

Celebrating the Bonfire they never had

Class of '64 to experience event they missed after assassination of JFK

By Kim McGuire

THE BATTALION

On the 30th anniversary of the only Bonfire cancellation in A&M's history, the Class of '64 is returning to campus to celebrate the Bonfire they never had.

About 100 members of the Class of '64 and their families will be honored at a luncheon the day of Bonfire and will be recognized that night before the stack burns.

The Class of '94 invited the Class of '64 to return to A&M after Service Chairman Cynthia Hernandez came up with the idea.

Hernandez said she had been dining with a friend and her father, Bob Schneider, when he mentioned how his senior Bonfire was canceled because of the assassination of President Kennedy.

"He said he felt as though a big part of his senior year was missing because of that and mentioned how he wished he could experience Bonfire," Hernandez said. "As soon as he said that I began thinking of how we could invite them back."

Hernandez enlisted fellow Service Chairman Barrett Fromme to help her present the idea to the Class of '94 at one of its first meetings of the year.

Since then, the plans have been approved by A&M administrators and the Bonfire Committee and are now in the final stages.

Chad King, Class of '94 president, said the Class of '64's return is an honor.

"We feel very honored to have them back," King said. "In my opinion this is the greatest example of what Aggie spirit is all about."

Mike Marlowe, former head yell leader, John Gabbert, Class of '64 agent and Schneider will speak at the kick-off of Elephant Walk

Nov. 23. Michael Crain, Class of '94 vice president, said members of the Class of '64 will also return for the festivities.

That night, the Class of '64 and their families will march behind the band from the quad to the runway of the Bonfire site. Head Yell Leader Mark Rollins will recognize the alumni before Bonfire is lit.

"It's an honor when you consider most of the Class of '94 hadn't been born when we graduated," he said. "With us old guys being 30 years older, we've been wondering if the spirit's still alive with so much that has changed since we graduated."

"In my opinion, the Class of '94's invitation to us re-instills our faith. This is one of the greatest shows of Aggie spirit I've ever witnessed."

The Bonfire tradition that Marlowe and other members of the Class of '64 will experience is much different from the Bonfire tradition of their time.

"Back then, there was no such thing as redpots or yellowpots," Marlowe said. "The Corps, as well as the few non-regs, built it and it was overseen by the yell leaders."

Marlowe said after hearing the news of Kennedy's assassination, an emergency meeting was called into President Earl Rudder's office. Marlowe, the class president, and Rudder decided canceling Bonfire was the best thing to do to honor the slain commander in chief.

"There was even talk of canceling the game," Marlowe said. "We realized we couldn't do that, but at the same time, we couldn't have a big celebration."

Marlowe said the decision was well accepted, but it was still a sad experience.

"It was the most we had, it was the least we could give" he said. Bonfire was dismantled, except



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

for the centerpole around which the student body gathered for yell practice.

"The emotion was extremely high," Marlowe said. "I think that's what got the team so pumped."

Pure emotion, Marlowe said, drove the 6-2-1 Aggies to a 13-3 fourth quarter lead over the number one ranked Longhorns.

"Then, t.u. came back in the fourth quarter and had us 15-13 when one of our guys intercepted a pass and ran it in for a touchdown in the last few seconds of

the game," Marlowe said. "We thought we had won the game and then the referee called it back. Everyone at the game saw the guy was clearly in. Even in their article, the Dallas Morning News said it was a touchdown."

Thirty years later, Marlowe and his classmates will return to fulfill a missing piece of their senior year.

"You can't imagine what a great experience this is going to be for us old guys and the emotions we will be having," Marlowe said. "This is truly good bull."

Students, faculty have access to world

Use of global computer services benefits Texas A&M, officials say

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University officials say students and faculty benefit greatly from the worldwide computer services provided by Internet, a global framework for communication and information exchange.

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"There are over two million machines connected on Internet around the world," said Dave Safford, director of Computing and Information Services.

"Any private citizen can get on the Internet, and it can't be censored because of the First Amendment."

- Niels Bauer, assistant lecturer of Computer Science

"The system lets people use network services all around the world but the key is high speed."

Internet consists of several high-speed information networks that allow rapid communication of ideas and files.

The system is held together by a framework set up by the National Science Foundation.

Niels Bauer, assistant lecturer of Computer Science, said Internet is more than just an electronic bulletin board.

"It also has E-mail and the ability to transfer files," Bauer said. "It allows you to connect to machines at various locations across the country."

Users of the system can access

archives and mainframe computers around the world.

Bauer said the system is so large that there is almost too much information, with more than 1,000 newsgroups on bulletin boards covering topics such as history, computers, television and politics.

Some of the political bulletin boards have become the center of controversy because of ideas expressed on them.

In one incident at the University of Texas at Dallas, a student is suing after being barred from using Internet after making comments about the political situation in Russia.

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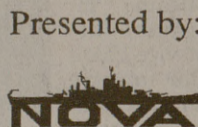
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