

Kyle Field will serve as the site of world's largest volleyball game

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff

The silly season is upon us. The calm scholarly pursuit of nuclear knowledge in the Cyclotron is stopping, and the endless scurrying of professors trying to get published is ceasing.

More important things are being waded in the soft spring breeze. Things like establishing a stupendous new world record for Texas A&M University. A record in the Guinness Book of World Records.

A Texas A&M student is planning to set a new record by holding the biggest volleyball game ever in Kyle Field.

Paul Jackson, the originator of the idea, said that on April 22, at 11 a.m., 4,000 Aggies will gather to do battle with almost 6,000 spectators in the stands.

The entire happening will be a festival of Spring fever. "This is the time Spring fever hits us most," Jackson said, "and the best cure is this giant volleyball game."

Yell leaders will give the rules to

the crowd. Students will take sides according to whether they live on or off campus. The Corps of Cadets will play for the off-campus students if the sides are too uneven.

Line judges will be present, and the rules will be modified for the game. However, the rules will be basically the same, Jackson said.

The realization may finally dawn on the smiling crowd in Kyle Field that the volleyball game was but a ruse, a ruse to get all 4,000 of them into the unrelenting grip of the silly season.

Summer school cruise is offered

Texas A&M University offers its entering freshmen a unique academic opportunity. For two months in the summer, students can earn six credit hours in the Summer School at Sea program aboard the T/S Texas Clipper, a 15,000-ton training ship of the Texas Maritime Academy.

The program is a cooperative effort between the Moody College and the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M. The nine-week cruise begins June 10 in Galveston.

Summer school students are enrolled in the Corps of Cadets of the Texas Maritime Academy. Known aboard ship as prep cadets, these students are required to clean

their rooms, assist in shipboard maintenance and operation, and help with food services. Besides a work-study program for prep cadets, the nine week cruise is part of required training for Maritime Academy cadets pursuing U.S. Coast Guard licensing in the Merchant Marines.

"The cadets really like it. It is a unique experience," said David Schob, associate professor of history at Texas A&M. Schob teaches a history course on the cruise which he has attended seven times in the past 14 years.

Entering freshmen can earn six credit hours in English 103, History 105, or Math 104. The fee for Texas

residents is \$944, while it is \$1,134 for out-of-state residents.

"All the classes were held at sea, usually Monday through Thursday, while on the remaining days in different foreign ports we went sight-seeing," said Scott Thompson, a junior mechanical engineering major from Houston. Thompson went on the cruise in the summer of 1975, before he entered A&M the following fall as a freshman.

Thompson said his favorite stop was Aruba Island off the coast of Venezuela.

"There were some really great beaches there," he said.

However, from Santo Domingo to Caracas it was a rough voyage,

Thompson said.

"Our class was dismissed when the guy got sick," Thompson said.

Schob recalled the same type incident, but he said that most of the voyage was very pleasant.

"Sleeping on the ship is like sleeping in a cradle. No one has sleeping problems. I love it," he said.

This summer the ship will leave Galveston June 10 and travel to ports at Dry Tortugas (an island halfway between Florida and Cuba), Norfolk, Va.; Fort de France, Martinique; Balboa, Panama Canal Zone; Callao, Peru; Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone; Vera Cruz, Mexico; Tampa, Fla.; Beaumont, Texas. The cruise returns to Galveston on Aug. 6.

Only 40 to 50 prep cadets are permitted on the cruise, so there is a great deal of competition between the many applicants, Schob said. Those, only 14 girls are accepted.

Four years ago, only four or five girls applied. Last year quite a few girls applied and about 12 were accepted, he said.

Teaching on a ship is a unique experience, Schob said.

He recalled a time when all the students tried to make him sick by rocking their desks back and forth. They wanted him to dismiss class but he didn't. Then one day while he was pointing at a map of the world, he suddenly found himself on the other side of the room. Events like this don't occur in classrooms on the Texas A&M campus.

Prep cadets on the ship have many of the luxuries they have at home.

"The meals are fantastic," Schob said. They also have a shipboard operator on board who can call home to the students' families.

The Summer School at Sea program is the most unique and valuable program A&M has to offer students," Schob said.

Only students just graduating from high school are eligible to participate in the program. Others who are interested in participating may enroll in the Texas Maritime Academy.



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