

**WATER WORLD • PG-13**  
Fri - Sun 7:00 9:45  
Mon - Thur 7:00 9:45

**TO WONG FOO • PG-13**  
Fri - Sun 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:35  
Mon - Thur 5:15 7:20 9:35

**FREEWILLY 2 • PG**  
Fri - Sun 1:20 3:20 5:20  
Mon - Thur 5:20

**A WALK IN THE CLOUDS • PG-13**  
Fri - Sun 7:20 9:55  
Mon - Thur 7:20 9:55

**APOLLO 13 • PG**  
Fri - Sun 1:00 3:55 7:00 9:40  
Mon - Thur 7:00 9:40

**POWER RANGERS • PG-13**  
Fri - Sun 1:25 3:00 5:00  
Mon - Thur 1:00 2:55 4:55 6:55

**LAST OF THE DOGMAN • PG**  
Fri - Sun 1:05 4:00 7:05 9:45  
Mon - Thur 7:05 9:45

**OPERATION DUMBO DROP • PG**  
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# Bonfire Buddies

Bonfire workers find inspiration in peers — and their gifts

By Katharine Deaton  
THE BATTALION

Many of the men and women working at cut and stack are motivated to keep building Bonfire by their Bonfire Buddies.

Laura Wheelis, a Women's Bonfire Committee junior coordinator and junior animal science major, said Bonfire Buddies provide motivational support to each other with gifts. "It motivates each other to work hard," she said.

The Women's Bonfire Committee is responsible for matching Bonfire Buddies.

"Usually, the female dorms go out to cut with the guys' dorms," Wheelis said. "They pair up, and the dorm chairs are responsible for matching the guys and girls and the Bonfire gift drops. The WBC matches up the Corps outfits with the female dorms."

Wheelis said most people are affected positively by Bonfire Buddies.

"They always really look forward to it," she said. "The guys really enjoy it. Some girls who don't want to go to cut and stack can participate in it, and they get to meet a new person."

Tara Gray, a freshman biomedical science major, said keeping people motivated between first cut and Bonfire is one of the advantages of Bonfire Buddies.

"They start Bonfire in August, and it burns in December, and it's really hard to stay hyped for Bonfire that long," Gray said. "Goodies help keep the guys motivated."

Clint Christopher, a sophomore business administration major, said Bonfire Buddies give people something to look forward to as the weeks go by.

"It doesn't actually motivate you to go to cut and stack, but it gives you something to look forward to each week before Bonfire," Christopher said.

Gifts play a large role in motivating the buddies, and Wheelis said most gifts are fun items like toys and candy.

"It's different for different Bonfire buddies," Wheelis said. "Coordinators have three buddies apiece, and they get them stuff they need

and feed them."

Gray said there are several ways to manage money to be able to buy gifts.

"Put it into your budget, and don't go over that," Gray said. "Possibly share a guy with a roommate or friend. You could write motivational notes or just meet them, talk to them and get to know them."

Jennifer Lindsay, a freshman business administration major, said the tradition of Bonfire Buddies needs to get away from the emphasis on money.

"I think it's a good tradition, and it's a good way to meet people if you're looking to do that," Lindsay said, "but there's too much money spent on it. The idea is to support them, not spend so much money."

Meeting people is an encouraging factor in people's participation in Bonfire Buddies, and Christopher said it's a good way to meet prospective dates.

"I think it's a great opportunity to meet other Ags of the opposite sex," Christopher said.

But Lindsay said there's too much emphasis on meeting members of the opposite sex.

"A lot is centered around meeting guys, and I already have one and didn't want the jealousy factor," Lindsay said. "Meeting guys is a lure they use."

Lindsay said students participating in the program should stay focused on the purpose of Bonfire Buddies.

"The main idea is to support the guys, and it's gotten away from that," Lindsay said. "And why support just the guys? There's a lot of girls going to cut, too. Instead of just saying it's a good way to meet guys, support the tradition."

Wheelis said most of the complaints they receive about Bonfire Buddies are mainly about neglect and personality conflicts.

"I know a lot of people expect their Bonfire buddy to participate in Bonfire, but they don't," Wheelis said. "Some people are disappointed when they don't get to talk to their buddy as much as they want to. Some people do it just to get stuff from other people, and some just don't get along."

Gray said it is better if some people just do



Shane Elkins, The Battalion

Carrie Depew (left) and Stacie Francis display bears they received from their Bonfire buddies.

not sign up to participate in the program rather than disappointing someone.

"There are fish in the Corps who sign up for Bonfire Buddies and expect something really nice, and the girls who sign up to give gifts or run out of money," Gray said. "Those girls really shouldn't sign up in the first place. It's kind of mean to the guys when they see their friends getting something, and they don't. It applies to the guys as well. If a girl or guy knows he or she doesn't have the time or money to do it, they shouldn't sign up."

Christopher said the most significant aspect of Bonfire Buddies is participation in the tradition.

"Having a Bonfire buddy allows you to get involved, and that's important," he said.

**TEXAS A&M ATHLETICS**

**HOME EVENTS**

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Wednesday, Nov. 15 vs. Lamar 7 p.m.

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