

Old flame

Bonfire having growing pains; relocation under consideration

By CAMI BROWN
Reporter

As bonfire grows tall, its roots grow deeper into Aggie soil. What started out as a casual burning of a trash pile has become a sturdy symbol of Aggie spirit.

Now a committee has been formed to discuss whether or not the bonfire will be uprooted for the second time in its history.

Malon Southerland, assistant vice president of student services, is the 1984 bonfire advisor and he suggested that the ad hoc committee be formed.

"I think it's reasonable and prudent for us to have at least considered whether or not there are any legitimate alternatives," he said.

The bonfire was moved from the main drill field to Duncan field because of safety problems. Southerland said he is unaware of any problems with the present site other than the possibility that on the night of the fire, amber carried by the wind may settle on nearby rooftops. Bonfire funds cover the \$1,700 it costs the physical plant to water the

roofs of neighboring buildings.

Southerland said, however, this problem would not necessarily be solved if the site were changed.

Other sites being considered — the polo field, the west part of camps and off campus — may eliminate some fire hazards but introduce other problems.

"We have to consider the type of access, the proximity to residence halls and the stability of the site," Southerland said.

The stability of a site refers to how long the bonfire will be able to stay on that location.

Southerland said a recommendation to change the site from Duncan field will be issued only if an overwhelming problem is found to exist with the location and a better alternative clearly exists.

"We're not doing this with the attitude that bonfire should be moved, that's not the idea at all," Southerland said. "The positive benefit of this is even if Duncan remains the best site we will be able to do a better job at using Dun-

can field."

Although the possibility of an off-campus site is not being ignored, Southerland said the project is too dependent on students to be located out of their reach.

"If it is moved off campus," Southerland said, "there's a good probability that bonfire is over." Thus the on-campus alternatives such as the polo field and Duncan field are being given serious attention by the committee.

Probable committee members include: Southerland; Col. Donald L. Burton, Corps commandant; William L. Kibler, assistant director of student affairs; Eugene H. Ray, director of grounds maintenance; Raymond Janec, city fire marshal; Joe Jordan, student body president; Randy Bover, bonfire '83 redpot; Keith Anderson, bonfire '84 headstack and another student representative not yet appointed.

"Bonfire makes a statement about the individual and the institution," Southerland said. "As long as this will be perpetuated."

House leader denies charges

Wright: Reagan's not a liar

United Press International

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leader Jim Wright said Sunday he did not call President Reagan a liar, and would not — but that some of Reagan's statements about the budget negotiations were lies.

In an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," a questioner said when Reagan accused the Democrats of foot-dragging on the negotiations to reduce the federal deficit, "You took the floor of the House and essential-

ly denounced the president as a liar."

Wright replied: "I didn't call the president a liar, nor, I hope, would I ever use a perjorative term like that for any president or any political opponent."

"What I said was his characterization — frequently repeated — to the effect that we had offered no suggestions, was a lie. It was a lie. It was untrue. I was at that meeting; he was not."

"We made — I made — as

many as 20 different suggestions (for reducing the deficit). If he had said we made no suggestions that he personally found acceptable, that may have been truthful. For him to have said, as he did, that we made no suggestions was false. It was untrue."

"He said they had a very difficult time getting us to meet. That was a lie. That was not true at all. That charge began to be made the very day the budget came out ... apparently that was their plan, to accuse us of this."

We went out every time we were invited," Wright said.

He said: "A couple of times I suggested meeting dates that were inconvenient to the president's designee (chief of staff James Baker) and that was all right — I didn't go out and accuse him of dragging his feet."

"But for them to suggest that we were unwilling or didn't make earnest, serious efforts to come to some agreement that would make serious reductions in these staggering Reagan deficits is a lie. It is a falsehood."

Iran accuses Iraq of using nerve gas

United Press International

Iran accused Iraq Sunday of using nerve gas and germ warfare on the southern battlefield, injuring hundreds of Iranians in its latest chemical weapons attack in the 42-month-old Persian Gulf war. Iraq denied the charge.

Iraq reported Sunday that it used helicopter gunships in attacks that killed 119 Iranian troops east of the southern Iraqi port city Basra.

It said Iranian shelling of Basra killed a civilian and demolished a house.

Iran's official news agency IRNA said 460 soldiers were injured by "microbic and nerve bombs" Saturday and more than 200 "are suffering from nervous spasms due to being exposed to nerve bombs."

