

Bonfire crowd sober, subdued

By Chris Vaughn

Of The Battalion Staff

The media blitz urging people not to drink alcohol at bonfire '89 may have paid off.

Texas A&M University Police, members of the Bonfire Alcohol Awareness Committee and student government leaders said the campaign aimed at eliminating alcohol from the bonfire site was a success.

"I am exceptionally pleased with the people who attended bonfire," Bob Wiatt, director of security for the University Police Department, said. "There was no rampant misbehavior and very little alcohol."

University Police, working with the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission, wrote 79 tickets Friday at bonfire for minors in possession of alcohol or for people who made alcohol available to a minor. Last year, 140 tickets were written. The number of citations written by College Station police officers was unavailable.

UPD and the College Station Police Department arrested 16 people, primarily for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. Four people were arrested for driving while intoxicated, including one who drove through a police barrier.

The number of arrests this year was up 10 from last year, but this was because of CSPD's paddy wagon, Wiatt said.

"In past years, we lost one officer for about two hours every time someone was arrested, but this year we loaded several people into the paddy wagon at a time and kept our officers where we needed them," Wiatt said.



Photo by Steve M. Noreyko

A University Police officer pours out the remains of confiscated beer at bonfire Friday night by Duncan Dining Hall.

Wiatt said his department avoided some tickets and arrests by asking people to pour their drinks out when they approached the campus, which he said almost everyone complied with.

Wiatt said he had received no reports of vandalism or burglary on campus while his entire force was busy with the bonfire crowd, which was estimated to be 40,000.

The media campaign, which used "Keep Alcohol from Shattering the Tradition" as a slogan, was a re-

sponse to a growing problem of drunkenness and violent behavior at the annual tradition.

A CSPD spokesman said he thought the campaign failed in its efforts to curb drinking.

"It didn't work," Lt. Mason Newton said. "As many people as I saw carrying beer, liquor and coolers, that's the only reason they came. For every one who wasn't drinking, there were 10 who were. It was a typical bonfire crowd."

But Wiatt said the situation im-

proved as much as could be expected.

"In past years, the problems were much worse," Wiatt said. "I'll be even more pleased if the numbers diminish further next year. We can't expect every problem to disappear in one year."

Kevin Buchman, A&M student body president, said he was proud of the student body reaction to the campaign.

"Bonfire was a tremendous improvement over last year and the years before," Buchman said. "We turned the negative aspects of bonfire into a positive experience for everyone."

Jo Hudson, chairman of the Bonfire Alcohol Awareness Committee, agreed.

"I watched the crowds coming in, and I saw very little alcohol," Hudson said. "I'm very proud of the student leadership, the student body and the community and the way they responded."

Bonfire did get off to a rowdy start, however, when a member of the crowd attempted to steal a torch and light the bonfire early. The man fought with several redpots, Wiatt said, who were in charge of lighting the bonfire.

Wiatt said none of the men involved were drinking and no charges were filed.

Bonfire, a time when homeowners on Jersey Street are particularly apprehensive, created no problems with flying debris and embers because there was no wind, Newton said.

Instead, the embers and debris began falling into the crowd nearest the bonfire, forcing several people to put out flames on their neighbors.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Texas A&M redpots celebrate the lighting of Bonfire '89 in front of an estimated 40,000 people Friday night at Duncan Field.

Krenz, E. German government resign amid protests

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Communist Party leader Egon Krenz and his entire government resigned on Sunday, and a 25-member panel of reformers took over temporary leadership in a desperate effort to rescue the Communist Party.

The dramatic, unprecedented action, announced by megaphone to a cheering crowd, stripped Krenz of power less than

six weeks after he replaced hard-liner Erich Honecker. Krenz was named to the new panel, which will lead the country until a party congress later this month.

It was the shortest reign of any East German leader in the country's history. However, Krenz retains the largely ceremonial position of president.

Krenz opened the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9 and had promised democratic reforms including free elections, but there were increased calls for his ouster even within the party because of his past links to Honecker's rule.

At least 10,000 people standing outside the Central Committee building cheered

wildly when they heard the Politburo and Central Committee had quit.

During a special meeting of the party Central Committee, leaders also expelled Honecker from the party along with 11 other disgraced officials following disclosures of massive corruption among top party ranks.

The 12 are suspected of "serious violations of party statutes," said Guenter Schabowski, who announced the resignations and party ousters by megaphone.

Schabowski was one of those who resigned from the Politburo. He was considered a reformer, but like all of the ousted officials, he was not named to the new committee.

Official final examinations schedule

The final examination schedule for this semester is as follows.

