



# City continues to field Northgate complaints

By **KEVIN M. HAMM** and **CHRIS VAUGHN**  
 Of The Battalion Staff

## Merchants, pastors want more action, solutions from officials

Trash, poor roads, dilapidated houses and weedy lots usually do not characterize the appearance of the most well-known, popular areas of a town.

But unfortunately, these things characterize the Northgate area of College Station and leave many with a bad impression.

Many of the Northgate merchants and church leaders say they are tired of the image these problems create, but the city has done little to improve the area's appearance.

"If I had my 'druthers, I would always like to be here," said Dr. Tom Estes, pastor of A&M Presbyterian Church. "It's an important place to be. But the University doesn't care much and the city doesn't either. The police say it is one of the most difficult areas in the city, but you don't see an awful lot of evidence they're trying to clean it up."

Litter — mostly beer bottles, plastic cups and fliers — is one of the most obvious problems in the area addressed by Northgate merchants, pastors and city leaders, but the city's efforts haven't worked so far.

The city has tried to curb the litter problem by placing seven trash receptacles along University Drive.

Although the trashcans have reduced the amount of litter, a long-

term solution has not been found.

"We're still in the brainstorming phase right now," said Jim Smith, College Station sanitation superintendent. "We realize the problems that are out there, and are in the process of forming some strategy to assess those problems."

Smith said the city is trying to maintain Northgate because of its importance to College Station.

"It's just a part of the community we want to keep manicured," he said. "That's about the only downtown College Station has."

The Northgate issue has been on the city council's "priority list" for five or six years, College Station Mayor Larry Ringer said.

However, the Rev. Ron Petty, associate pastor of A&M Methodist Church on University Drive, said the city isn't taking enough action.

His church sent the College Station City Council a letter expressing concerns about litter and traffic in the area, but nothing has been done.

"The city sometimes doesn't respond as quickly as we want," Petty said.

Estes agrees the city has done little to deal with Northgate's problems.

"I've tried to dog the mayor's steps, but I haven't in the past year been able to arrange a meeting," he said.

Estes, whose church sits on Church Street behind the Northgate bars, would like to see more trash receptacles in the area, especially on church property.

Petty agrees because he said A&M Methodist's pastors have to spend time Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings cleaning up beer bottles, cans and plastic cups out of their churchyard.

Though more trashcans in the area would help, the owner of Texas Aggie Bookstore said the responsibility ultimately rests with the shoppers and merchants.

"There is a problem with trash, but I don't have a solution except for individual concern," John Raney said. "You can't put police out to fine people. It's the individual's responsibility."

Estes agrees much of the responsibility lies with people.

"Some of the patrons of the bars are not taking any care of property they don't perceive as their own," he said.

Besides litter, the most frequent

complaint about the Northgate area from the people who live and work there is the quality of roads and the lack of adequate sidewalks, curbs and drainage.

"One of the problems with Northgate is the streets in the area are deteriorating," said Vernon Schneider, a city council member and Texas A&M professor. "The streets in Northgate also are lacking curbs."

Jim Callaway, director of the city's planning department, said the city is aware of the traffic and pedestrian congestion on Patricia Street, which runs behind the Northgate strip.

He said "for a number of years" the city has drawn up plans to alleviate the traffic problem, including building a pedestrian mall that also would service vehicles, but because of a shortage of funds no action has been taken yet.

However, Patricia Street is not the only road in the area needing work. Many other roads in the area are in disrepair, and are on the city's long-term agenda.

"There will be activity, but in terms of capital improvement projects with major funds, I don't see it," Schneider said. "That's not to say we won't continue to improve the quality of the area, but so far I don't see a major push coming on."

Petty of A&M Methodist said his

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SONDRA N. ROBBINS/The Battalion

# Cadets to 'run ball' to Austin

By **TWILA WADDY**  
 Of The Battalion Staff

While bonfire blazes in the hearts of most Texas A&M students, some Corps of Cadets members are carrying the torch of another tradition all the way to Austin.

