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Dr. Southerland  
Vice President for Student Affairs  
Texas A&M University  
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You will be contacted as space is available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Bonfire preparations underway

**The Texas Aggie Bonfire is scheduled to burn Dec. 1, the night before the A&M - UT football game. Students will begin cutting trees in September.**

By Javier Hinojosa  
THE BATTALION

The fall semester kicks off one of Texas A&M's most celebrated traditions — Bonfire.

Redpots, who are Bonfire coordinators, announced that cutting the trees for Bonfire will begin Sept. 30.

Carl Baggett, head senior redpot, said everything was moved back a little because of the late date of the football game with the University of Texas this season.

In the past, the game with UT was usually played on Thanksgiving Day. However, due to A&M's television ban last year, UT and Baylor played on Thanksgiving, and A&M played UT on Nov. 5.

This year the game is scheduled for Dec. 2, to mark the end of the Southwest Conference.

Bonfire '95 will burn Dec. 1, the night before the game.

Last year's cut site will be used again. Jerry Kacal, a former student, will allow the redpots to use his land on Highway 30 going toward Huntsville for the second straight year.

In preparation for cut, two dates have been set aside for classes where students can learn the rules and safety procedures for cutting the trees.

Cut classes will be held Sept. 13 and 14 at the Grove. The Corps of Cadets will have their own cut class Sept. 20 in Rudder Auditorium.

The poles marking the perimeter of Bonfire will go up on Oct. 31. Centerpole will arrive Nov. 2 and will be put up Nov. 9.

Baggett said the A&M football team and yell leaders will participate in cut Nov. 12 and cut their own dress log. Dress logs are placed at the outermost point from the center of Bonfire and

have the names of different organizations engraved into them.

"Having the football team come out and cut a tree is a good reminder of what Bonfire is really about, the burning desire to beat the hell outta t.u.," Baggett said.

Baggett said he expects a lot of people to turn out for Bonfire this year.

"We had so much support from the students and the community last year since we had to rebuild Bonfire after it fell down," he said. "I am looking to see the same type of support and spirit carry on this year."

Rob Tortorice, a redpot and a junior finance major, said hard work and preparation goes into Bonfire behind the scenes.

"The senior redpots pretty much work year-round," Tortorice said. "Equipment must be lined up and a lot of financing goes into Bonfire."

Tortorice said he is eager to begin building the Bonfire.

"I can't wait to get started," he said. "It is going to be a good year. Everyone is excited about football and will be excited about Bonfire."

Steps were recommended by construction engineers in the College of Architecture and have been implemented to prevent Bonfire from falling, as it did last year, he said.

Zach Huyge, a redpot and a junior construction major, said Dr. Larry Grosse, head of the construction science department, recommended the use of a sunken cable to make the stack stronger. This method was used last year after the stack fell.

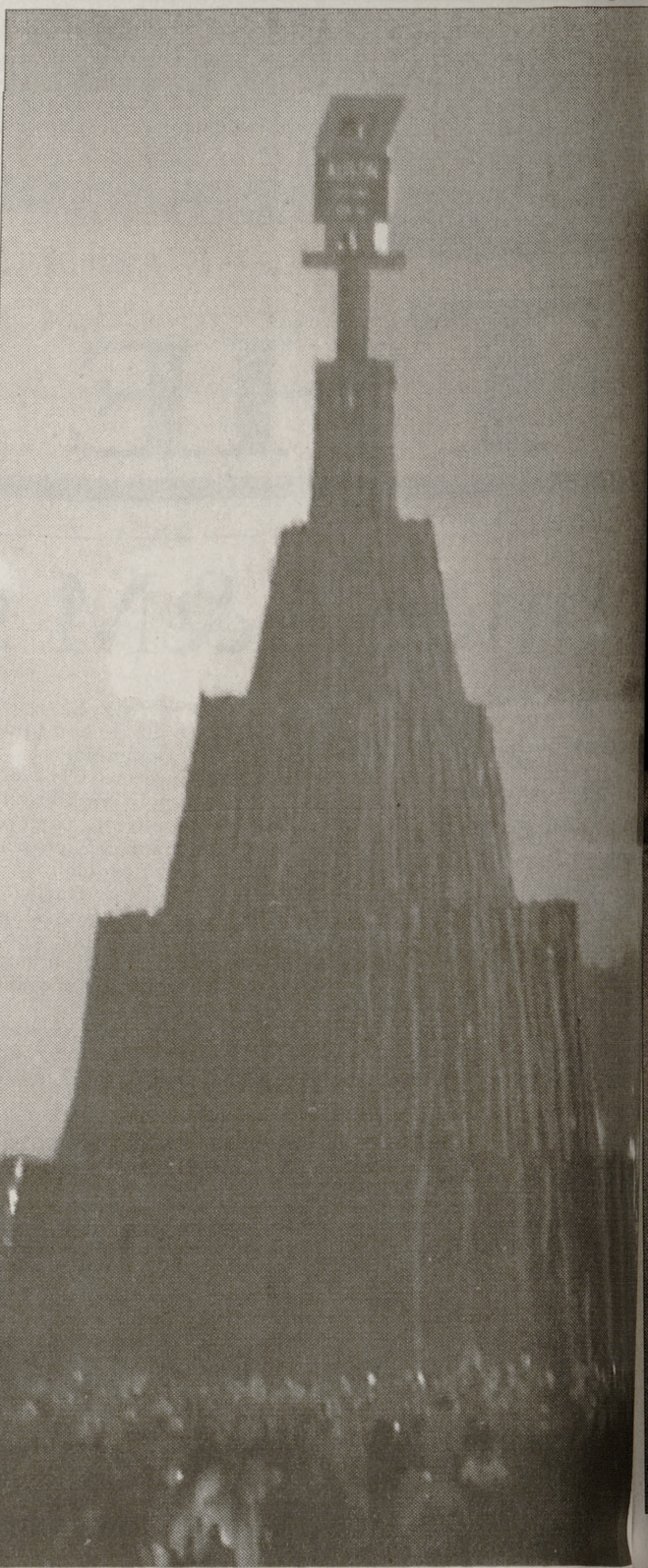
The redpots will use lime on the grounds of the Bonfire site to make the soil compact, Huyge said.

"This makes it really hard," he said, "almost like concrete."

The redpots are still in need of some tractors, but for the most part, everything is ready.

Huyge said the redpots are hoping to get some people who have never come out to cut to participate in Bonfire this year.

"Last year, a lot of students came out to stack after the first [Bonfire] fell who had never even tried coming before," he said. "We're hoping they are excited to come out this year."



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