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COLLEGE STATION • TX

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A&M students to raise centerpole today

Bonfire continues on time; centerpole and perimeter poles awarded to Corps outfits and residence halls

By **KARIE FEHLER**
Staff writer

Texas Aggie Bonfire will move into its next phase today when centerpole is raised at 4:03 p.m. on the Texas & M Polo Fields.

Sophomores were at Bonfire site earlier this week for Pisshead Wrap. Students representing Corps of Cadets outfits and residence halls lined up for a chance to wrap centerpole with cable for stability.

John Gallemore, Head Stack and a senior agricultural business major, said the process to build Bonfire is on time.

"So far, everything's been running on schedule," he said. "Even if it rains on Friday — with no thunder or

lightning — we'll be out there for centerpole."

Each year, centerpole is awarded to the Corps company that has worked the hardest at cut, load and un-

"I encourage all students...to come out on Friday to see campus gather around centerpole."

CURTIS BICKERS

CENTERPOLE POT AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT MAJOR

load. Perimeter poles are awarded to two Corps outfits and six residence halls.

Gallemore said this year's centerpole was earned by Company K-2. The perimeter poles were earned by Hart, Aston, Walton, Crocker, Schumacher and Moore Hall.

A perimeter pole was awarded to Dunn Hall, but it was taken away because Dunn is not allowed to work in the 1997 Bonfire as an entity. Dunn is not allowed to participate because former Bonfire leaders from the residence hall hired a stripper to dance at cut last Sunday.

Curtis Bickers, a centerpole pot and a senior management major, said the raising of centerpole is a bonding experience for students and marks the beginning of stack activities.

"I encourage all students, freshmen especially, whose only knowledge of Bonfire is hearsay, to come out on Fri-

day to see the campus gather around centerpole and witness the tradition for yourself," Bickers said.

Scott Caron, a senior political science major and a former K-2 cadet, said centerpole begins the visible part of Bonfire activities.

"Everyone has just spent the last two months cutting down trees, and this lets you see where all of those dead trees are going to go," he said. "It's like the whole tradition becomes real when centerpole is [raised] — you can just feel the spirit of Aggieland."

Caron, who has seen centerpole raised for the past four years, said the spectators can get rowdy.

"It's crazy when centerpole goes in that hole," he said. "People go nuts; it's like yell practice times 50."

Students offer pre-cut Sunday church services

By **RACHEL DAWLEY**
Staff writer

vices due to cut on Sundays.

Brad Weber, a Dunn crew chief and a sophomore poultry science major, said the idea came from a similar early morning service he attended designed for hunters.

"I have a hard time making it to church because I'm always busy, especially now with Bonfire," Weber said. "This is a way for people like me, who want to go to church

can go."

He said the service also encourages participation from students who have not traditionally been a part of Bonfire.

"It helps Bonfire out," Weber said. "Some students weren't coming out to cut because of church. We're trying to show that Bonfire is for everyone, and we want to help people feel welcome."

Each service features a speaker who gives a short talk. The devotion ends in prayer.

Travis Bendele, a member of the executive council for the Baptist Student Ministry and a senior bio-engineering major, coordinates the speakers and provides equipment for the service.

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It's a small world



Alen Kowan, a senior business analysis major, tests the map (which has lightbulbs representing cities around the world) at the new George Bush Presidential Library. The library is scheduled to open Thursday afternoon, Nov. 6.

PTTS to alter bus routes for opening

By **JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER**
Staff writer

shuttles will be helpful, and if they are, Bus Operations may continue to use them.

"We want to continue the shuttles at the mall if we have enough students

Due to anticipation of heavy traffic during the dedication and opening of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum next week, Texas A&M Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) will alter shuttle bus operations Nov. 3-7.

A&M's off-campus shuttle buses will run normal routes all week, with the addition of two temporary bus routes that will travel to and from the Sears parking lot at Post Oak Mall and two stops on campus.

The mall shuttles will stop on campus at Old Main and Houston Street (near the YMCA Building) and at the West Campus Library on Olsen Road.

The Mall shuttles will run from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., leaving every 10 minutes.

A bus pass is not required to ride the mall shuttles.

