

Women and bonfire: another Aggie tradition

By Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

Aggie bonfire is an 80-year-old tradition, but women have only been allowed to work on it since 1981.

"A long time ago it was clear that the preferred role by most students for women who worked on bonfire was not for them to work on the stack and to do cutting, but to do other things," said Bill Kibler, advisor to the Bonfire Committee. "But over the last few years they've (women at bonfire) participated more and more in cutting down trees, bringing logs out to the stacking site, loading trucks and working on the stack."

"We've actually had women working on the stack off and on since 1981," Kibler continued. "That's the first year that I'm aware of that women worked up on the stack. Most people think this just happened the last couple of years, and

that's just not true."

Kibler said the number of women working on all major areas of bonfire over the last three years, not just in such indirect roles such as the Reload Crew who serves food and drink to workers, has gone up tremendously.

"Women are now clearly involved in every aspect of bonfire, not just a support role, but doing all of the same work that the men are doing," Kibler said.

Laura Gilliland, a senior Russian major from Southlake and the only woman bonfire crew chief this year, said the biggest problem with women who want to work on bonfire is that many think they can just go out to the cut site or to stack (on Duncan Field) and be accepted, before they prove their willingness to really work.

"You have to work twice as hard for half the respect, but it is worth it," Gilliland said. "You have to earn

your respect out there.

"But once you earn it, they (male bonfire workers) realize you're out there because you like to work, and not because you are looking for a date."

Jean Dusterhoff, a senior elementary education major from Round Rock, said when women work on bonfire, they do not separate themselves from the men. She started going out to cut last year after she found out that women were allowed to actually cut and work at the cut site.

"It was hard for the guys to get used to the girls being out there at first," Dusterhoff said. "Once they saw that we were there to work, we were always given ample opportunity to work."

"We basically don't do anything different out there job wise. One thing is for sure though, we go out there to work, not to sit around the perimeter fires."

Rebecca Shivers, a junior elementary education major from Hull said there are more women actually working on bonfire than most students think.

"This year there are girls galore working on bonfire, many who have worked on it for three or four years," Shivers said. "We actually get out there and work."

Shivers said it's not easy for those women who go cut and stack for bonfire, but that it's rewarding for those who do.

"It seems a little bit harder for a girl to get up on stack, but you've got to pull your weight," Shivers said. "It's sometimes harder for us because we're not as physically strong as the men but we still provide a lot of motivation. We just go out to work and have a lot of fun."

Shivers said the women get harassed, but it's all "good bull" and nothing is said that the men would not say to or yell at each other.

Gilliland said that if a woman who is working on bonfire is being ignored and not being yelled at by the men, she is basically not being accepted.

"There are certain times when the word 'bimbo' means something different," Gilliland said. "If the guys say it to you nicely, they really mean it. If they say it mean and derogatory, they're just motivating you to work."

Gilliland said the true mark of respect is when the redpots, the top bonfire supervisors, talk to her like she is one of their buddies, and not like she deserves preferential treatment because she is a woman.

Kibler said any student can work on bonfire, but to encourage women to participate there is an invitation that goes out to all the female residence halls to get them involved in the bonfire building process.

"One of the things that has been said is that there aren't any yellowpots (residence hall bonfire coordi-

nators) in the female residence halls," Kibler said. "That's true thus far, but the only thing keeping the female halls from having them is just the numbers of people that were participating."

"Any female hall that can have the numbers turn out that would show that they could turn out a certain percentage of their hall, there would obviously be a need there to have another leadership position created for those people, and one would be placed there," Kibler continued. "Thus far we've been unable to have a female hall that has been able to consistently turn out those numbers, so they are assigned to an existing yellowpot from one of the other halls, and the women work as integrated teams with the male hall residents."

When Gilliland was asked why she goes out to work on bonfire, she said it is for the same reason other A&M students do — "Because I'm an Aggie."

Elephant Walk '89



Photos by Mike C. Mulvey

The 1989 bonfire redpots, left, kick off elephant walk Thursday by leading a yell practice atop the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue. Hundreds of seniors gathered in front of the Academic Building for the annual tradition of walking around campus preparing to "die." Several juniors also got into Thursday's action by spraying shaving cream on their elders, but as seen above, they were punished.

