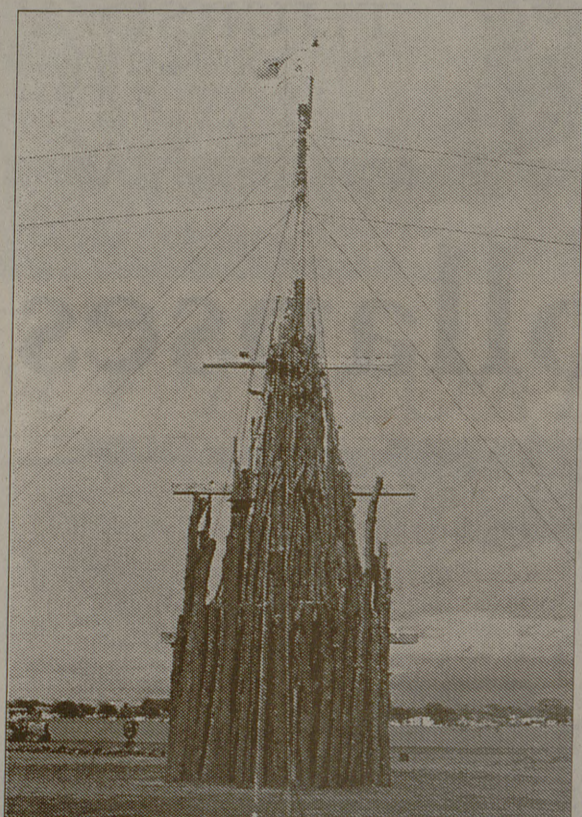
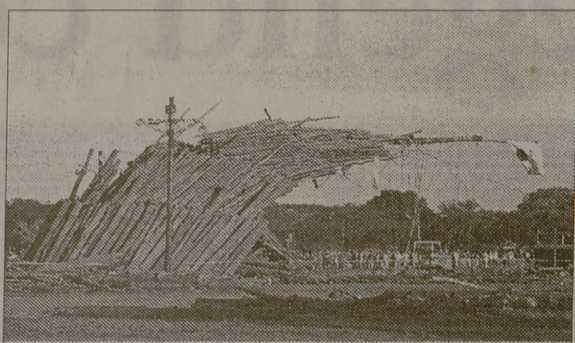


How it happened



Before



After

At 9:00 a.m. Wednesday workers at the Bonfire site noticed that it had begun to lean. The redpots ordered the area clear for safety. Later in the afternoon, the redpots decided to tear down the stack and rebuild Bonfire. The cause of the lean is not known for certain, but most A&M officials believe that the heavy rains last week caused the ground to shift. The shifting ground caused the Bonfire to have a slope, where one side was heavier than the other, Dale Pennington, a soil chemist, said. This is not the first time Bonfire has collapsed before it was lit. In 1957 heavy rains led to Bonfire's collapse. Classes were canceled and the student body rebuilt the '57 Bonfire in three days.

Photos by Blake Griggs, Stew Milne and Tim Moog

Rains weaken Bonfire base, cause structure to collapse

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

A&M officials believe that last week's heavy rains caused the ground underneath Bonfire to shift, prompting Bonfire to come tumbling down Wednesday.

Dr. Bill Kibler, assistant vice president for student affairs, said it became obvious to officials at the Bonfire site that Bonfire needed to come down because the stacks had begun to shift.

"It was due to a shift in the ground underneath stack," Kibler said. "We've had a great deal of rain out here."

Last week, 16.5 inches of rain drenched the Brazos Valley within a four-day period which caused massive flooding and damage in the community.

Kibler said the shifting caused centerpole to crack but that the cracked centerpole was not Bonfire's original problem.

"There was nothing wrong with the centerpole," Kibler said. "It is cracked now because of the shifting."

Dale Pennington, a Texas Agricultural Extension Service soil chemist, said the rains College Station received October 16-19 most likely caused the Bonfire stacks to start leaning.

