


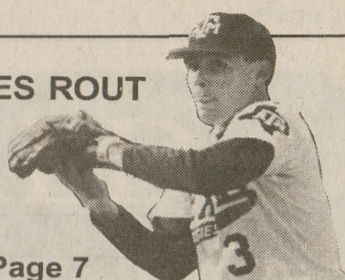
March 24, 1992
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FORECAST

Cloudy
High in 70s
Low in 50s

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Women's History Month
deserves a moment of
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The Battalion

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TRANSPLANTING TRADITION

Polo fields become site for bonfire

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

The tradition is the same, only the location has been changed. Bonfire 1992 has been moved to what is commonly known as the polo fields on the northeast side of campus from Duncan Field on the southside of campus, said Dr. Bill Kibler, associate director of student affairs.

After an extensive study involving local community members and University representatives, officials chose the polo fields as the new location in order to make bonfire a safer and more accessible tradition for students, alumni and visitors, Kibler said.

The new 9.2 acre location is more than 400 yards from the nearest building, compared to 100 yards at Duncan Field.

Jim McTasney, one of last year's redpots, said with the right planning and the cooperation of students and University officials, the polo fields will be a much better location for bonfire.

McTasney said the site is farther away from university buildings and neighborhoods and also has parking advantages.

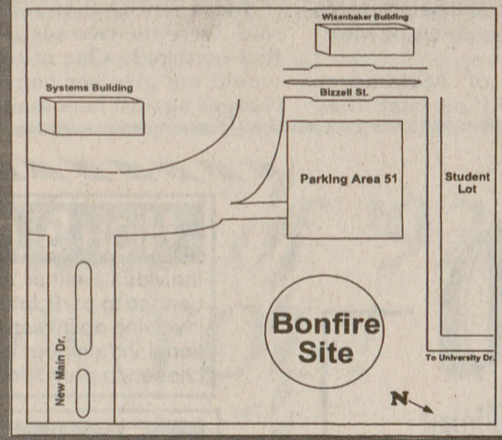
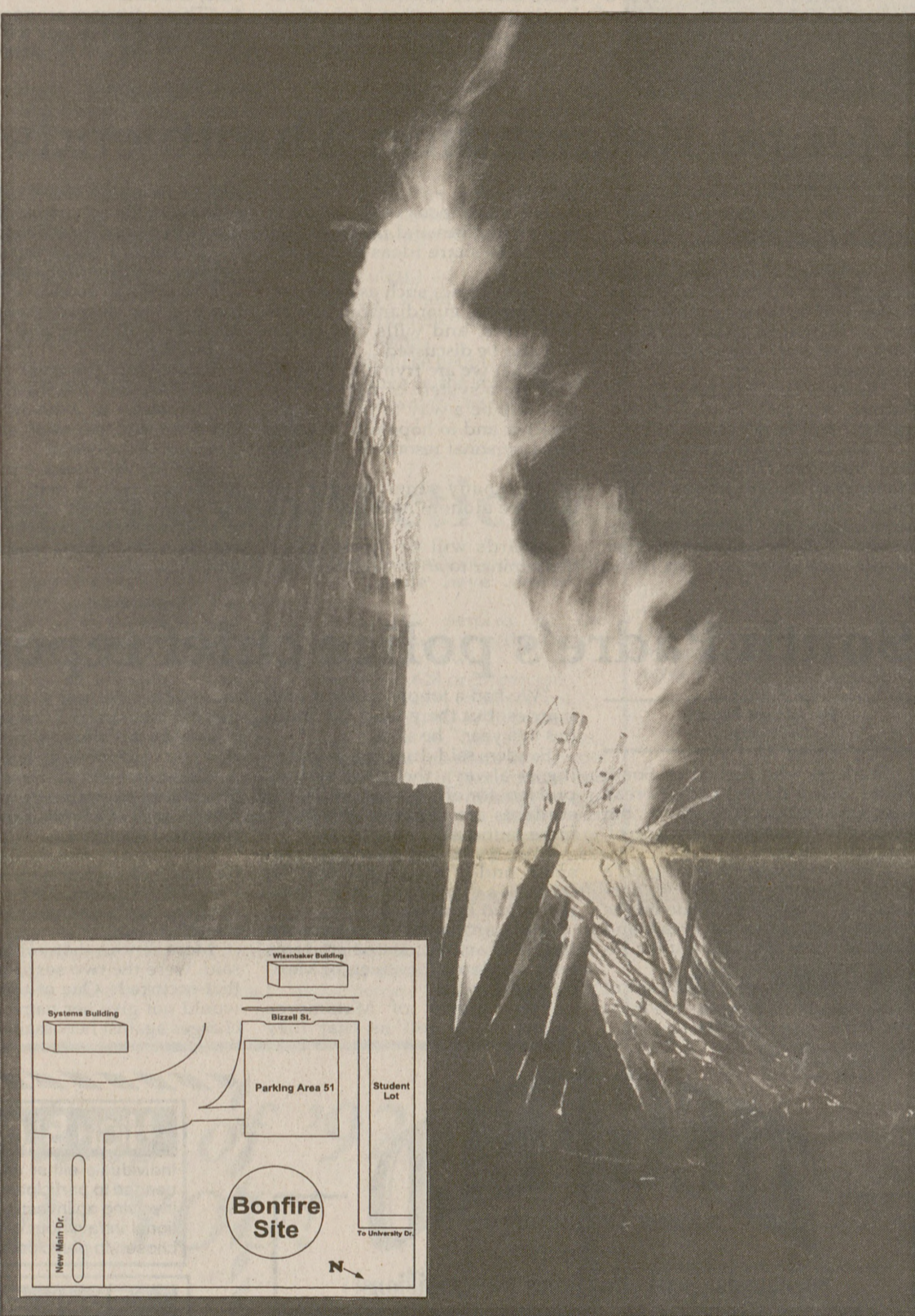
"Bonfire safety was never a problem in the past, but why push it now," he said.

