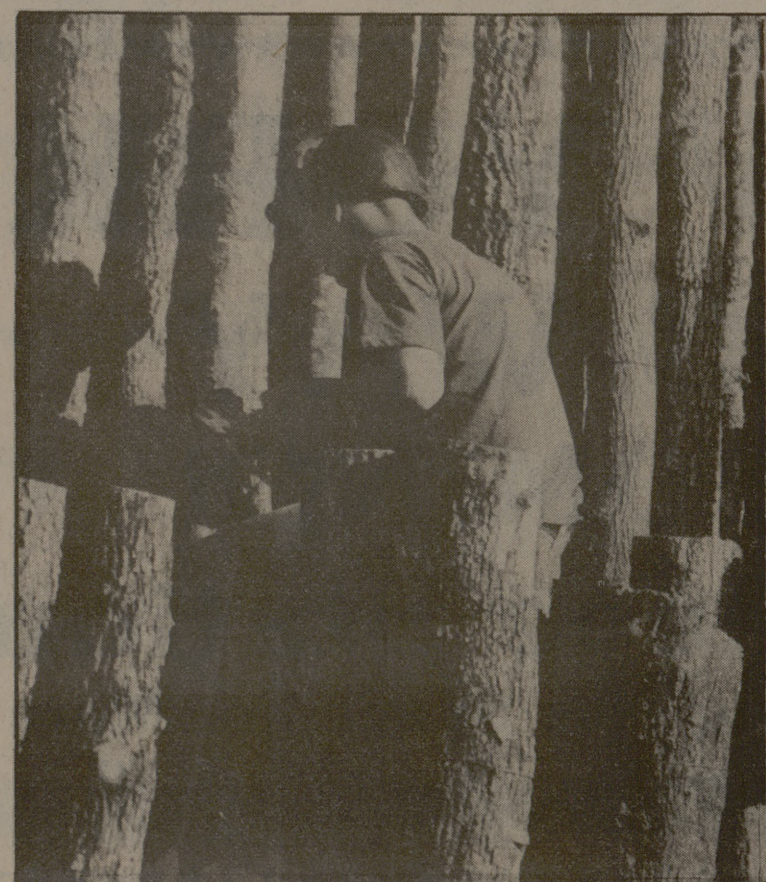
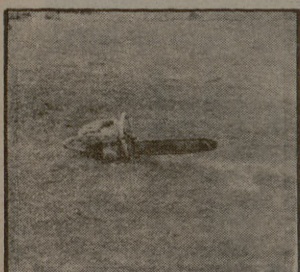
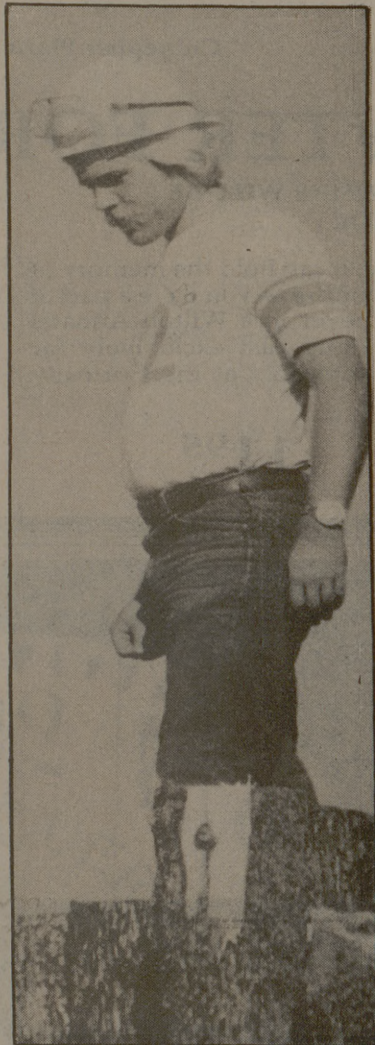
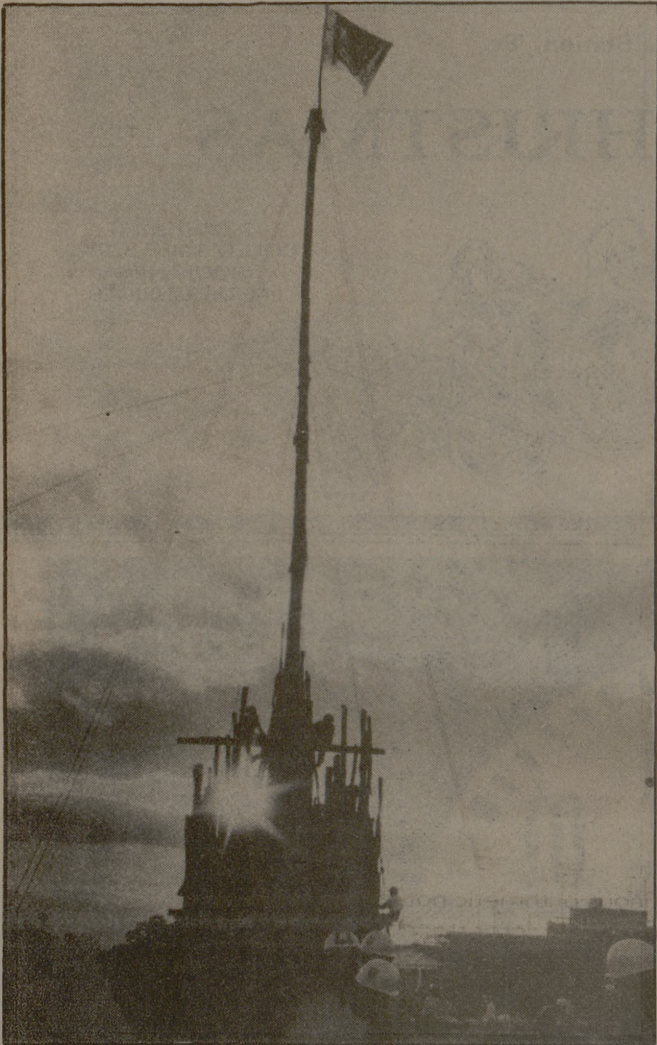


focus

Building Bonfire

One of A&M's greatest traditions is moving skyward



This is Bonfire

By J. WAGNER TYNES

Description

Well...uh...Bonfire is when most of the students try to get together and they go out and they cut down a lot of big trees on land that needs to be cleared. Then they haul all these logs to campus and lash them all together into a huge stack of wood. It's real impressive to see. Then, on the night before the game against Texas or sometime thereabouts, we light the stack with torches brought in by the yell leaders and watch it burn. Then we have a yell practice. It's one of our best traditions."

Eight Days to Go

It's Thursday night, a week and one day before the Big Burning. On the field where the bonfire is being built, it's obvious what is going on, but the stack is not really big enough yet to be the overwhelming center of interest it will later become. Instead, the long rows of huge logs laying on the ground are the most prominent feature.

There are only about 75 people working on the stack and none of them seem too worried that they might not get the stack finished in time. A few guys are wiring the logs to the stack, a few more are chain-sawing logs off to one side, and a more-organized group is using mass effort to bring logs closer to the stack so they can be hoisted into place.

The stack is floodlit by bright lamps mounted on four evenly-spaced poles. With the inky night on all sides, the whole scene has the look of a secret launching pad upon which a giant spaceship is being constructed. The workers themselves, with their hardhats and dirty

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Battalion photos by Kathy Henderson

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