

Students celebrate Galveston Bonfire

By COURTNEY WALKER
THE BATTALION

Aggies in College Station are the only ones ready to show their "burning desire to beat the hell out of t.u."

Students attending Texas A&M at Galveston participated in the Aggie tradition with their Bonfire and yell practice in Galveston Sunday night.

Students and members of the Galveston community gathered on Galveston Peninsula at "dark-thirty" for a beachside Bonfire and yell practice, led by two junior and two senior yell leaders.

The Galveston Bonfire was like the one in College Station, with yell practice and guest speakers before the torch was lit. Students at Galveston added their own traditions.

Before the torch was lit, students sawed the horns off a

replica of Bevo and then placed it on the top of stack.

Students from Galveston worked with College Station Aggies to build their 30 feet by 30 feet, three-tier Bonfire.

The centerpole used by A&M-Galveston was taken from the College Station cut site.

Jonathan Balmos, a senior maritime engineering major and a cut blazer for A&M Galveston, said relations between the two system schools have been great.

"We (Galveston Aggies) have been to two of the cut sessions and a stack in College Station," Balmos said. "They were great about handing the log over to us, and the members of Dunn Hall and the junior red pots have been really great."

Centerpole for the Galveston Bonfire was raised Thursday and construction on stack began Friday. "We didn't really have any set

schedules for people to come out to the site," Balmos said. "We had pick-up times on campus, but most people just showed up whenever they could."

A ferry across the ship channel must be taken to reach the Bonfire site.

The construction of the Galveston Bonfire is similar to College Station's, except pallets are collected from the community to create a stable foundation.

Like College Station's, the Galveston Bonfire is completely student-operated. Instead of "pots," the Galveston Bonfire is led by "blazers." General blazers are in charge of the overall operation of Bonfire. The chief blazer constantly watches the site and lives there until Bonfire is over and has been cleaned up. The Aggie blazer is in charge of public relations for Bonfire, and the cut blazer is similar to a College

Station Bonfire crew chief.

Balmos said the Galveston Bonfire is a way for students and alumni in Galveston to experience the traditions associated with A&M.

"This gives Aggies down here a better chance to experience one of the greatest Aggie traditions," Balmos said. "Once we experience the tradition here, we'll head to College Station on Tuesday to see Bonfire again."

Along with Bonfire, students in Galveston experience other Aggie traditions.

A&M-Galveston Aggies may order an Aggie ring and participate in Big Event, A&M's community service project.

"Last year we had a beach cleanup, but we don't know what we are going to do this spring for sure yet," Balmos said.

Students at Galveston also participate in an Aggie Muster, Silver Taps and have a Fish Drill Team.

WebCam keeps continuous eye on A&M

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Three years ago, a Texas A&M employee and student decided to experiment with an old camera and standard desktop computer that were just "lying around."

They had no idea they were about to create WebCam, which allows viewers around the world to watch the Aggie Bonfire burn via the World Wide Web.

The camera also allows access to live pictures of eight other preselected campus locations.

Alan Kurk, computer systems and network manager for the engineering technology department, said once a user has selected a campus site from the web page, the camera takes a picture, and within one minute an image is sent back to the user's computer screen.

"The camera takes the picture by itself every 30 seconds and the user tells the camera where to point," Kurk said. "It's kind of like a surveillance camera, but the difference is that two people clear across the world can be looking at the same picture."

When Bonfire burns Tuesday night, WebCam will be locked onto the Bonfire site. Users will be able to move the camera again the day after Bonfire burns.

Other sites on campus that users may access

include the College Station water tower, the first green and lake on the A&M golf course and three different angles of the polo field.

Kurk and an engineering student began the project three years ago in the engineering computer lab. The Oceanography and Meteorology building offered to have the camera and computer set up in their building.

Now the camera is mounted to a controller unit on the 14th floor of the O&M Building, where it takes pictures 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

Kurk said plans are being made to move the camera to the observation deck of the O&M building, which is currently closed to the public.

"Currently there are only nine sites, but the number can be as high as 1,000," Kurk said. "If we move to the observation deck, the number of sites will be increased."

Kurk said problems occurred when they changed locations.

"The old camera would not work at the new location because there was no flash, so the camera could not adjust to the amount of light exposure," Kurk said. "When it got dark or cloudy outside, the camera could not take good pictures."

The problem was solved when Video Systems Plus donated a camera similar to the ones used in Department of Public Safety vehicles.