For the past 16 years, members of Squadron 7 and the Texas Marine Platoon have run a football to the annual A&M vs. University of Texas game, squadron member Phillips Robertson says. This annual event has become an important bonfire tradition, Robertson says.

"My favorite part of being in the Corps is the 'running of the ball' and the attitude everyone has," he says.

The running of the ball started at the bonfire site when R.C. Slocum, A&M head football coach, presented a football to Steve Hayes and Todd Perry of the squadron and two other platoon representatives.

The run began in the Fish Lot. Then a relay system was used to alternate the running among members of the squadron and platoon.

Robertson says the run takes about 16 hours. Members of the squadron and platoon should arrive

at UT during midafternoon today.

During the pre-game ceremony, Robertson and a representative from the platoon will present a football to Slocum.

The squadron and platoon also use this tradition to raise money for charity.

The squadron is raising money for the Brazos County United Way. The platoon is helping the Brazos County Boys and Girls Club. Members of the squadron hope to raise \$700, Robertson says.

For more information about donations, contact Perry at 847-4569.

# UN authorizes military action

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council, led by the United States, on Thursday authorized military action to liberate Kuwait if Iraq does not withdraw its troops and release all hostages by Jan. 15.

The vote was 12-2, with an abstention by China. Cuba and Yemen voted "no."

Adoption of the resolution marked only the second time, during the Korean War, in the 45-year history of the United Nations that the council authorized

the use of force to counter aggression.

In an extraordinary meeting of 13 foreign ministers, the council handed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein an ultimatum to vacate the small oil-rich sheikdom that his troops invaded Aug. 2, or risk military conflict with U.S.-led forces.

"Our aim today must be to convince Saddam Hussein that the just, humane demands of the council and the international community cannot be ignored,"

said Secretary of State James A. Baker III, top representative for the United States as president of the council.

"If Iraq does not reverse its course peacefully, then other necessary measures, including the use of force, should be authorized," Baker said. "We must put the choice to Saddam Hussein in unmistakable terms."

"If war is imposed upon us by the United States, this will be our destiny," Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir al-Anbari said.

# Yellow ribbon, protest distinguish Bonfire '90

By **ISSELLE MCALLISTER** and **ELIZABETH TISCH**  
 Of The Battalion Staff

A yellow ribbon tied around bonfire's third stack gave special meaning to the annual ceremony that symbolizes Aggies' burning desire to "beat the hell outta t.u."

Senior redpots honored those in Saudi Arabia by displaying the national symbol of support for soldiers overseas at Thursday night's bonfire, Sgt. Maj. Ted Hastings from the 5th Battalion said.

The festivities began at 8:15 p.m. when redpots ignited the bonfire. However, it collapsed six minutes after being lighted.

According to tradition, the time bonfire collapses determines the outcome of the A&M vs. University of Texas football game. If it collapses after midnight, the Aggies will win — if not, the Longhorns claim victory.

Despite bonfire's premature fall, several thousand Aggies and Aggie fans appeared undaunted.

However, a group of about 35 joined the Aggies Against Bonfire protest behind Duncan Dining Hall for one hour before bonfire.

Protesters carrying signs reading, "Build Homes Not Bonfire" and "Even the Roman Empire Fell Eventually," replaced the words to the "Farmers Fight" yell with "Farmers Think."

Police officers were stationed around the protesters to prevent any violent confrontations between the protesters and bonfire supporters. Although they did not attract a large audience, those who watched were passive.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and the University Police Department, said he thought passers-by reacted politely to the protest.

"There were a few catcalls, but the crowd was very well behaved," Wiatt said.

Brian Skipworth, an AAB member, said the reason the group staged the protest was to inform visitors and young children of the negative effects of bonfire.

