

THE BATTALION

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Students accused of assaulting man near Bonfire site

BY JASON BENNYHOFF
The Battalion

Two Bonfire redpots are accused of assaulting a student who attempted to cross the Polo Fields Friday. Ramiro Reyes, a senior political science major, said two men attacked him while he was on his way home from work at about 11:05 a.m. Friday—shoving him, which caused his shirt to tear, and yelling obscenities. The attack allegedly occurred as Reyes walked across the corner of the Polo Fields, about 200 yards from the Bonfire site, toward University Drive. Reyes said he saw a man heading in his direction as he crossed the field. "I saw this guy running towards me," he said. "But I thought it was just some cops [of Cadets] thing. I didn't think he was going to attack me." Reyes said the man began to scream obscenities when he was about 10 feet

away. Reyes said he stopped and was confused, as the assailant began to push and shove him off the field toward Bizzell Street. Reyes said he asked his attacker why the assault was happening. The attacker answered, "Because you're on my field, and I'm a junior redpot." Reyes said he then saw another man running toward them who he thought would help him, but the second man also began to push him off the field. "He would try to pull me, and I would try to resist," he said. "But when the other guy came, I couldn't do anything." The attackers pushed him onto Bizzell Street, leaving him to walk home—this time around the Polo Fields. Rusty Thompson, Bonfire adviser, said the Polo Fields are like a construction site, and safety always is a concern of the redpots. "They try to dissuade people from



RYAN LOCKER/Special to THE BATTALION

Police gather at the Bonfire site, the site of the alleged assault that took place Friday. "You can call whoever the f--- you want, and my name is Broach — B-R-O-A-C-H. Get it right." After reaching his home, Reyes said he called the University Police Department (UPD) to report the incident. Broach declined to comment on the allegations. The other man accused in the attack, identified only as Clayton, said they simply asked Reyes to leave for his own safety. Bob Wiatt, UPD director, said he could not comment on the incident, but he did confirm Reyes filed a police report. Wiatt said UPD is conducting an investigation and as of Friday afternoon was trying to locate the alleged assailants. The attacker answered,

McCleskey leaves Corps

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Col. Lee McCleskey, assistant commander of discipline for the Corps of Cadets, is looking for a new job at Texas A&M after leaving a position with the Corps, which he said he was no longer "morally and ethically able to serve." McCleskey said he was originally administratively suspended from his position with pay Sept. 2. The suspension resulted when copies of misconduct allegations concerning the mistreatment of freshman cadets in company K-2 were sent to both Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, without the consent of Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hoppgood.

"He understands how the Corps works and he has always done what is in the best interest of the Corps. I don't think this is any different."

— Forrest Lane
Commander, Corps of Cadets

McCleskey said it was necessary to send the copies to Bowen and Southerland because the two had recently talked with the Corps about a zero-tolerance policy on hazing. "I felt that I was doing my duty," McCleskey said. "I took the words of these two respectable gentlemen to heart, and I felt that they needed to be informed that their message had apparently not been received by all the Corps members." Mike Duke, a former member of the Commandant's staff and a personal friend of McCleskey, said Hoppgood became irate after learning of McCleskey's actions and temporarily relieved McCleskey of his duties. Maj. "Doc" Mills, public relations representative for the Corps of Cadets, said Hoppgood had no comment because of an office policy of not commenting on personnel matters. Bowen said the chain of notification-of-misconduct allegations of usually proceeds from the commandant to vice president for student affairs, to the president's office but Bowen refused to comment further. Forrest Lane, Corps of Cadets commander and a senior political science and economics major, said while he has not been provided with information concerning McCleskey, he is confident in Hoppgood's ability to do what is best. "He understands how the Corps works, and he has always done in what is in the best interest of the Corps," Lane said. "I don't think this is any different." McCleskey said two weeks later he received a call in which Hoppgood offered to reinstate him with certain conditions, that McCleskey felt hindered him ethically from continuing his duties. "I felt I could no longer morally and ethically perform my duties under those conditions," he said. Duke said one condition required McCleskey to report all allegations of misconduct directly to Hoppgood, he said is in violation of a "Memorandum of Understanding." The memo requires the assistant commandant of discipline to simultaneously inform both the commandant and Brent Paterson, director of student life, of any allegations of misconduct, so that an investigation may be performed by the Office of the Commandant and the Department of Student Life.

