



THE BATTALION

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Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire burns tonight

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

The 1993 Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire will be set ablaze this evening at 8 o'clock bringing to an end nearly three months of work by more than 5,000 students.

Junior yell leader Scott Whitaker, a wildlife and fisheries major, said the tradition proves that Aggies from all walks of life can work together for one common cause.

"What Bonfire means to me is spirit," Whitaker said. "It signifies the fact that all Aggies no matter

what race, creed, religion or whatever can come out here and work together as one group and build something great."

This year the City of College Station, in response to numerous complaints about parking, is beefing up security and will be shutting down roads as of 6 p.m. in order to make the event safer and more accessible to spectators and emergency vehicles.

Maj. Mason Newton, of the College Station Police Department, said officers will patrol the areas around Bonfire to make sure roads

are kept clear.

"Last year we experienced great amounts of parking problems," Newton said. "We are trying to reduce congestion on minor roads that could block not only public safety vehicles but also the normal citizen who lives in that area."

Despite road closings that could cut off many establishments on Texas Avenue from potential patrons, most local business owners in the area said they are in full support of the tradition.

James Wachel, owner of Wachel's Exxon, located across from Bonfire

site, said although he will be unable to sell gasoline during this time, he plans to make up for lost sales with the sale of other items.

"I know that the road in front of me will be closed, so obviously there will be no gas sales, but I anticipate making up for lost sales in gasoline with the sale of convenience items," Wachel said.

Wachel said he is not concerned about the loss of business or the parking problems often associated with the tradition.

"I am not at all upset about the roads closing for Bonfire," Wachel

said. "It is a tradition that has been here longer than I have, so there's no use bucking the system. I am standing behind it 100 percent."

Connie Gibbs, general manager of Taco Cabana, said she too is not concerned about a loss of business and is excited about the week's festivities.

"I think it is the most exciting thing that hits our town every year," Gibbs said. "It's a fantastic tradition and contrary to what you might think, it actually picks up our business around here. I think everyone on the strip here thinks it does a lot of good for the community."



Angel Kam/THE BATTALION

ELEPHANT WALK

'We took a big step in saving the tradition'

This year's event cleaner, leaders say

By Cheryl Heller

THE BATTALION

Efforts on the part of the Class of '94 and '95 councils to keep this year's Elephant Walk clean paid off better than expected, student leaders said Tuesday.

In the past, the junior class has thrown mud, syrup and mustard on the seniors as they march through traditional campus sites during Elephant Walk.

But senior class president Chad King said this year things were different.

"It went better than expected because of a smaller amount of junior antagonism," he said. "We made it the whole way through the walk untouched, and at the end of the line there were a few attacks, but they were mostly seniors against seniors."

King said he was concerned there would be trouble at Elephant Walk because of fights between the juniors and the seniors in the past.

"In the past, there have been some problems, but this year we took a big step in saving the tradition," he said. "There was a lot less junior involvement, and the Class of '94 service committee and Alpha Tau Omega will have a lot less to clean up on campus."

Class of '95 President Jeb Jones said planned activities for the juniors were the reason for the virtually attack-free Elephant Walk.

"We had over 600 people at Kyle Field to listen to Frank Cox speak about how traditions have evolved through the years at Texas A&M, and we formed a huge 95 on Kyle Field from sideline to sideline," he said.

The turnout for the junior activities has never been as high as it was this year, Jones said.

"We had a few juniors leave Bonfire and not show up at Kyle Field, but the vast majority showed up there," he said. "In years past, the largest turnout the junior class has ever had at Kyle Field was about 60, but we had an estimated 10 times that amount this year."

Jones said he thinks the junior activities were a significant step toward cleaning up Elephant Walk, and also helped bring the class together.

"The juniors had a good time at our activities, and we did a great job," he said. "It brought the class closer together, and I think it will help make our Elephant Walk that much more special."

King said this year's Elephant Walk went exceptionally well, and he hopes it will set the standard for the future.

"This year was a giant improvement, thanks to the work of the class councils, who really worked to educate the students," he said. "Everyone should be commended for a great Elephant Walk, because a lot of organizations went a long way in saving the tradition."



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A senior gets a closer look at the mud around Bonfire site courtesy of a few of his friends. For the most part, the event was cleaner this year.

Brazos Valley group to help feed area hungry during Thanksgiving

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

This Thanksgiving, one Brazos Valley organization is hoping to feed those in need and make the community aware that there are people who need help on a daily basis.

"We want to feed everyone in the Brazos Valley that otherwise would not have Thanksgiving," said Danny Morrison, the organization coordinator for

Thanksgiving in the Brazos Valley.

Since the organization began in 1984, the group has helped thousands of people in the Brazos Valley.

The organization now includes several community charities such as Meals on Wheels, Hospice, Elder Aid, The Pantry and local churches.

Morrison said the Texas A&M community has been heavily involved in this year's Thanksgiving program.

This is the third year that Sbis Dining Hall has cooked the turkey and

dressing for the program, and men's basketball coach Tony Barone and the men's and women's basketball teams will be volunteering.

Barone said this is the first time that he and the basketball team will volunteer at Fannin Elementary School in Bryan.

He said he started volunteering around the community because he wanted to "put something back in."

"Some people think that athletes are bad people and we wanted to prove that this wasn't true," he said.

Morrison said they are expecting about 200 volunteers and are planning to serve about 1,000 meals this Thanksgiving - 100 more than last year.

"So many people want to assist, and we will not turn anyone down," he said, and no one will be refused a meal either.

"You don't have to qualify for a meal, anyone who needs a meal will get one," he said.

Feeling bad that he had no family to

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War!

Dueling editorial boards fight it out in the annual WAR OF THE WORDS. See The Battalion staff defend AggieLand against The Daily Texan on Page 11.

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Rice students argue over 'salute' to Aggie band

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University is the center of a war of words being waged on the Rice University campus.

During the A&M-Rice football game Oct. 23, many Rice students in the stands performed the "Sieg Heil" salute while the Aggie Band was performing. This sign was used in World War II to salute German dictator Adolf Hitler.

In a letter published in The Battalion's Mail Call section, Mitchell Istre, with the Office of Computing Services at Rice University, apologized for the actions of the Rice students.

"When the Aggie Band started

their show, I saw the Rice students doing something in unison," Istre said. "At first I thought they were doing a military salute."

"Then I realized they were doing the 'Sieg Heil' salute," Istre said. "I was aghast."

Istre said this action was inappropriate because many Aggies served with distinction in World War II.

"Knowing that this salute is a symbol of hatred and racism, I thought it was totally out of line," Istre said.

Istre said he has received many

compliments from former A&M students who support him, but most of the students at Rice stand firm behind their action.

"They don't regard the Corps as anything more than an ROTC unit," Istre said. "They don't realize these guys have made a commitment to the military."

Julia Farnham, president of student government at Rice University, said the Rice students acted "all in fun."

"No one takes anything too seriously around here," Farnham said. "Sarcasm is very big on this campus."

Farnham said many students have told her the uniforms and the appearance of the Aggie Band make them look like the Nazis.

"But it was not meant as an insult," Farnham said. "It was meant as a joke."

Farnham said the serious nature of the Aggie Band makes it an easy target.

"And Rice students spend a lot of time spoofing people," she said.

Jason Hearnberger, commander of the Aggie Band and a senior finance major, said it is not unusual for other schools to heckle the Aggie Band during their performance.

"Some sort of negative crowd

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