"If there are heavy rains, Bonfire can get out of kilter," Pennington said.

Dennis Driscoll, an associate professor of meteorology, said that because the hole for centerpole was dug before the rains fell, the rains probably contributed to the shifting of the massive structure.

"The rains make the soil less stable," Driscoll said. "There may have been a deep layer of water-logged soil. It is now dried out enough to make the ground shift."

Pennington said when the ground shifts, Bonfire starts to have a slope and one side becomes heavier than the other.

"The soil becomes suspended in water," Pennington said. "That can easily get things out of balance."

Pennington said people's movement around the Bonfire site adds to the instability of the ground.

"A problem is constant activity on the ground," Pennington said. "That makes it quicksand. The ground gradually becomes a quagmire."

Pennington, Class of '61, said Bonfire collapsed once before in 1957.

"It fell the Sunday before the Thanksgiving days," Pennington said. "We had the same weather then as now. That was the year the Brazos went over its banks."

"We peeled everything out and redrilled the hole for centerpole. Centerpole had broken in half."

The 1957 Bonfire was rebuilt by the student body in three days and burned on the scheduled day.

Kibler said the A&M administration did not cancel classes for three days in 1957 and will not do so this year.

Pennington said the 1994 Bonfire can burn time just as the 1957 Bonfire did.

"If the students want a Bonfire," he said, "Bonfire can be rebuilt."

Bonfire Reaction

Continued from Page 1

Matt Segrest, commander of the Corps of Cadets, said the Corps will help rebuild Bonfire.

"The Corps will go out and support it even if it just a pile of logs because of what it represents — the burning desire to 'beat the hell outta t.u.," he said.

Other students, like Russell Robertson, Class of '94, said they will also pitch in to help rebuild it.

"If they rebuild it," Robertson said, "I'll be out here to help."

Angela Winkler, a pink pot, said she is confident that Bon-

fire will be rebuilt. "Don't worry," she told a group of students, "They are going to rebuild it and it will be awesome."

Robert Bragg, a graduate student in architecture, said that starting over and rebuilding Bonfire is exciting.

"It's exciting to see what they can do with it," he said. "I've been here through many Bonfires, and I think this adds a little excitement."

Brooke Leslie, student body president, said that students should take advantage of this situation to show others Aggie Spirit.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to prove to the rest of the

world what Aggie Spirit is all about," she said.

Trent Ashby, a senior leader, agreed with Leslie that this is an opportunity to show our Aggie Spirit.

"People should come out and build the hell out of Bonfire and show their Aggie Spirit," he said.

Despite the legend that Bonfire falls after midnight, A&M will beat t.u., or if it falls before midnight, there will be another outcome, John Barr head stack redpot, said the Aggies will win.

"It has fallen before midnight for the past several years and we still 'beat the hell outta t.u.," he said.

Class of '75

Superior criminal trial experience, 75% of this court's docket.

Jim Locke

for Judge

County Court at Law #1

Pd. Ad For Locke - Betty White, Treasurer • 8108 Bunker Hill, C.S., Tx

CONTACT LENSES

ONLY QUALITY NAME BRANDS
(Bausch & Lomb, Ciba, Barnes-Hind-Hydrocurve)
Disposable Contact Lenses Available

\$118⁰⁰ TOTAL COST...INCLUDES
EYE EXAM, FREE ALCON OPTI-FREE CARE KIT, AND TWO PAIR OF STANDARD FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT CONTACT LENSES.

\$149⁰⁰ TOTAL COST...INCLUDES
EYE EXAM, FREE ALCON OPTI-FREE CARE KIT, AND FOUR PAIR OF STANDARD FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT CONTACT LENSES.

SAME DAY DELIVERY ON MOST LENSES.

Call **846-0377** for Appointment
CHARLES C. SCHROEPEL, O.D., P.C.
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

505 University Dr. East, Suite 101
College Station, TX 77840
4 Blocks East of Texas Ave. & University Dr. Intersection

VISA MasterCard

Here, last month, 922 good people got a pin prick, and earned themselves \$46,000 cash....and helped people they never knew!