Vandals mar UT with A&M logo

University of Texas officials say damage done to buildings, fountain, Memorial Stadium

By Melissa Naumann

Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M logo was spray-painted Wednesday night on buildings, a fountain and the Memorial Stadium playing field at the University of Texas, UT officials said Thursday.

Jerry Decamp, associate vice president for business affairs at UT, said that the logo was painted in red and that all of it except what was on the playing field had been cleaned up.

Because it was done at night, they don't know who did it, Decamp said.

Dr. James Vick, vice president of Student Affairs at UT, said the vandalism was serious with the most damage done to the artificial turf, which was purchased this semester.

"No one is blaming this on A&M or on the student body there," Vick said. "It was probably just some people who don't understand what the spirit of competition is."

Bob Wiatt, director of security of the A&M University Police Department, said the UT police had contacted him and that inquiries are being made to determine if A&M students were involved. UPD will help the UT police with any investigation, Wiatt said.

Little Field Fountain, three locations on the Main Building, Hogg Memorial Auditorium, Student Services Building, the alumni center and Memorial Stadium were vandalized.

"It's vandalism rather than fun," Vick said. "It's going beyond the level of fun."

TEAM encourages responsible drinking at A&M-UT game

By Melissa Naumann

Of The Battalion Staff

This time beer and barbecue won't go together.

At the University of Texas football game tomorrow and as part of the move to decrease alcohol consumption at traditional Texas A&M events, spectators will be encouraged not to drink or, if they must, not to drive.

Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management, or TEAM, is a program funded by the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation and endorsed by the Southwest Athletic Conference to decrease the violence, disorderly conduct and driving danger that result from heavy drinking during football games.

Eli Rodriguez, SWC TEAM Project manager, said this is the first program of its kind at the university level. Even though most universities do not sell alcohol at sporting events, spectators frequently drink excessively before coming to the game or they smuggle it in, he said.

The results of this can be intoxicated minors, fights in the stands and accidents before and after the game as well as increased liability and insurance costs, lawsuits and complaints from other fans, Rodriguez said. TEAM is trying to avoid all of these.

Lynn Moses, a graduate assistant at the Texas A&M Center for Drug Prevention and Education and a member of the Bonfire Alcohol Awareness Committee, said it's easy for people to bring alcohol into Kyle Field, especially when it's cold and they can wear big jackets.

"People always smuggle it in and buy Cokes to mix with the hard liquor," Moses said.

Moses said TEAM is supporting the efforts to cut back on the alcohol consumption at bonfire by making radio announcements and donating

keychains, buttons, cups and stickers that are being distributed at a table in the MSC.

Rodriguez said that, as part of the TEAM effort, various announcements will be made at the football game between A&M and the University of Texas tomorrow encouraging people to be careful when drinking.

"Basically the idea is that we appreciate you as fans, we want you to be responsible," he said.

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recognize when people have been drinking, the primary emphasis will be educational. Brochures, pins and posters will be distributed with one message: Think before you drink. A&M Coach R.C. Slocum and other SWC coaches have made posters and a videotape encouraging spectators to be careful.

Rodriguez said this type of program started in 1985 in professional sports stadiums when stadium owners noticed increased problems with fans, partly due to alcoholic sales and consumption. Once the TEAM program was initiated, the owners noticed a dramatic decrease in these problems, he said.

Moses said TEAM is used only at football games so far. "I'm sure alcohol is used at baseball and basketball games but it's more obvious at football games," she said.

Student leaders, law agencies take action to help make Bonfire '89 more safe, sober

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

The 1989 Aggie bonfire is expected to burn as brightly as ever Friday night, but the event should be more pleasing to everyone as a result of efforts by both student leaders and campus and community law enforcement agencies to make it a safe and sober one.

The annual blaze, which will be ignited at approximately 8 p.m., symbolizes the Aggies' 'burning desire' to beat the arch-rival Texas Longhorns on the gridiron. But this year, there are other desires at work as well — ones aimed at improving the overall bonfire experience for everyone concerned.

