

# Teasips hex Ags annually

By SEAN FRERKING

"Double, double, toil and trouble.  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble. Light a  
candle and make A&M fumble."

This strange chant could be uttered  
by some University of Texas students  
during an annual hex-pep rally before  
every Texas A&M vs. UT football  
game.

Phil Trietsch, co-chairman of UT's  
traditions committee, says that while  
A&M has its traditions which predict a  
win for the Aggies, UT has a way of its  
own to "guarantee" a victory for the  
'Horns.

"We sell these red candles before  
the pep rally," the senior psychology  
major says. "Then at the beginning of  
it, we light all the candles, starting from  
the first 'hexed' candle."

He says the tradition started in the  
'40s when an Austin fortune teller  
suggested she place a hex on opposing  
teams to help the Longhorns win more  
games.

"This lady, Madame Hipple, started  
the whole thing," Trietsch says.  
"Originally, they had a rally like this  
before every big game."

He says the tradition eventually died  
but some UT students revived it in  
1987.

"We don't actually put a real hex on  
the candle anymore," Trietsch says.  
"But we do use the red candles to  
make it traditional."

Kim Horak, a member of traditions  
organization Spooks, says she likes the  
"hex" rally and hopes it will help UT's  
football team this year.

"I think this tradition is neat," says  
Horak, a junior advertising major from  
Freeport. "Some students even go  
down to College Station with their red  
candles to make the Aggies lose."

She says most spirit-oriented  
student organizations on UT's campus  
participate. Horak says she believes the  
candle ceremony helps fans get  
involved.

"Now that the A&M game is so big,  
having that 'hex' rally helps get fan  
support," Horak says.

Trietsch says this year's "hex" rally  
will be Thursday, Nov. 30. The rally is  
at night.

He says that although UT has lost six  
games in a row to A&M, the unusual

event has helped school spirit.

"Obviously, the scores of the past  
several games haven't reflected that  
the hex has worked," Trietsch says.  
"However, it has helped get more

students involved and helps motivate  
the football team.

"Hey, you never know what a little  
magic can do," he continues. "Maybe  
the fourth time will be the charm."



JAYME BLASCHKE/The Battalion

## Corps squadron runs game ball for charities

By ELIZABETH TISCH

After bonfire is ignited, members of the Corps of Cadets' Squadron 7 will run the game ball to Austin for the Texas A&M vs. University of Texas football game.

John McDonald, public relations sergeant, says no one knows when Squadron 7 began making the 162-mile run for local charities, but it has been long enough to become a tradition.

Though Squadron 7 does not specifically train for the long and cold expedition, McDonald says the cadets are in great shape and ready for the run.

"This run is one of the big highlights for Squadron 7," he says. "Everybody is ready."

The U.S. Air Force ROTC outfit, named Challenger 7 in memory of the space shuttle crew, plans to complete the run in 14 hours.

McDonald says the journey will begin when A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum gives the squadron the original game ball 10 minutes after bonfire is lit.

The outfit will jog around bonfire, then to FM 2818 to Highway 21. A different cadet will be positioned every half mile to take over as runner.

"The ball will constantly be in motion as it is passed from one to another every half mile," he says. "But everyone will run two-and-a-half miles a piece."

Squadron 7 will run through the UT campus before cadets hand the ball to Slocum before the game.