The Iranian claim of the chemical attack on the Kheibar front, 40 to 70 miles north of Basra, was at least the third alleged Iraqi chemical attack since the current offensive began on Feb. 22.

Iraq responded to the latest Iranian accusation by saying it was prepared to take journalists to see a fertilizer factory in a remote section of western Iraq, which Western reports have identified as the source of Iraq's chemical weapons.

"Zionist and Iranian organs, which are working in full collaboration, have not ceased to fabricate such allegations about the nature of this plant," senior government officials in the Iraqi

capital of Baghdad told United Press International.

The Iranian charge Sunday came a day after an Iraqi general told journalists on the warfront that Baghdad would not rule out the use of chemical weapons against Iran.

"If they keep coming and attacking us we shall not hesitate to use any weapons, even chemical weapons," said Gen. Maher Abdul-Rasheed, commander of the 3rd Army Corps.

Student menu board helps make 'dorm food' palatable

By HELEN DE LA ROSA
Reporter

Input from Texas A&M students and occasional comparisons with other colleges are part of the Texas A&M Department of Food Services' policy.

Lloyd Smith, assistant director for board dining food services, said that during the fall semester about 2,200 students were served daily in the Commons Dining Center, 4,000 in Sbis Dining Center and between 2,000 and 4,000 in Duncan Dining Center.

"Dining center managers are required to sit with a minimum of five students a week and have the students compare a food service questionnaire," Smith said. "The surveys, which are completed in the students' handwriting, are discussed at weekly food services staff meetings and managers are required to reply."

Each facility has a six-member menu board made up of students who are appointed yearly by the student body president.

"The menu board is responsible for putting anything on or off facility menus by majority vote," Smith said. "Even catsup, yogurt and ice cream are tested by menu board members and their preferences checked."

But some A&M students still aren't happy with "dorm food." One cadet told The Battalion

that the food served in Duncan is "bland, cold and almost everything is fried and greasy." Another added, "I think it's gotten worse since I've been here. Everything's fried. We have shrimp or steak one night and fried chicken the rest of the week."

Other students who commented on what they liked about Texas A&M food services mentioned nutrition, three "squares" a day, baked potatoes, steaks and even Captain Crunch cereal.

Some dislikes mentioned were: chicken served too often, too many fried foods, too many carbohydrates and starches, bland food and re-heated food.

Most who were questioned knew about the menu board, but

had not voiced any opinions to board members. Some said they did not know who was on the board and did not know how to contact them.

Pictures, names and phone numbers of menu board members are displayed in each dining center. This year's board members are:

• Duncan — Keith Carmichael, Dawson Clark, John Cook, Mike Hicks, Joe Kilianski and Warren Sumner.

• Commons — Ian McClellan, Marsh Perkins, Kathy Mills, Cherry Callegari, Erin Messonier and Don Smith.

• Sbis — David Alders, Ajey Chandra, Brian Hay, Diane Peat, Chip heath and Janet Netardus.

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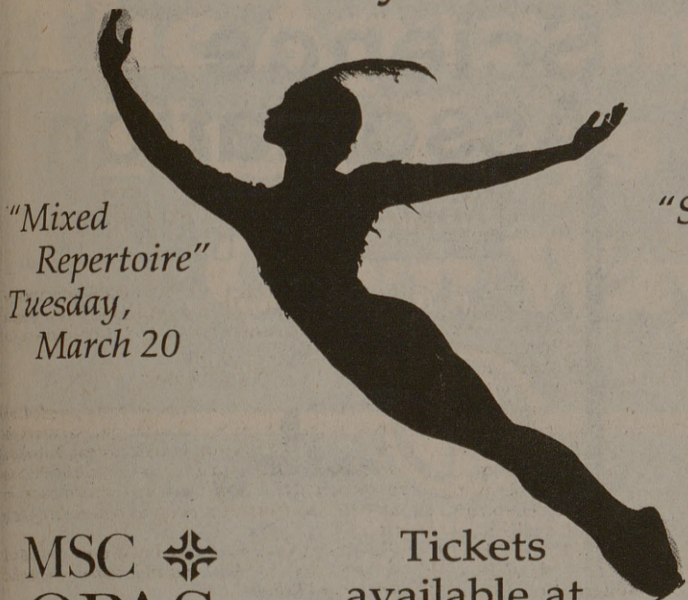


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