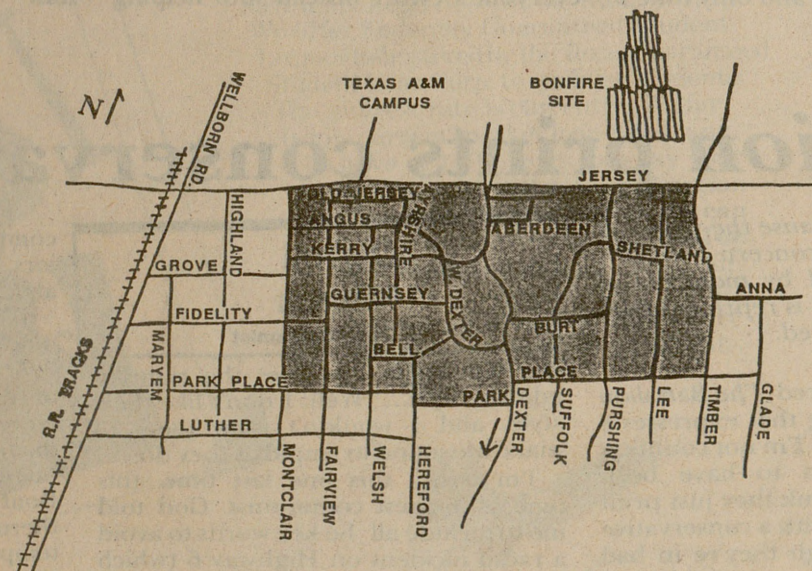
An estimated 40,000-50,000 people are expected to attend the lighting ceremony and accompanying yell practice Friday night. In an attempt to lessen congestion, confusion and crowd control problems, several changes have been implemented this year.

The first and perhaps most notable change is a new student-led effort aimed at decreasing the consumption of alcohol at bonfire.

Representatives of major student organizations including Student Government, the Corps of Cadets, the Residence Hall Association, Off Campus Aggies, the Graduate Student Council, the Intrafraternity Council and Student Publications are encouraging everyone to attend bonfire, but to come without alcohol.

The message is simple, the student leaders say: "Don't drown the spirit of bonfire." Those who choose to drink are being asked to do so in

Map of blocked-off area:



moderation before coming to campus or after leaving — but not while driving — and to refrain from bringing alcoholic beverages to the bonfire.

"Bonfire is a time for fellowship and for sharing the Aggie Spirit," says Student Body President Kevin Buchman. "Pride, teamwork and appreciation should be what we're celebrating Friday night, not intoxication."

As a part of the same program, University Police Department (UPD) officials remind all those planning to attend bonfire that alcoholic beverages

are prohibited in almost all areas of the Texas A&M campus.

That prohibition, they say, means it is illegal to have or consume alcohol at the bonfire site. UPD officers are prepared to enforce the law with arrests if necessary.

Also planned this year are more extensive street closings to better accommodate emergency and support vehicles should they be needed.

College Station Police and UPD officials say segments of Jersey Street will be closed to all but emergency vehicles from 6:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and several streets in the

surrounding neighborhood will be closed to all but residential traffic from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Jersey Street will be closed from Timber Street to Dexter Street (and from the corresponding Bizzell Street to Coke Street on campus) from 6:45 p.m. to 11 p.m. Traffic will, however, be permitted to exit campus via Throckmorton Street (the west lanes of the divided road adjacent to the bonfire site) and turn right onto the open portion of Jersey Street.

Lewis Street north of the bonfire will be closed to all but essential traffic and service vehicles for much of Friday and Houston Street will be closed to all traffic beginning in the early evening hours.

University-owned buses will run their regular routes from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, including those operating from J.C. Penney at Post Oak Mall and Wal-Mart in College Station. Students and their guests may ride these buses to campus free of charge. There will be no bus service from west campus parking lots to the main campus, however.

Transportation to the campus also will be provided by the Brazos Valley Transit Authority, which will run buses to the site from 16 area hotels, the Brazos Center and the Southwest Athletic Complex. Buses will leave these sites at 6 p.m. and return to their starting points following the yell practice.

Parking will be available in most University parking lots, but standard Texas A&M parking restrictions will apply.