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Cut draws 2,500 Aggs, 650 logs gathered

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

More than 2,500 Aggies participated this weekend in first cut, in which the trees used in building Bonfire. Dan Finnell, a senior redpot and an architecture major, said this was the most successful first cut in recent history. "There was a big turnout both days, from Corps and non-Corps alike," he said. "There were tons of dorms and outfits."



BONFIRE

Finnell said six truckloads, about 650 logs, were unloaded at the Polo Fields Sunday night, with more trees in the way. "There is lots of big wood and straight trees this year," he said. Finnell said there were few injuries considering the number of people who participated. He said none of the injuries were serious. "[If] you get that many people out there and you get the numbers working against you, you are bound to have some [accidents]," he said. "But safety is 10-fold better than last year." For Landon Ludlow, a freshman civil engineering major, first cut came early. By 7 a.m., Ludlow and 48 other residents of Schuhmacher Hall were at the gates of cut site. "The lines were long to get in," he said. "It took about half hour from the time we got in line until the time we were in the gates." Once at the the cut site, Ludlow said he was impressed by the camaraderie that came with the hard work of cutting down and moving trees. Cut will take place each weekend until Bonfire burns, at the annual Midnight yell practice before the Aggies' football game against the University of Texas-Austin. Bonfire burns Nov. 25.

Renaissance Festival



KIMBER HUFF/THE BATTALION

The Friar was one of the many characters at the 25th annual Renaissance Festival Saturday. The festival will continue every Saturday and Sunday until Nov. 14.

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Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 for information on A&M Football's loss to Texas Tech.

Photographs show border, culture, life

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

A photographic exhibit highlighting the culture of the Texas-Mexico border is now on display at the Friends Congressional Church in College Station. Phyllis Frederiksen, a member of the Just Peace Institute, said the exhibit, titled "Border Studies," is a collection of photographs relating to the lifestyle and culture of people living along the Texas-Mexico border taken by eight photographers. She said the exhibit is being offered to the Brazos Valley so residents can learn about the blending of the two cultures into one. "They [residents of the border] have combined their cultures to form a new culture," Frederiksen said. The exhibit, brought to College Station with September's Hispanic Heritage Month, highlights the problem of discrimination and is being made public through the sponsorship of the Just Peace Institute, a local organization ex-



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

The Friends Congressional Church exhibit shows life on the Texas-Mexico border. ploring social issues relevant to the Bryan-College Station community. Frederiksen said the exhibit illustrates the environmental and narcotics problems facing residents on both sides of the border. She said there are many people attempting to live there without adequate housing, sewage or electricity. "They live in very meager and unsafe conditions," she said. The collection also includes photographs depicting the diverse landscape of the border. "Many people do not know the border is 1,248 miles long, from El Paso to Brownsville," she said. "[Border Studies] shows people that this area has a culture all of its own. It shows the importance of [the] spiritual life of the people." Frederiksen said the exhibit will be open today from 5 to 8 p.m. and Oct. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit will conclude on the evening of Oct. 11. Admission is free of charge.

First Friday event focus: women's health, cancer

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Friday was more than a day to spark women's health awareness, it was a day of celebration. For survivor Brenda Bridges, Oct. 1 marked the third year of her battle against breast cancer, a battle she is winning thanks to modern medicine. First Friday was held in the atrium of the Texas A&M College of Medicine Building. The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) organized the event to bring awareness to Texas A&M students and faculty about the importance of the early detection of breast cancer. This event is intended to remind women they should take the first Friday of each month to do a breast self-examination or to have a regular mammogram. Bridges, a First Friday spokesperson, said her mother, grandmother and best friend died of cancer and that she never imagined she too could be stricken by the disease. She said that is why she wanted to become active in making women aware of their health. By telling her story, Bridges said she hopes



KENNETH MACDONALD/THE BATTALION

Kristen Parker and Judy Merchant participate in the First Friday candlelight vigil. she can make sure everyone takes the time to realize cancer can happen to them. Dr. Terry Jenkins, keynote speaker and an oncologist and hematologist specialist at St. Joseph's Regional Cancer Center, spoke to the group not only as a doctor but also to offer his perspective on breast cancer and emphasized the importance of early detection.

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