Students can still walk to bonfire, McTasney said, and the new site is close to parking areas 50 and 51, near Zachry Engineering Center.

Choosing a site that wouldn't change from year to year was very important, McTasney said. Bonfire has burned on Duncan Field for the past 37 years and on Simpson Drill Field for 46 years prior to that.

One reason bonfire was not relocated to west campus was the fact that most of the land would be under construction within the next five years, he said.

Another advantage to the new site is that vehicles and equipment used to build bonfire are also easily accessible to the polo field, Kibler said.



A&M officials finalized plans Tuesday to relocate the bonfire site to the northeast part of campus.

Brown clinches victory in primary, surprises Clinton

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Challenger Jerry Brown scored a startling upset over Bill Clinton in the Connecticut presidential primary Tuesday night to slow the front-runner's march toward the Democratic nomination.

President Bush swept to Republican victory over dormant rival Patrick Buchanan and the nagging protest vote. He said the victory added to his optimism in "a screwy year."

The Democratic verdict, a 1-point victory for Brown, surprisingly stalling the Clinton campaign despite the Arkansas governor's claim that he had expected a tight contest.

Turnout was low in the three-man count: Brown, 37 percent, Clinton 36 percent and former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas, who quit the campaign, 20 percent.

The Connecticut upset instantly raised the stakes in the New York primary, the next major contest, two weeks away. Clinton cannot afford more trouble there.

Clinton called Connecticut "a small setback." Brown described it as "a shocking upset" that would propel his anti-establishment



Jerry Brown
campaign. He said Clinton does not own the Democratic nomination, the people do.

Brown said he had won Connecticut because "people want change, I'm a vehicle for that..."

"This thing is now coming to New York and this will be the battle of where the party's going."

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Society views medicine as magic, surgeon says

Society tends to view doctors and medicine as magical, a chief surgeon said Tuesday night at Texas A&M.

Dr. Kenneth Mattox, a professor of surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine and Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at the Ben Taub Trauma Center/General Hospital in Houston, said medical technology only extends life two years on the average.

"Medicine is not magic and doctors aren't magicians," Mattox said. "Death and taxes are inevitable."

Mattox, who spoke at the MSC Great Issues lecture on ethics in modern medicine, said medical trauma has been neglected from a political, economic and social standpoint.

Trauma predominates in this country because violence surrounds us, he said. This is evident in everything from sports and cartoons to movies like "JFK" and "Terminator 2."

"Prevention becomes the goal," he said.

Mattox said this includes wearing helmets, seat belts, installing air bags, and more gun and alcohol control.

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Reactor leaks gas into atmosphere

Amount poses no threat, Russians say

MOSCOW (AP) — A Chernobyl-style nuclear power reactor near St. Petersburg leaked radioactive gas Tuesday, but Russian atomic energy officials said the small amount that escaped into the atmosphere posed no threat to the public.

Despite the official assurances, some St. Petersburg residents took precautions, including keeping children indoors.

Swedish experts who visited the Leningradskaya plant last year had urged it be closed immediately because of safety concerns. U.S. officials said Tuesday they remained worried about the safety of all Soviet-built nuclear plants.