"The camera is mounted on a unit and can turn 360 degrees horizontally or vertically," Kurk said.

Kurk said Bonfire '95 was approaching when they received the camera so they just turned the camera around and locked it on the Bonfire site.

The software which allows a user to choose between the nine locations was developed by two students as a project for their engineering technology class.

"Dr. Morgan, an engineering technology professor, needed a senior project and called me for ideas, so I gave him the idea and he assigned it to two of his students," Kurk said.

Kurk said the WebCam has become popular with Internet users since its debut three years ago.

He said people from all over the country have been calling his office and home to ask about the WebCam and whether it is for sale.

"One guy called from Tennessee and wanted one to put in his stables so he could watch his dad take care of the animals, because he was an elderly man and the son was worried about him feeding the animals alone," he said.

Kurk also received a call from someone in Japan who wanted to use some screen shots from the web page for a PBS show.

WebCam may be accessed at entcsun.tamu.edu/webcam.

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SHIRTS

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The Class of '97 Council, whose E-Walk T-shirt sales have decreased, will continue to sell the shirts through next week.

Porter said the new Class of '97 shirts are not being sold with the intent of undercutting the Class Council's profits.

"I do not feel we are taking anything away from the class," she said. "I have talked to students that weren't going to buy those shirts to begin with."

Porter said the new shirts are not being designed to spite the Council, but rather to benefit the Class of '97.

"We accept their apology and we understand it would be virtually impossible to reprint a shirt," she said. "But we are trying to put something out on the market that they should have done in the first place."

E-WALK

Continued from Page 1

The Aggie Wranglers and the band Highway 6 will provide entertainment.

The Fish Camp '97 directors will lead off Elephant Walk at Kyle Field with the Class of '97 yell from Fish Camp '93.

Fitzhugh will speak to the class in their waning hours as kings of campus, and then the seniors will begin their walk around campus toward Bonfire stack, visiting prominent campus sites along the way.

Elephant Walk will conclude at Bonfire site, where two baby elephants will be waiting for students to have their pictures made.

Bradshaw said one of the elephants will be Caesar, who posed for E-Walk pictures last year and participated in the Renaissance Festival this year.

"He's in high demand," she said.

Shadow Canyon will sponsor the Senior Bash dance tonight at 8 p.m., with no cover charge for students over 21.

Junior E-Walk events will begin at Bonfire

site with carnival games such as "Pin the Target on the Elephant," an elephant piñata and photos with the baby elephants.

The junior E-Walk events will conclude at Kyle Field with a "pull-out" yell practice led by the junior yell leaders and guest speaker Frank Cox, author of *I Bleed Maroon* and a member of the Class of '65. Cox's daughter, Christy Cox, is a member of the Class of '98.

The junior class will conclude with a class picture taken in the second deck of the east stands, with the class standing in the shape of a 98.

In the past, the junior class picture has been taken on Kyle Field, but the newly installed grass field has removed the possibility of continuing the tradition.

Hurricane Harry's will host the E-Walk Bash starting at 8 p.m. with a \$2 cover charge. All classes are invited to attend.

Courtney Lyons, Class of '97 vice president and a senior English major, said poor weather would move the Final Feast barbecue, but other plans would continue as scheduled.

"If it's cold and wet, it's cold and wet," she said. "Where else are you going to put two elephants?"

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Acct 229	Fin. Statements Analysis 9pm-12pm	Fin. Statements Analysis 9pm-12pm	Season Pass Holders are Guaranteed a Ticket at a Discount Rate.
Acct 327	Part 1 6pm-9pm	Part 2 6pm-9pm	
Math 141	Part 5 Late Chpt 8 6pm-8pm	Beat the Hell Outta t.u.!	
Math 151	Part 1 10pm-12pm	Part 2 9pm-11pm	Fightin' Aggie Bonfire
Math 152	Part 1 8pm-10pm	Part 2 7pm-9pm	

Tickets go on sale Sunday At 2 p.m.

The week of December 1 - 3

Classes	Sun Dec 1	Mon Dec 2	Tue Dec 3
Acct 327		Test Review 6pm-9pm	
Math 151	Part 3 10pm-12am	Part 4 8pm-10pm	
Math 151		Test Review 3pm-6pm	
Math 152	Part 3 8pm-10pm	Part 4 6pm-8pm	
Math 152		Test Review 10pm-1am	
Meen 329	Part 1 7pm-10pm	Part 2 7pm-10pm	Part 3 7pm-10pm

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