They sat back on big leather lounge chairs and relaxed or studied for exams. They exchanged recipes, talked about love, children, life, happenings, boys, girls, politics, tomorrow, friends, class, car repair, baseball, fishing, and delivering kittens. In 60 minutes they were up and away, cash in hand, feeling good.

You have never opened a door on a friendlier place and the regular extra money is very nice.

Everybody needs you.

It's that easy

Westgate Plasma Center
4223 Wellborn Rd.
846-8855

A + TUTORING

260-2660

Tickets on sale Sunday 10/30 5 - 7 PM

	SUN 10/30	MON 10/31	TUE 11/1	WED 11/2
6 - 9 pm		PHYS 201 Practice Test Dr. Yarick	PHYS 201 Practice Test Dr. Ford	
9 pm - Mid	PHYS 201 Review CH 9, 10, 11, 13 (Free)	CHEM 102 CH 20, 29	CHEM 102 CH 21	CHEM 102 Test Review

CHEM 111 10/30 SUNDAY 6-8 PM Makeup or Replacement 8

CHEM 112 10/30 SUNDAY 8-10 PM Report 32/Pre Lab 27

	MON 10/31	TUE 11/1	WED 11/2
4 - 6 pm	ACCT 230 CH 4, 5,	ACCT 230 CH 6, 7, 9	ACCT 230 CH 10, 11
6 - 9 pm	ACCT 229 CH 5, 6, 7	ACCT 229 CH 8, 9, 10	ACCT 229 Test Review
9 pm - Mid.	ACCT 229 CH 5, 6, 7	ACCT 229 CH 8, 9, 10	ACCT 229 Test Review

Galleria Salon

Introducing Stella Herrera

Offering the latest techniques in hair styles, cuts and colors.

268-0101 • 1724 Briarcrest, Bryan • Suite 106

Kressa
SYSTEMS SALON

Enhancing the Harmony of Your Beauty,
Health and Vitality for the 90s

THE BATTALION

BELINDA BLANCARTE, Editor in chief

MARK EVANS, Managing editor
HEATHER WINCH, Night News editor
MARK SMITH, Night News editor
KIM MCGUIRE, City editor

JAY ROBBINS, Opinion editor
STEWART MILNE, Photo editor
DAVE WINDER, Sports editor
ROB CLARK, Aggillife editor

Staff Members

City desk—Jan Higginbotham, Katherine Arnold, Michele Brinkmann, Stephanie Dube, Amanda Fowle, Melissa Jacobs, Amy Lee, Lisa Messer, Tracy Smith and Kari Whitley

News desk—Robin Greathouse, Sterling Hayman, Jody Holley, Shafi Islam, Tiffany Moore, Scott Stanton, Zachary Toups and James Vineyard

Photographers—Tim Moog, Amy Browning, Robyn Calloway, Stacey Cameron, Blake Griggs, G. Painton, Nick Rodnicki, and Carrie Thompson

Aggillife—Margaret Cloughton, Jeremy Keddie, Constance Parten and Haley Stavino

Sports writers—Nick Georgandis, Kristina Buffin, Tom Day, Drew Diener, Stewart Doreen and Hostead

Opinion desk—Jenny Magee, Lynn Booher, Josef Elchanaan, Laura Frnka, Aja Henderson, Erin Kelly, Jeremy Keddie, Michael Landauer, Melissa Megliola, George Nasr, Elizabeth Pfeiffer, Gerardo Quezada and Frank Stanford

Cartoonists—Greg Argo, Brad Graeber, Alvaro Gutierrez and Quatro Oakley

Office Assistants—Heather Fitch, Adam Hill, Karen Hoffman and Michelle Oleson

Writing Coach—Timm Doolen

The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publication, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in the Reed McDonald Building. E-mail: BATT@TAMU11.TAMU.EDU. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.