"It (bonfire) teaches waste, and the University condones it," Kelly Harper, president of AAB, said. "We can think of something more productive to do with it (the wood)."

Although she could offer no specific alternatives, she said the wood possibly could be used to build furniture or be sold as firewood with proceeds donated to the community.



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

(Right) Senior redpots James Henderson (left), David Cheever and Joseph Dollins circle the bonfire before lighting it in front of a crowd of tens of thousands. This year the redpots cut down on the fuel used to start the fire, using less than 300 gallons compared to 400 gallons last year. (Above) Lynette Clark yells anti-bonfire slogans along with 35 other protesters before bonfire was lighted. See Page 7 for a preview of tomorrow's game against the University of Texas.



"They have a right to protest and more power to them, but I don't think they'll ever stop bonfire," he said.

Daphna Ausburn, a 10-year-old from College Station, agrees.

"I don't think anybody's going to stop bonfire — and if they do, I'll protest!"

Dax Soule, a junior from company N-1, said he thinks the positive feelings for bonfire are evident.

"They have 50 people against it

and 70,000 for it," he said. "It's obvious how A&M feels about it."

As of 11 p.m. Thursday, Wiatt reported 30 arrests were made by College Station and University police departments in connection with public intoxication and disorderly conduct at bonfire.

The Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission and UPD issued 80 citations, primarily for minors in possession and making alcohol available to minors.

# Civil rights activists call for changes in attitudes

Editor's note: The following is the final story of a four-part series on racism on the Texas A&M campus. The first of the series examined how racism has become more apparent in society, the second focused on how the Ku Klux Klan has targeted Texas universities for members, while the third discussed racial incidents which plague campus daily.

By **BILL HETHCOCK**  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Ethnic intolerance still exists in

hidden forms throughout society, although racism and discrimination might not be as visible as they were in the past, advocates for ethnic harmony say.

Civil rights legislation has helped ease racial tension, but attitudes must change before discrimination is eliminated completely, says Carey Cauley, president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"In order for a law to be effective,

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# Student body presidents work for representation

By **BILL HETHCOCK**  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Student body presidents from universities across the state are getting an early start in a campaign for student representation on all state universities' boards of regents.

Presidents from six universities met recently on the Texas A&M campus to determine what to focus lobbying efforts on during the upcoming legislative session.

Texas A&M student body president Ty Clevenger says he thinks a combined effort by student leaders will increase the chance of success for bills they push.

"We want to get our bills introduced to the state legislature early this year," he says.

Student body presidents from A&M, Texas Tech, University of Houston at Clear Lake, University of Houston at University Park, Tarleton State University and Sul Ross University gathered in Rudder Tower.

Clevenger says more than 30 student body presidents will meet in Austin in mid-January to push for bills which will benefit students at state schools.

He says he expects a bill will be passed this legislative session to put students on boards of regents. A bill of this type was introduced last legislative session, but died in the House due to lack of support from the calendar committee.

"We'll have all the campuses

working together this time," Clevenger says. "We were too uncoordinated last time. I think it has a better chance of passing now than it's ever had."

The bill will have increased support from both parties this session, Clevenger says.

The group of student presidents is pushing a version of the bill which calls for two non-voting students on the boards of regents of each state university system. The students will serve two-year overlapping terms.

Student leaders also will push for a bill to allow student service fee caps to be raised by student referendum, Clevenger says. Student fees presently can be raised only with legislative approval.

The group also tentatively agreed to support flexible tuition increases as long as the increases are approved by the student senate of each university before regents vote on it, Clevenger says.

Flexible tuition increases would allow the regents of each system to set tuition levels without a vote by the state legislature.

Clevenger says the leaders also will lobby for a requirement mandating student senate approval for all tuition and fee increases at the graduate and undergraduate level.

"That's a long shot, but we're going to try for it," Clevenger says. "Students are not unilaterally opposed to fee increases. If students see a legitimate reason to raise fees, they will raise them."