Tom Williams, director of PTTS, said the mall shuttles were necessary because Parking Area 95 on Wellborn Road will be closed.

He said PA 95 will be occupied by charter buses loading and unloading visitors to the Bush Library. Williams also said the lot will be used for visitors who will arrive by train. The train will stop near the lot.

Williams said he hopes the mall



who will ride it," he said. "We've tried it before in the past, but not enough students used it."

On-campus shuttles will run normal routes Nov. 3-4, but starting Nov. 5 the West Campus shuttles will not have stops at the Academic Building-West at the George Bush Complex.

All Research Park shuttles will not run Nov. 6-7, the dedication on the 6th and the opening on the 7th. Roads through Research Park will be a main access for visitors to the Bush Library.

Regular on- and off-campus bus routes will resume Nov. 10.

Students who need to use the night bus service to campus can ride the "Ol' Sarge" night bus that stops in front of the Butler Building and travels to the mall. The service will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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The Texas A&M Soccer Team concludes the regular season against TCU.
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online

Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.
<http://battalion.tamu.edu>

Model traditions

A&M customs serve as examples for other universities

By **JENARA KOCKS**
Staff writer

Many Texas A&M students describe the spirit of Aggieland as unexplainable with the saying, "From the outside looking in you can't understand it; from the inside looking out, you can't explain it."

However, some A&M traditions have become a model for other universities.

Some Texas schools have started orientation camps similar to Fish Camp, an off-campus camp that began in 1954 to teach freshman students about A&M traditions.

Jay Young, assistant director of Student Development Services at Texas Christian University and Class of '80, said TCU used Fish Camp as a model when creating Frog Camp in 1994.

"Fish Camp is well-known as the oldest and most successful of these types of camps," he said. "Just about anyone who wants to start a camp looks at Fish Camp."

Susan Kessler, associate executive director of the Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas, said the association looked at Fish Camp and other schools with similar camps when University of Texas organized CampTexas five years ago.

"We wanted our students to benefit from the same kind of success (with camps) that other schools have had," Kessler said.

She said although the association used Fish Camp as a model, CampTexas is dif-

ferent from Fish Camp because UT has different traditions and culture.

Young said the students, faculty and staff examined TCU traditions, culture, history, resources and strengths when designing Frog Camp.

He said TCU's camp focuses more on team-building activities than on history and traditions like Fish Camp does.

Jill Newman, chair of Traditions Council and a senior journalism major, said A&M traditions make students feel like a part of something larger than themselves. "Deep down they want that feeling everyone wants and that's why everyone looks at A&M," Newman said.

Both Young and Kessler said their camps are becoming popular at their schools and a part of their traditions.

Young said 60 percent of TCU's freshman class attended Frog Camp this summer.

Kessler said the number of new students attending CampTexas has doubled every year since it began in 1992.

"It's certainly caught on here and we think it will grow fast," she said.

Newman said A&M's history of traditions set it apart from the rest.

"They can start something in 1997, but it won't have the same sentimental value to those students as the traditions do for students at Texas A&M," she said.

She said the sense of pride for A&M starts at Fish Camp.

Center chronicles history of University, Corps of Cadets

By **RACHEL DAWLEY**
Staff writer

The history of Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets is depicted through displays and exhibits at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center.

Built in 1992 with private funds, the center provides a presentation of Corps life, including displays on Final Review, the Ross Volunteer Company, the Aggie Band and Parson's Mounted Cavalry. The museum also presents the history of traditions, such as Muster, the 12th Man, Silver Taps and Reveille.

The center displays the second most-extensive collection of Aggie Rings, behind the Association of Former Students.

Joe Fenton, curator of the center and Class of '58, said the idea for the center came from the need for a place to educate people about the Corps and the A&M traditions.

"This is a door to the Corps," Fenton said. "We didn't have any place that we could call headquarters. We want to preserve the past, promote the present and protect the future. We want to show what it is that makes A&M so different."

One of the many traditions the building has become famous for is the Corps Center Guard. The guard allows sophomore, junior and senior cadets to become involved with the center.

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BRANDON BOLLOM/THE BATTALION
Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center houses exhibits such as an Aggie ring collection and a gun collection.