. Longin Pastusiak, speaking to a group in the Memorial Student Center about the political conflicts in Poland, said the economic goal of expanding the industrial power of Poland by borrowing to finance the growth didn't work. The debts caused an economic recession and the recession caused political unrest in the country, he said.

Pastusiak, who has worked with the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw since 1963, said the Polish government, spurred by economic growth of the early 70s, put disproportionate emphasis on the building of industries. Once the industries were built, there was insufficient money to operate them, he said.

A&M-UT rivalry now 89 years old

by Linda Griggs
Battalion Reporter

The football rivalry between Texas A&M and the University of Texas began 89 years ago.

Today the tradition continues, but a little differently.

The Aggies will take on the nationally ranked Longhorns for the 90th time on Saturday instead of the traditional day of Thanksgiving.

The game will be two days later because it will be televised by ABC at 11:30 a.m.

Having a game nationally televised has its advantages — recognition and money.

"This is a situation where — not that you have to do it — but it would be kind of foolish not to take advantage of it," associate athletic director and former Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow said.

Crow said the athletic department could turn down the network but that it's not a wise idea. ABC will pay approx-

imately \$1.5 million to air the game. Part of that money will go to the Southwest Conference; the rest will be divided between Texas A&M and the University of Texas.

The money Texas A&M obtains from the game is put back into its athletic programs, Crow said.

"The money goes to the athletic department, and by virtue of channels, it goes back into the athletic program either through facilities or scholarships," Crow said.

Wally Groff, associate athletic director for finance, said the game is expected to be a sell-out.

"We are expecting approximately 75,000 people," Groff said. The seating capacity of Kyle Field is 72,387 people.

"We've already sold out on temporary stands put on the south end zones and we are already selling chairs along the track," Crow said.

Next year, the game is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, but it is too early to say whether the teams will play on that day.

he said. The selection of incompetent personnel in the government and the circulation of propaganda proclaiming favorable economic situations also was harmful, Pastusiak said.

Censorship of critical evaluations of government policies didn't allow other policy ideas to surface, he said.

The recovery for Poland will be a slow process, Pastusiak said.

"We've hit the bottom, but we're on the way," he said.

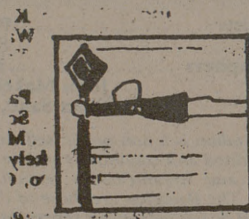
American-Polish relations have been strained by action taken by the Reagan administration, he said.

The trade sanctions set by the Reagan administration against Poland have done more harm to the people than to the government, Pastusiak said. These sanctions were set when Poland was under martial law.

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forecast



Cloudy, chance of thunderstorms. High 88, low 74.