

THE BATTALION

BONFIRE '96

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THE TRADITION STACKS UP



Left: Bonfire is reflected in Chris Bauer's sunglasses as he watches the logs being lifted onto stack.

Below: Jennifer Durand directs the lifting of logs onto stack as the "scarecrow" at the Bonfire site.



STORY BY ERICA ROY
PHOTOS BY STEW MILNE

semester of preparation will go up in flames tomorrow as Bonfire burns. With smoke in the sky and pride in the hearts of students, the event is meant to symbolize the desire to beat the University of Texas.

The 1996 Fightin' Texas Aggie Bonfire will go up in flames at approximately 8:20 tonight, a symbol of Texas A&M students' "burning desire to beat the hell outta t.u." The Aggie Band and the yell leaders will step off from the Quadrangle at 7:45 p.m. to march to Bonfire site and kick off the night's activities. Yell practice will begin shortly after the stack is set ablaze, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen and Football Team Head Coach R.C. Slocum will speak at yell practice along with football players selected by Coach Slocum. Chris "Rip" Torn, head yell leader and a senior agricultural development major, will recite the "The Last Corps Trip," a poem read annually at Bonfire. The speakers will be on a stage at the north end of the polo fields. Jason Burnett, a senior redpot and an agricul-

tural economics major, said 75,000 people are expected to attend.

Burnett said this year's Bonfire has run "extremely smooth," except for the Sept. 22 accident that killed one A&M student and injured nine others.

"This has been a real success this year," Burnett said.

"Stackapalooza," 36 straight hours of stack, was started this year to help build Bonfire, Burnett said, but rainy weather Sunday morning prevented students from working on stack for the full 36 hours.

"We started that ('Stackapalooza') this year because we had this weekend free ... and we had a lot of wood to be put up," Burnett said.

Several streets near Bonfire site will be closed Tuesday to help ease traffic congestion.

The entrance to Polo Road from University Drive has been closed since midday Monday. At 6 p.m. today the entrance to Bizzell Street from University Drive and the intersection of Spence and Ross Streets will be closed. Bizzell will also be closed to northbound traffic.

Sections of Parking Areas 50 and 51 will be reserved for handicap parking, and parking on medians or grass is prohibited.

College Station Police Department patrolmen will direct traffic at various points along Texas Avenue and help pedestrians cross the street.

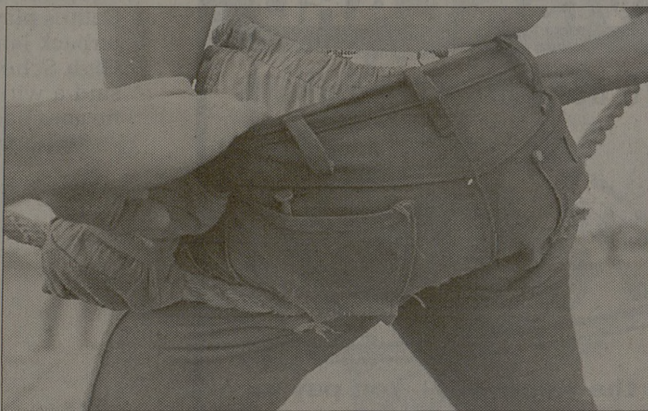
Regular on- and off-campus bus services will end at 6 p.m. today.

Television broadcasts of Bonfire will be aired live beginning at 8 p.m. on KAMU-TV.

Fox Sports Southwest will broadcast taped footage of Bonfire at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, and at 9 a.m. Friday Nov. 29.

Burnett encourages everyone to come and watch Bonfire burn.

Torn said he wants Aggies to come to Bonfire with "the attitude of we're going down there (Austin) to win the game."



Far Left: Clay Keath, Philip Peterson and Steve Smith help lift a log onto stack as they brace the tagline, which supports the logs as they are lifted. Left: Members of the tagline crew hold the pants of Chris Bauer to secure him as the tagline wraps around his backside.

BUS SERVICES TO BONFIRE

Four campus shuttle buses will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. from Fish Lot (Parking Area 61) to Fish Pond, near Sbisa Dining Hall.

Brazos Transit is offering round-trip transportation from \$1 from the parking lot of Sam's Wholesale Club, Bryan High School, Manor East Mall and A&M Consolidated High School. Passengers will be dropped off in front of Zachry Engineering Center. The service is offered from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

