

Table of Contents

Squaring off	
A look at the pros and cons of bonfire.....	3B
Putting bonfire together	
Changes in construction through the years	4B
Killing trees?	
Where the logs for bonfire come from	4B
Alcohol awareness	
Efforts for a sober event.....	5B
Safety measures	
Pots, goggles reduce risks	5B
Peaceful protest	
Aggies speak out against bonfire	6B
Is bigger better?	
Reducing the stack.....	6B
Firemen fuel blaze	
Method increases safety	7B
Fire funds	
Donations provide supplies.....	7B
Burning Desire	
The story told with photos.....	8B-9B
Through the years	
A look at bonfire's history	10B
Longhorn hex	
'Sips recite curse for football luck	11B
Running the game ball	
Squadron 7 has special tradition	11B
DG wants yellowpot	
Women's dorm gets involved	12B
The ol' army days	
Former students remember	12B
Bonfire buddies	
Boosting morale and friendship	13B
Reload crew	
Refreshments, support for workers.....	13B
No bus routes to bonfire	
Service discontinued because of rowdy behavior.....	14B
Aftermath	
Cleaning up the mess	15B

Editor's Note

It's that time of year again ... bonfire season. Centerpole goes up at 4 p.m. today on Duncan Field, and in less than a month, thousands will gather to watch it burn.

The tradition is marking its 81st year, but some would like 1990 to be its last. Citing environmental, safety and grade concerns, many groups in recent years have made proposals ranging from size reduction to elimination of bonfire.

In this special section, The Battalion looks at several issues surrounding bonfire — its history, construction, funding, safety and supporting and opposing organizations. We talked to people who work on bonfire and people who work to end it.

If students must decide how they feel about the future of bonfire, we want them to make informed decisions.

Cindy McMillian,
 Battalion editor

Schedule of remaining bonfire events

Centerpole raised	today (4 p.m.)
Bonfire cut	Nov. 3,4
Corps of Cadets bonfire cut	Nov. 10
Renegade cut	Nov. 11
Push starts	Nov. 15
(round-the-clock work on stack)	
Bonfire burns	Nov. 29 (dark:30)
Texas A&M vs. t.u. in Austin.....	Dec. 1