

Officials may halt search for missing prof

By ROBERT SMITH
Senior staff writer

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) officials said Sunday that they are continuing to search for a missing Texas A&M professor, but may suspend the search as soon as today.

"We're scouring the area right now, but we have no idea where he is. We want to make sure we have exhausted all of our leads."

LT. COL. FED DEYESCO
CIVIL AIR PATROL

Management (DEM) to determine if the search should continue. The DEM is funding the search.

Deyeso said a decision will be made today of whether to continue the search.

"We want to make sure we have exhausted all of our leads," he said. "It would not necessarily be a permanent decision. We could search again if we had another lead."

The CAP sent five aircraft Sunday to West Texas to search for the

professor, Deyeso said.

Norman R. Tilford, an A&M geology professor, has not been seen since he flew from Coulter Field in Bryan Nov. 13.

Tilford planned to meet a group of Texas A&M students for a field trip in Van Horn, Texas, 120 miles southeast of El Paso.

CAP, a volunteer organization, has searched for Tilford for two weeks both in the air and on land. CAP began searching for Tilford

Nov. 15 after students called the airport and said he had not arrived in Van Horn.

"I don't know how much longer we can keep looking," Deyeso said. "We have no flight plan or anything, and we're running out of ideas."

Tilford did not file a flight plan with the Federal Aviation Administration. Coulter Field Airport Manager Gary Gandy said the FAA does not require private flights to file a flight plan and that private flights

often do not file flight plans.

Deyeso said CAP is concentrating the search effort in the area between Georgetown and Van Horn.

Deyeso said CAP volunteers found nothing after searching heavily between Bryan and Georgetown.

"We're doing everything possible to follow up on the circumstances," Deyeso said.

Anyone who has any information is asked to call Civil Air Patrol at (512) 869-3449.

Igniting a time FOR VICTORY

Bonfire gets its fifteen minutes'

By KARIE FEHLER
Staff writer

The Thanksgiving holiday did not keep one of Texas A&M's most famous traditions from attracting thousands of people to the fields Nov. 27 to share their "burning desire" at the hell outta t.u.

More than 50,000 spectators attended the "Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire," which burned 15 minutes before collapsing.

The stack, doused with jet fuel, was lit at 8:20 p.m. and fell at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Javier Garza, a senior redpot and an agricultural development major, said the stack was not expected to fall so quickly.

"Bonfire did fall pretty quick this year — nobody looked for it, but we heard a big cracking sound, and there it came," he said. "There could be lots of reasons for Bonfire falling so fast. The logs this year were relatively small, so the stack was thick without a lot of mass. One side started really good and it was also leaning a little to begin with."

Garza said a faulty link in Bonfire's centerpole was not a factor in the stack's early fall.

"When we heard a crack, we all wondered if it was centerpole that cracked at the splice, but when we looked, we saw that it cracked above the splice — the centerpole pots went nuts," he said. "It was unbelievable. The pots were very excited that their splice withstood the fire."

Cary Eubanks, a junior redpot and an agricultural systems major, said the tradition of Bonfire is more than a rally to beat the University of Texas.

"I am really looking forward to being a senior red next year, because the whole tradition of Bonfire brings A&M together — it's hard to put into words," he said.

After the stack was lit, Texas A&M yell leaders began yell practice. During the Aggie War Hymn's chant "saw varsity's horns off," Bonfire fell.

Brad Haeker, a senior chemical engineering major, said he expected the stack to stand until 11 p.m.

"This was really a quickie and sort of a disappointment for many people," he said. "Don't get me wrong, I had a great time, but I expected to stay until at least 11 (p.m.) — it was really cool that it fell when we were sawing varsity's horns off, though."



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

LEFT: Redpots circle Bonfire before lighting it. They carry torches first with their families, and then by themselves for the final round.

ABOVE: Red pot Alex Cabanas, a senior finance major, watches Bonfire burn with his fiancée, Heather Hettick, a senior biomedical science major. Cabanas proposed to Hettick when Bonfire was lit.

RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Drive to benefit families on Mexico border

By JULIETTA JORDAN
Staff writer

The Center for Housing and Urban Development (CHUD) at Texas A&M and KAMU-TV are hosting a clothing drive until Dec. 12 to benefit the families of the Colonias communities along the Texas/Mexico border.

John McCarroll, program director of KAMU-TV, said that in honor of the 30th anniversary of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, Public Broadcasting Stations across the country are holding sweater drives to show their appreciation to Fred Rogers.

"KAMU is doing it because Mister Rogers' Neighborhood was one of the first shows that we aired," he said. "We want to honor and say thank you to Mr. Rogers."

McCarroll said the television station will collect sweaters from Bryan-College Station viewers, and CHUD will deliver them to the Colonias settlements for distribution among families.

CHUD was established in 1991 for the purpose of aiding the low-income border settlements, known as the Colonias. The Colonias

communities are scattered along the border from Brownsville to El Paso.

Carlos Carbo, a CHUD employee and Class of '93, said the Colonias settlements need winter clothing, space heaters, blankets and other household goods.

Barbara Henry, a CHUD employee, said she encourages Texas A&M students, faculty and staff to give toys for the children of the Colonias.

She said CHUD's goal is to collect as many items as possible to send to the Colonias families before Christmas. Henry said CHUD will take anything.

In 1992, CHUD built its first Community Resource Center (CRC) in the Colonias.

Since then, CHUD has built CRCs within nine of the 1,436 Colonias in Texas.

According to CHUD, each settlement has about 340,000 residents. More than 1,200 of the residents visit the CRC each day.

Most of the CRCs contain classrooms, examining rooms, an auditorium, a community kitchen, a library and a playground for the children.

CHUD, along with other private and public agencies, have instituted programs within the cen-

ters to improve the communities.

Carbo said the community centers provide access to health care, English classes, literacy classes and youth and children's programs.

"The people suffer from isolation," he said. "It is not only a physical isolation — language barriers and a lack of understanding of the services which [the residents] have access to also contributes to this isolation."

Henry said the CRCs help the residents of the Colonias by providing programs within their communities so they do not have to travel far for services.

Carbo said that one woman received assistance through the education programs of the CRC in her Colonias.

"She improved her English and got her GED," he said. "Now she is trying to enroll in community college through the center."

Donations may be dropped off at the CHUD office in 109 Langford Architecture Center Building C.

For more information or to arrange a special pick-up for donations, call CHUD at 862-2370.

George W. Bush kicks off re-election campaign Wednesday with stops in Dallas, Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush will formally begin his re-election campaign Wednesday with stops to Midland, El Paso, Dallas and Austin.

He plans to tout accomplishments on the topics that served as centerpiece of his 1994 campaign: reforms in education, civil justice, juvenile

justice and welfare.

"It's not so much earning the trust of Texans by doing what I said I'd do in office ... but more importantly is I know where I want to go," Bush told the *American-Statesman*. "That's exactly what I'm going to talk about in the course of the campaign."

Bush hasn't yet announced any

of the particulars about his campaign platform. He's likely to skirt the big question of his re-election campaign: whether he'll run for president in 2000.

Bush is vying to become the state's first governor to win re-election since Texas began having four-year terms in 1975.

While he's very popular now, several other recent governors who were well-received ended up being voted out of office.

Bush doesn't even have to look far to find an example. In 1994, he made Ann Richards eligible for the Texas Capitol's portrait gallery before she was ready.

A&M to observe World AIDS Day

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

Texas A&M will observe an optional minute of silence at 10 a.m. today in honor of the tenth annual World AIDS Day.

University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen proclaimed the moment of silence from 10 a.m. to 10:01 a.m. today with support from the Health Education Center at A.P. Beutel Health Center and the Texas A&M HIV/AIDS committee.

This year the World AIDS Day will recognize children in the world who are living with HIV or AIDS and the children who have mothers that have died from this disease.

According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, in the world, 1,000 children die of AIDS and another 1,000 children become infected with HIV each day.

Margaret Griffith, the health education coordinator at the Health Center, said World AIDS Day is a day for reflection of the disease and the people it affects.

"It's a day for people to really look at how widespread this (HIV/AIDS) is," she said.

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