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Bonfire lit; players show desire to win

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Staff Writer

The young and old alike witnessed the lighting of the 75th-anniversary bonfire Thursday night on Duncan Field.

At about 8:15 p.m. the redpots and Texas Aggie Band began marching toward the bonfire stack. Torches were thrown on the 55-foot stack eight minutes later, and the blaze began.

Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver and Jackie Sherrill, head football coach, made short speeches before a few of the football players expressed their desire to beat the Longhorns.

"This is our year to win," Vandiver said. "It doesn't really matter what the margin is as long as we win."

Sherrill said the football team was looking forward to going to Austin to have a good time.

"I think maybe a lot of people have forgotten about the Twelfth Man, but we are going to Austin to represent everyone," he said. "Everyone on the team is looking forward to going to Austin this year."

Defensive end Ray Childress, described by Sherrill as one of the best players to ever play that position, just about blew the speakers off the stands when he shouted his desire to beat the Longhorns.

"We going to go down to Austin and light a little fire," he said.

Some older Aggies witnessing the fire said it wasn't quite like it used to be.

"When I was in school the fire used to be a lot higher than it is this year," Tip Patterson, Class of '46, said. "We also used to steal highway signs, but I understand they can't do that anymore."

I would give anything to be young again so I could be more involved with this event."

Keith Beugelsdijk, a senior petroleum engineering major, said the warm weather took some of the bonfire spirit away from the event.

"It is warm enough out here to wear short sleeves, but I see some of the football players wearing their heavy coats on," he said.

John Kelsmark, a junior biomedical science major, had his doubts about Saturday's game.

"I suppose the bonfire will stand quite a while tonight because the wind isn't blowing very hard," he said. "I hope that means we will win Saturday, but I have to see it to believe it."

Tradition has it that if the bonfire



Yell leaders and red pots gather together before lighting the Aggie bonfire. This was the

75th anniversary bonfire. About 20,000 people attended the event.

Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

doesn't fall before midnight, the Aggies will win the game.

However, this year's bonfire fell around 10 p.m.

Dave Roberts was busy selling 'Horn Buster' sweat shirts while a worker for the A&M traditions council was passing out about 300

'Bon Fired Up' bumper stickers.

"We expect to sell quite a few shirts tonight," Roberts said. "We are selling sweat shirts for \$13 and T-shirts for \$6."

Roberts was trying to convince people the weather would soon be cold enough to wear sweat shirts.

Peter Kraus, a worker on the bonfire, said he expected the fire to stand well after midnight.

Officials at the A.P. Beutel Health Center said only a few minor injuries were reported at the fire.

900,000 people face starvation

By CATHIE ANDERSON
Reporter

The millions of dollars in aid contributed to Ethiopia by the United States may be too late to save many of the 900,000 people in danger of dying in that country, an agricultural economist at Texas A&M said Tuesday.

The government in that country should have been working against this situation long ago, Dr. Wes Peterson said. Peterson worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa for several years before coming to A&M.

"No one woke up two months ago and just decided to create this famine," Peterson said. "They (Ethiopian officials) let the famine develop until it finally got so bad that they couldn't divert attention from it anymore."

Peterson said that even though the United States has made a commitment to help, the aid will take a long time to actually get to the Ethiopian people.

"Then when the food gets there, the government won't have the means to distribute it," Peterson said.

He said the food is often distributed by trucks, but since the roads are bad, it is difficult to keep the vehicles working.

"The famine in Ethiopia was a long time in the making," he said. "If one had been monitoring things, it would have been fairly easy to figure out what was happening. The Marxist regime in Ethiopia probably tried to hide information about food production and availability."

Marxists are always embarrassed to admit their mistakes, said Dr. Jim Payne, a political scientist at A&M.

"They believe that they are making a better world, and they're ashamed when they fail," he said.

Peterson said several other factors have made the famine more difficult to control.

First, the Ethiopian government pursues a cheap food economic policy, which Peterson said has contributed to the hunger problem.

Under this policy, government officials decide to keep food prices low, he said. Thus farmers are paid low rates for their crops, and farming and farm expansion become unattractive.

Payne said Marxists usually have had agricultural economies.

"They believe that any wealthy or successful person is undesirable, and they get rid of wealthy farmers first," he said. "They don't realize that wealthy farmers are doing most of the production. If you wipe them out, then you're wiping out production."

While the amount of food production remains the same in Ethiopia, the population is greatly increasing, Peterson said. Many of the diseases that once plagued the African continent have been completely eliminated. Because of this, more people are living longer.

Another factor that has made the famine difficult to control is the drought, Peterson said. Food cannot be grown easily because the land is so arid.

The Ethiopian civil war, which has been going on for about three years, has created difficulties also since it has displaced many people, he said. They can't grow food because they frequently have to move.