Since the Chernobyl disaster spewed radioactivity across Europe in 1986, serious questions have been raised about aging and poorly designed reactors, poor maintenance and operator errors at nuclear plants in the former Soviet Union.

Despite those concerns, Russia must rely heavily on its nine nuclear power plants because of persistent energy shortages. Three of the plants — with 11 reactors — share the same design as the Chernobyl station.

Russian officials said filters rendered the radioactive gas and iodine harmless Tuesday as they escaped from the reactor building. Soviet nuclear plants do not have sealed structures designed to contain leaks from reactors, which are mandatory in the United States and other nations.

More serious leaks occurred at two other Soviet plants last year, but neither caused contamination outside the plants, said Yuri Rogozhin of the State Atomic Security Commission.

Neighboring Finland appealed for international action to improve the safety of Russian nuclear plants. But the Finnish government said only one its monitoring stations detected a "minute" rise in radiation at high altitudes Tuesday, while others registered no increases.

Foreign experts agreed with Russian officials that it appeared the incident was not too serious.

"There is no danger at all," said Larisa Khudiokova, a mayoral spokeswoman in St. Petersburg, a city of 4.5 million people 50 miles east of the plant in Sosnovy Bor.

Top 20 graduate engineering programs

1. M.I.T.
2. Stanford University
3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. University of California - Berkeley
5. Purdue University
6. California Institute of Technology
7. University of Michigan
8. University of Texas at Austin
9. Cornell University
10. Georgia Tech
11. Ohio State University
12. University of Wisconsin at Madison
13. Texas A&M University
14. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
15. Pennsylvania State University
16. Carnegie Mellon University
17. University of Southern California
18. University of Florida
19. Northwestern University
20. University of California - Los Angeles

Source: U.S. News & World Report

Magazine ranks A&M graduate engineering program in top 20

Best Graduate Schools."

Dr. Kenneth L. Peddicord, interim dean of administration at the College of Engineering, said the department is very pleased with the ranking.

"I feel it is a reflection of the efforts of the faculty and students to improve our standing at TAMU," he said. "I'm pleased that the engineering program at Texas A&M University is thought of as highly as other prominent schools such as Wisconsin and RPI."

For the past three years, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been the top-ranking

A national news magazine ranked a Texas A&M graduate program as one of the top 20 in the country in a survey of graduate schools.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the A&M graduate engineering program 13th, while the A&M graduate business program scored among the top 50 in the annual survey. The magazine announced the ratings in their March 23 issue headlined "America's

engineering school in the nation. MIT ranked first among 193 accredited engineering schools offering master of science and doctoral degrees.

Schools with fewer than 20 students were not included in the survey. After MIT, the engineering list includes Stanford University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of California at Berkeley, and Purdue University.

U.S. News also ranked the top business, medical and law schools.

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Bentsen: Disaster relief 'turning into a sad joke'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Struggling farmers may get only pennies on the dollar when the government parcels out disaster payments for crops destroyed by two years of record floods, drought and violent storms from the orchards of Michigan to the fields of the Mississippi Delta.

The Agriculture Department has just \$995 million to divide among producers with losses in 1990 or 1991. That means USDA will have to prorate payments among eligible producers.

Estimates of what farmers can

expect range from 10 cents to 50 cents for every dollar lost. Many observers believe the checks, which should be mailed in mid-April, will be close to 30 cents on the dollar.

"Agricultural producers are rightly complaining that 'the disaster program is a disaster,'" said Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

USDA will begin tallying up the losses after farmers submit the last of their paperwork, which is due Friday.

California, the top farm state, experienced a fifth straight year of

drought by 1991. Citrus orchards and winter vegetable crops were damaged by a winter freeze in late 1990.

Record floods last year in East Texas and the Mississippi Delta washed catfish right out of their ponds and damaged wheat crops across the region.

Hot, dry weather withered the peanut crop in the Southeast in 1990, as it did to corn, soybeans and wheat from the mid-Atlantic to Illinois a year later. Frost, hail and thunderstorms battered Michigan's fruit orchards.

"Farmers tell me the program is too little, too late, and it may be turning into a sad joke," said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas. "Clearly more than \$995 million is going to be needed to meet the needs of all farmers across the country."

Bentsen said he's worried that farmers may see only a dime's worth of relief for every dollar of damages. In Texas, farmers lost \$618 million on just three crops — cotton, corn and sorghum.

He called on President Bush to release \$775 million more that was authorized by Congress last year.