Friday, Dec. 8:

- 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
- Classes meeting MWF 4 p.m.
- Classes meeting MW 4 - 5:15 p.m.
- Classes meeting MW 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.
- Classes meeting MW 5 - 6:15 p.m.
- Classes meeting MW 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
- Classes meeting MW 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

10 a.m. - noon

- Classes meeting MWF 8 a.m.
- Classes meeting TR 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

3 - 5 p.m.

- Classes meeting TR 11 - 12:45 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 11:

8 - 10 a.m.

- Classes meeting MWF 9 a.m.
- Classes meeting MWF noon
- 1 - 3 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 8 - 9:15 a.m.
- Classes meeting MWF 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 12:

8 - 10 a.m.

- Classes meeting MWF 10 a.m.
- Classes meeting MWF 2 p.m.
- 1 - 3 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
- Classes meeting MWF 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 13:

8 - 10 a.m.

- Classes meeting TR 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
- Classes meeting MWF 11 a.m.
- 1 - 3 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 2 - 3:15 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 5 - 6:15 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
- Classes meeting TR 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Any students having three exams scheduled for the same day may ask their dean to reschedule one of the exams.

Board votes on parking

By Todd Connelley

Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Board of Regents today could give students more room for their cars and athletes more room for their studies.

Maj. Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, presented a program to the Board Sunday for an addition to Cain Hall.

Peel said Cain Hall, an athletic dormitory, currently lacks adequate space to satisfy the academic needs of its residents.

Under the proposed project, Peel said, computer labs, study cubicles and tutoring areas will be built to try to make Cain more conducive to studying.

Offices will be provided to give academic counselors a place to confer in private with student athletes if the project is approved, Peel said.

The addition will create 80-100 more seats to the Cain dining area for the female athletes who currently dine in the Commons.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1 million with \$750,000 provided by the Cain Foundation and the remaining \$250,000 donated by Mrs. Netum Steed.

Before providing the money, the Cain Foundation requested the grassy area next to Cain Hall be made into a park and that the name Cain Hall be maintained.

The Board also addressed a topic of interest to all students — parking.

If approved, Parking Area No. 91 will serve as a replacement to Parking Area No. 60 which contains spaces used as parking for visitors, staff and spectators at athletic events.

Parking Area No. 60 will be lost because of the MSC expansion. After construction on the University Center is completed, the parking area will be used as additional student, staff and athletic event parking.

The proposal said the proposed lot is currently an unused, hard-to-maintain grassy area south of Kyle Field.

The Board will vote on these proposals today.

A&M task force commits itself to combat U.S. education crisis

By Andrea Warrenburg

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M has made a new commitment — a commitment to education.

In a continuing effort to attack the American education crisis, the creation of a task force was announced Sunday at the Board of Regents meeting by Dr. Dean

"We want to help schools become centers of intellectual inquiry where all students have the opportunity to succeed. In addition to reading and writing, we need to add math, science and higher-order thinking skills."

— Dr. Dean Corrigan, task-force chairman

Corrigan, former dean of the A&M College of Education, who will head the task force. The task force is charged with implementing A&M's "Commitment to Education" program.

The task force was created to combat some alarming statistics, Corrigan said. In Texas public schools, the overall drop-out rate is 30 percent. Among minorities, the figure is a staggering 50 percent. Across the United States, there is a shortage of teachers, especially in math and science.

"We need to work hard and try new approaches be-

cause what's out there isn't working," said Corrigan, who assumed the newly created position of president's deputy for educational leadership last month. "We want to help schools become centers of intellectual inquiry where all students have the opportunity to succeed."

Initiated by A&M President William Mobley, the "Commitment to Education" is an effort to link the University with public schools and the private sector to combat the top ten problems with the current educational system.

Among these problems are the drop-out rates of students in elementary schools and secondary education, illiteracy, demographics, the need for increased global awareness, overall faculty shortages, and the crisis in math, science and engineering, Corrigan said.

"In addition to reading and writing, we need to add math, science and higher-order thinking skills," Corrigan said.

The task force will consist of representatives from each institution in the Texas A&M University System, state superintendents, principals, teachers and corporate leaders. They will support the already existing programs and serve as communications liaisons across departments and colleges.

Some of the program's activities that are already underway include education conferences on the new direction in education, cross-departmental hearings on sources of funds available for program projects and a luncheon today with the presidents in the A&M system to discuss the "Commitment to Education" plan.

"This is the most innovative response to the biggest problem in our nation," Mobley said.

Regent Bill Clayton said the Board endorses the program 100 percent.

"Varsity's horns are sawed off"



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Texas A&M's head football coach R. C. Slocum and the senior team members sing the Aggie

War Hymn after Saturday's victory over the University of Texas. See Six straight/Page 10