EPA

Reagan names new head

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan named toxic waste expert Lee Thomas to head the Environmental Protection Agency Thursday, and Thomas immediately proclaimed his "style is not to get into fights."

Ruckelshaus, the outgoing chief, denied congressional suggestions he decided to leave rather than face severe budget cuts for the agency.

"It has nothing to do with the budget," he said. "Nothing to do with it. The annual budget struggle is an annual event, and not unusual in this job. It's something you expect."

Ruckelshaus, 52, said after 25 years in and out of government, "your stomach tells you when its time to leave, and my stomach tells me this is the time to break." He said he has no specific plans.

Ruckelshaus praised Thomas, who headed the toxic waste unit of the agency, as one of the best government managers he has ever known.

He said, "I plan to speak for the kinds of resources and political direction I think we need to run the programs, working with (the budget office) and working with the White House."

"My style is not to get into fights with any particular people," he said. "I'm part of an administration team, and I can work with people in the administration."

"Clearly, I think President Reagan is committed to a strong environmental program. I think he demonstrated that over the last two years." Thomas was referring to Ruckelshaus's 20-month reign at EPA after charges of mismanagement and scandal in the toxic waste program led to the resignation of Anne Burford in March 1983.

Thomas, 40, came to the EPA with Ruckelshaus to help clean it up, serving as acting deputy administra-

tor before succeeding the fired Rita Lavelle as chief of toxic wastes.

He said he spoke with Reagan about his own commitment to environmental quality and said "I feel comfortable" with the president's commitment.

Thomas said he was surprised at the culmination of a quick rise through state and federal bureaucracies.

Sen. Robert Stafford, R-Vt., head of the Senate Environment Committee, predicted quick confirmation.

Reagan met with Thomas at the White House Thursday before announcing the nomination, taking Ruckelshaus's advice to act quickly before controversy arose over a successor.

"I certainly applaud the president's wisdom in appointing Mr. Thomas," Ruckelshaus said. "He couldn't have made a better choice."

"Lee Thomas is one of the finest and most able public servants whom I have had the opportunity to work with and know."

As for Thomas' talent for managing an agency, especially one so controversial, Ruckelshaus said, "He has an instinct for it, he understands it, and does it in a superior fashion. He is not ideological in one sense or another."

"I consider myself a professional public administrator," said Thomas, a native of Ridgeway, S.C., and a former state director of criminal justice programs. "I feel very comfortable and committed to this administration."

Correction

On Thursday, Nov. 29 The Battalion incorrectly reported the dates for picking up fee slips.

Fee slips can be picked up today through Dec. 3 in the Pavilion from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Dec. 3, fee slips will be sent to students' local addresses.

Liberal arts grads getting good jobs

Students like department size

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M.

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Reporter

Administrators and professors have mixed reactions on the quality of the liberal arts student following the 37.3 percent growth of the College of Liberal Arts since Fall 1982. Dr. Candida Lutes, associate dean for student affairs for the college, says the college will continue to grow and expand.

Lutes thinks the quality of the student is excellent.

"We have a fair number of National Merit scholars, and we have many honors students," she said. "As a matter of fact, in the College of Liberal Arts we have more students who are University Undergraduate Fellows this year than any other college in this University."

"When you consider how few students we have, relative to some of the other colleges, that's not bad."

Lutes said a survey of liberal arts graduates indicates they routinely

get into graduate programs and get hired for good jobs.

Dr. Terry Anderson, associate professor of history, agreed with Lutes' assessment of the students' quality.

"I think that the students I know in liberal arts are getting better every year at A&M, even though it's a period in which more technical education or business oriented education is very important," he said.

Bob Rogers, professor of journalism, said he thinks the number of top students in the journalism department has remained about the same. So, because the enrollment has increased, the percentage of top students has decreased. He said there are more marginal students.

"I think that will always happen as the numbers grow," he said. "The distance between the top and the bottom will always get larger."

Dr. James Payne, professor of political science, said he sees the quality of his students decreasing judging by the number of students failing his tests.

"One thing that's tended to happen is I think I have noticed myself

cutting back on the total amount of material I give the classes because they don't seem to be able to handle it as well, so it takes longer," he said.

The political science and journalism departments have had the largest increase of students since 1982. Enrollment in the political science department has risen 54.9 percent to 395 students and enrollment in the journalism department has risen 49.2 percent to 458 students, according to 1984 Fall enrollment figures.

Lutes predicts continued development of the College of Liberal Arts in terms of increasing the number of graduate degrees in the college and possibly the creation of new departments.

But, she said, A&M does not decide to create new degrees and departments, the Coordinating Board of Texas College and University System does.

The board recently approved a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication for the Spring. Students also have the option of obtaining certification to teach speech in secondary schools.

Anderson said, "I think we're im-

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