

THE BATTALION

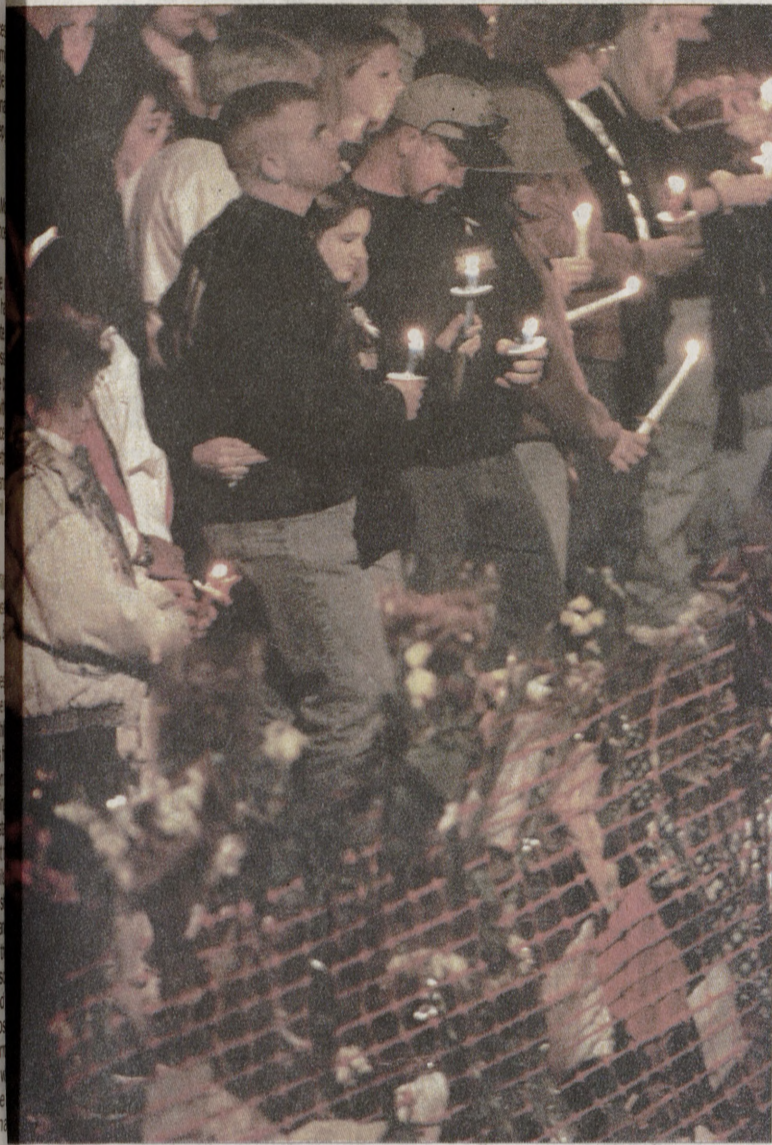
106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Beginning the healing



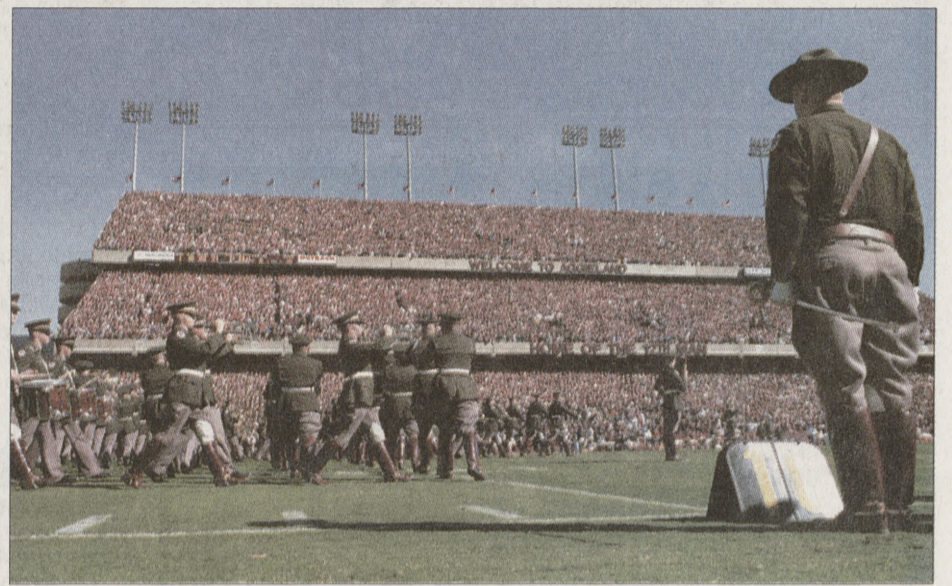
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CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Fans wear maroon to show support for football team, accident victims

