

# BATTALION



TODAY



TOMORROW

See extended forecast, Page 2.

104TH YEAR • ISSUE 63 • 10 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TX

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 26 • 1997

## 1997 Fightin' Texas Aggie

# BONFIRE

### Band builds Bonfire outhouse

By Rachel Dawley  
Staff writer

The words "Austin: Population 2000", "t.u. outhouse" and "Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire" will catch fire on the outhouse as Bonfire is lit Thanksgiving night.

Each year, an 8-foot tall outhouse, symbolic of a "t.u. frat house or tea sippin' room" is atop the stack of logs. Sophomores in the Aggie Band are given the responsibility of the outhouse construction. Bonfire leadership plans to raise the outhouse Thursday.

Clay Kennedy, commander of the Aggie Band and a senior political science and international studies major, said the outhouse is the Aggie Band's contribution to Bonfire. With their busy fall schedules, band members do not get an opportunity to participate in the tradition, Kennedy said.

"The outhouse is something that the band has always done," Kennedy said. "We're so busy during the fall with games that we don't have a lot of time for cut and stack. The outhouse is a way the band can contribute to Bonfire."

The outhouse is painted orange and features the sophomore class number as the population on the Austin city limits sign.

Four sophomore band members are chosen as outhouse corporals and two members as assistants corporals. The six cadets supervise the construction of the outhouse during the year. The sophomores begin constructions around the time Bonfire is started and work on weekends and nights until its completion.

Jody Schaap, an outhouse corporal and sophomore biology major, said the outhouse is important to the band because it is the major contribution to the tradition of Bonfire.

"It is neat to be part of the tradition of Bonfire," Schaap said. "There is only one Bonfire and only a few people are given the chance to build the outhouse."

The tradition of the outhouse parallels that of Bonfire. In the days when the effigy was made of scrap wood, Aggies stole area outhouses to burn. Until the early 1960s, a stolen outhouse would always top the stack.

The band built the first outhouse in 1962.

Schaap said the outhouse is unique because of the framework.

"We build it sturdy," Schaap said. "All the framework is on the

outside so it will sit on centerpole."

Any sophomore can help in the outhouse construction, but only the six sophomore band leaders and the Bonfire redpots are allowed inside.

Jim Lockard, executive officer of A Battery in the band and a senior management major, said the group of sophomores measure centerpole and fit the outhouse around it. Many hours are spent constructing the outhouse, he said.

"The outhouse is basically the same every year," Lockard said. "It is passed down to the class from the year before. Workers spend every weekend and two or three nights a week constructing it."

PLEASE SEE **OUTHOUSE** ON PAGE 6.

### Bonfire set to burn Thursday

By Karie Fehler  
Staff writer

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire, a glowing symbol of Texas A&M students' "burning desire to beat the hell outta t.u.," will burn on the Texas A&M polo fields Thursday at 8:20 p.m.

The outhouse, or "t.u. tea room," will be placed on stack at noon Thursday, and spectators are expected to begin arriving around 7 p.m.

The Aggie Band and the yell leaders will step off from the Quadrangle at 7:30 p.m. to march to Bonfire site. Yell practice will begin after the stack is lit.

Coach R.C. Slocum and selected football players will speak during the yell practice at the north end of the fields.

It is also tradition for the senior yell leader to recite the poem "The Last Corps Trip" at the yell practice.

John Gallemore, Head Stack and a senior agricultural business major, said the east, west and south ends of the polo fields will be the best places to view Bonfire.

"Spectators shouldn't stand right in front of the platform on the north end because that is where the band will be," he said. "I would also tell everyone to get there around 7 p.m. There's going to be a lot of people, and it's best to beat the crowd."

Gallemore said this year's Bonfire ran smoothly despite the profanities on pots and Dunn Hall's suspension for hiring a stripper to perform at cut site. Gallemore also said the number of injuries at cut site decreased this year.

"The students in leadership positions have really stepped up and taken action," he said. "Student leadership awareness has increased ten-fold in comparison with last year."

Douglas Williams, associate director of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services, said several streets will be closed to accommodate traffic.

"More people show up than we can handle, so we close Bizzell Street at 6 p.m., Polo Street all day, and we cut New Main down to one lane on campus," he said. "Buses will also run from West Campus to Fish Pond to help out parking problems."

Williams said that since Bonfire is on the Thanksgiving holiday, all parking lots will be available for parking.

"People have to be careful because the game is the next morning at 10 a.m.," he said. "Many of the lots are reserved for 12th Man parking on football game days, and it wouldn't be a very nice early Christmas present to find your car towed because you left it in the wrong lot overnight."

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said a zero tolerance policy will be enforced for alcoholic beverages at Bonfire, and patrolmen will be watching the parking lots for suspicious activity or misconduct.

"We will tolerate absolutely no booze at all, and we are taking a very proactive stance on conserving the family-type atmosphere," he said. "We will be very security conscious to make sure good family enjoyment of Bonfire can continue."

Wiatt said the UPD has cracked down on alcohol at Bonfire in the past seven years, and the problem has decreased. Police officers will walk through the crowd on foot, horseback and on bicycles. Officers also will watch campus parking lots from rooftops to discourage drinking before walking to Bonfire.

"We'll be securing the perimeter of the site and watching for booze—anyone caught that is over age will have to pour it out, and all minors will be cited for Minor in Possession," Wiatt said. "We'll be very busy and hope to preserve the positive atmosphere of Bonfire."



BRAD GRAEBER/THE BATTALION

### Tradition stacks up with Bonfire

By Colleen Kavanagh  
Staff writer

Although the Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire has changed from a pile of trash to a 55-foot stack of logs, the drive to build Bonfire every year has remained the same—the "burning desire to beat the hell outta t.u."

According to A Centennial History of Texas A&M University, by

Henry C. Dethloft, a Texas A&M history professor, Bonfire, built to rouse enthusiasm for the game against the University of Texas, gradually became a custom, then it became a "tradition."

The first Bonfire was built in 1909 out of trash thrown together for the varsity games in the fall semester.

Early Bonfires were made of community trash, limbs, boxes, lumber

scraps and other "acquired materials." A favorite thing to add was "untended, unwatched and hopefully unoccupied outhouses."

The fire was lit, accompanied by speeches and yells, much like Bonfire today. In the early days, however, Bonfire had usually burned out by the time the speech-making ended.

PLEASE SEE **TRADITION** ON PAGE 6.

### Rivalry heats up as game nears

By Rachel Dawley  
Staff writer

Reveille vs. Bevo. Maroon vs. Orange. Bonfire vs. the Hex Rally. Slocum vs. Mackovic.

One of the most colorful and bitterly contested rivalries in college football will continue in the 104th meeting of Texas A&M and the University of Texas Friday at Kyle Field.

Shane Dronett, former defensive end for UT once said, "This is what college football is all about—two teams that hate each other."

Some Aggies and Longhorns believe hate is too strong of a word for the competition, but all agree that the rivalry between the two schools is one of the strongest in the nation.

The series began in 1894 when the Longhorns, then known as

"Varsity," beat the Aggies, 38-0. The next game was in 1898, with UT winning again 48-0. The game became a tradition and fans from both schools marked the calendar for the annual meeting.

By Thanksgiving Day in 1924, thirty-five thousand people jammed into the football stadium at Austin to witness the game.

PLEASE SEE **RIVALRY** ON PAGE 6.