

Chop 'em, load 'em, haul 'em: Bonfire '89



Eric Edwards, a Marine Corps reservist and a sophomore industrial distribution major from Houston, chops a tree 92 times to symbolize his membership in the Class of '92.



Members of the Dunn Hall cut crew struggle as they carry a heavy log out of the woods.



Larry Finch, a Dunn Hall crew chief, is thrown into a water hole by Dunn freshmen. It is a tradition for the crew chiefs to be "groded" by their fish.

80th annual bonfire cut begins after Saturday's rain delays work

Story by Michael Kelley
Photos by Jay Janner

Of The Battalion Staff

About 1,800 A&M students helped cut down several hundred trees Sunday at the first bonfire cut of the 80th annual Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire.

The first cut was originally scheduled for Saturday, but it was canceled due to rain and muddy roads. The cut site, which is located about 25 miles outside of College Station near Carlos, is owned by the Texas Power Agency, which is strip mining the land to extract lignite coal for its energy production plant.

Once the land is cleared, the topsoil is removed and the coal is extracted. After the coal is taken out of the ground, new soil is used to fill in the hole. The original topsoil is then replaced, and new trees are planted in the once bare and open ground.

Of the 1,800 people who participated in the cut, about half were from the Corps of Cadets and half were non-regs, senior redpot Tony Godinez said. Their efforts produced six flatbed truckloads of logs, which were taken to Duncan Field, the site of bonfire.

Attendance at a cutting class is mandatory before a student can go onto the cut site. The class, which is required for insurance purposes, consists of safety guidelines which must be followed by everyone at the site.

Cutting will continue each weekend until Nov. 12. Anyone interested in cutting should contact a yellowpot. Students living on campus can contact a yellowpot at their residence hall, and off campus students can talk to Off Campus Aggies. Yellowpots are cut-site supervisors who work to ensure the safety of all students at the site.

For more information about cut, contact Tony Godinez at 847-5286.

The following is a schedule of bonfire related activities for the semester:

- Oct. 15 — Non-reg cut
- Oct. 21 — Non-reg cut
- Oct. 22 — Non-reg and Corps cut
- Oct. 26 — Centerpole arrives at Duncan Field at 4:03 p.m.
- Oct. 28-29 — Non-Reg cutting weekend

- Nov. 3 — Centerpole is raised
- Nov. 5 — Non-reg and Wing (Corps unit) cut
- Nov. 11 — Non-reg and Corps cut
- Nov. 12 — Make-up cut and load
- Nov. 17 — Push begins (24-hour stacking of logs at Duncan Field)
- Dec. 1 — BONFIRE BURNS!!!



Freshmen cadets from Company D-1 tell "grode" stories during a break on Sunday afternoon.