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

When Alice Ann Freeman stepped onto Kyle Field for senior yell at Friday's game against the University of Texas, she looked up into the stands and saw a sea of maroon and the spirit of Aggieland.

Freeman, associate director of Maroon Out and a senior biomedical science major, said the view of the stands was inspiring.

"We went to the field and looked up," she said. "It gave me chills. I was in awe. Our students, our families and friends, mixed in the maroon."

Freeman said both Texas A&M and UT were well-represented in the stands even though Maroon was the dominant color.

"You could see the orange mixed in with the maroon and you could see how both schools came together," she said.

Kyle Valentine, director of Maroon Out and a senior finance major, said last Friday's Maroon Out was more signifi-

cant than those in the past because of the recent loss of 12 Aggies.

"It was so much more meaningful that everyone came and wore maroon and remembered the friends we lost [in the Bonfire collapse]," he said.

Freeman said she knew Maroon Out would be overwhelming against UT because the school seemed even more united after the loss of their fellow classmates.

"I had feelings it was going to be successful," she said. "Because of what happened there were people asking where they can get shirts."

Valentine said the T-shirts were designed to show the fans support of the Twelfth Man.

"Last summer when we were designing the shirt, we put the 12 to signify the Twelfth Man," he said. "We thought it would be neat to see the students and former students walking into Kyle Field."

SEE MAROON ON PAGE 2.

Sunset gathering draws thousands of mourners

BY BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

Last Thursday's sunset at Texas A&M University was unlike any other.

Thursday would have been the night Bonfire burned, and although its flame was not present this year, the eternal name of the "spirit that can ne'er be told" turned bright as thousands of Aggies converged on the Polo Fields for a memorial candlelight vigil.

The crowd gathered at dusk and silently surrounded the site where stack stood just a week before. Some came alone, others with their families, and many came in groups with friends, but they all came in remembrance of the 12 Aggies killed in the Nov. 18 Bonfire collapse.

The sea of candlelight represented the Aggies' perseverance through the tragedy. Joelle Wall, Traditions Council chair and a senior psychology major, said the most significant aspect of the memorial was its reverent mood.

"I was just in awe of the silence that swept over the whole area," she said. Monica Roberts, a freshman chemistry

major, said she attended the memorial with a friend, and they both were close to Christopher Heard, one of the students who was killed when stack collapsed.

Roberts said as she stood at the memorial she reflected upon her relationship with Heard. He would want her to stop crying.

"It was like a closure," she said. "I knew Chris would want us to go on."

The Traditions Council handed out over half of the approximately 80,000 candles it had available to distribute Thursday night.

Wall said it would be difficult to determine how many people were in attendance based on the number of candles the Traditions Council distributed because many people brought their own candles.

The crowd was so large that many people could not even set foot on the Polo Fields. Bizzell and Walton streets and the lawn of the Jack K. Williams Administration Building were filled with people.

Wall said she spoke with the yell leaders and student government leaders, who said the event's outcome was positive.

"We couldn't be more happy with how it went," she said. "It went perfect."

As the candles' flames began to expire, the crowd slowly dispersed, leaving the Polo Fields for the pre-game yell practice at Kyle Field.

The crowd was much larger than that of a normal yell practice. All of the Kyle Field ramps were opened, and Aggies occupied each deck of the stadium, including The Zone.

Jeff Bailey, head yell leader and a senior agricultural systems management major, said everyone had been talking about the "modified" yell practice, as he opened the yell practice with a moving speech.

"The only thing modified about this yell practice is the location," he said. "It is not about tradition, and it's not about anything else. It is about standing here with your fellow man, your buddies, and yelling for Texas A&M and our team."

Bailey said Aggies should remember what Bonfire stood for and why the Aggies were working on it.

SEE GATHERING ON PAGE 2.

Two students remain hospitalized for injuries from Bonfire collapse

BY CHRIS CARTER
The Battalion

The conditions of the two Aggie students still hospitalized as a result of the Bonfire collapse remain unchanged during the weekend.

William Davis, a sophomore business administration student, has improved and is listed in fair condition at St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan.

John Comstock, a freshman biomedical engineering major, is currently in the intensive care unit of College Station Medical Center listed in critical condition.

Both victims suffered crushing injuries that are common to catastrophes such as earthquakes.

Officials at the Med said a patient in fair condition usually is stable and conscious, while a student in critical condition normally is unstable and requires close, constant medical attention.

Four patients were released from St. Joseph Medical Center last week: Lanny

BONFIRE TRAGEDY

INJURED

Update

St. Joseph Regional Health Center

- **Listed in Fair Condition:** Bill Davis
- **Treated and Released:**
 - Chad Hutchinson Monday, November 22
 - J.J. Washam Monday, November 22
 - Chip Thiel Wednesday, November 24

College Station Medical Center

- **Listed in Critical Condition:** John Comstock
- **Treated and Released:**
 - Dominic Braus Thursday, November 25

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Hayes, a freshman computer engineering major; Chad Hutchinson, a freshman electrical engineering major; J.J. Washam, a freshman environmental design major, and Milton "Chip" Thiel, a senior agricultural economics major.

SEE INJURED ON PAGE 2.

INSIDE

Sports

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Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for information on the Bryan-College Station community.

Mathematics Website to aid A&M students

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Dr. Al Boggess, associate head of the Texas A&M Department of Mathematics, is expanding students' opportunities to get help through the Internet with some of the hardest courses A&M offers.

"The system is not yet up and running, but it should be ready by this summer," he said. "The Web page will be the next level up from one-on-one help."

On the mathematics department's Website, "e-math," old exam questions will be answered step by step, he said.

"Watching a professor do math in a lecture is only part of what students need in order to learn," Boggess said.

"They must solve problems on their own. But when they get stuck, we have resources that can help."

He said the Web tutorials also would offer online chat rooms in

THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

will offer new services:

- **New website will provide old exams with questions answered step by step**
- **Chat rooms for students to discuss math problems**

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

which students can discuss problems with each other.

Boggess said business math courses will be the first to utilize "e-math". He said the program eventually will offer help in every required undergraduate math course.

Boggess said this type of tutorial suits the unique characteristics of math better than other disciplines.

"Math involves more visual problem-solving, not just static textual problems like you would find in other types of courses," he said.

SEE MATHEMATICS ON PAGE 2.

Linbeck named chair of investigation

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen announced Friday that Leo Linbeck Jr., CEO of Linbeck Construction Corporation, will serve as chair of a commission organized to determine the cause of the Bonfire stack collapse.

Bowen said Linbeck's reputation for integrity and openness, along with his knowledge of construction, made Linbeck the best candidate to head the investigation.

"While we continue to grieve for the students who were killed and injured in the Bonfire accident, and our hearts go out to their families, we must move forward in addressing these critical issues," Bowen said.

He said one of Linbeck's first responsibilities will be to select other members of the commission which is expected to report its findings to Bowen by March 31.

Linbeck said his appointment has given him with an

enormous responsibility to discover the cause of the collapse.

"I feel a tremendous sense of responsibility and obligation to find the truth associated with this occurrence," he said. "This undertaking dictates an open and

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— Leo Linbeck Jr.
CEO, Linbeck Construction Corporation

totally transparent procedure."

Bowen announced that the commission will be aided by a team of University staff members, headed by John A. Weese, a professor of mechanical engineering.

Weese said his team will be responsible for helping the commission find advisers and to provide the commission with as much valuable information as possible.

"Dr. Bowen chose Linbeck because he was not a graduate of A&M and would be as impartial as possible," he said.

"In turn, Linbeck is expected to select members for the commission that are also impartial, as well as expert engineers. What we hope to do is help them gather information from the A&M side of things, as well as anticipate any of the commission's needs from the University."

Weese said the commission will pursue the investigation as thoroughly and openly as possible.

"We will share information with as wide an audience as is consistent with the need for confidentiality," he said. "We must treat some information from certain sources with an extreme deal of care so as to protect the sources who were involved with Bonfire when it collapsed."