

Around town

Turkey Trot set for Thanksgiving

Several hundred people are expected to get a running start on Thanksgiving Day by participating in Texas A&M's 13th annual Turkey Trot.

The traditional 3.2 mile run/jog/walk — depending on individual preferences — begins at 8 a.m. in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Starting at G. Rollie White Coliseum, the course runs to Jersey Street on the south edge of the campus, east to Texas Avenue, down the East Main Drive entrance to the campus and back to the coliseum.

There is no entry fee and certificates will be awarded to all who participate. Locker rooms will be open for use and souvenir T-shirt transfers will be available for purchase.

Alpha Zeta sponsoring turkey sale

Alpha Zeta, the agricultural honor society, is having its annual smoked turkey sale now through the end of the semester. The turkeys will be available for Thanksgiving. The prices are \$15 for 9-pound turkeys and \$18 for 11-pound turkeys. Proceeds from the sale help fund scholarships for agriculture students and to finance the annual Agriculture Convocation. If you are interested in ordering a turkey, please contact any Alpha Zeta member or call 846-4539 or 846-9238.

Campus crusade to hold conference

Campus Crusade for Christ, an interdenominational Christian organization founded by Bill Bright will be sponsoring a Christmas Conference in Fort Worth on Dec. 29 through Jan. 3 for any college students who are interested.

The theme for this year's conference is "Make your Mark. Make it Hard to Erase." Speakers such as Bill Bright, Josh McDowell, Haman Cross and others will be explaining to students how they can have an impact on the world around them for Christ.

Bright, president and founder of Campus Crusade, has written several best selling books and a television special called "The Secret of Loving." Cross, administrator of Detroit's Afro-American Mission, has become a popular speaker on college campuses.

Other speakers for the conference include Dan Hayes, regional director for the southern United States, Dick Purnell, traveling speaker for Campus Crusade, Mary Graham, the national women's coordinator for the U.S. Field Ministries and Dr. Lane Adams, vice-president of the International Christian Graduate University.

Students will be staying in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. For more information contact Kathy Ellis at 696-6793.

Amoco Inc. announces 1982 grants

The Amoco Foundation, Inc. has announced that its 1982 grants to Texas A&M University will total \$90,116, almost twice what it was in 1981.

The foundation, financially supported by Standard Oil Company (Indiana), said this year's grants are: \$20,000 for a chemical engineering faculty grant; \$11,560 for a doctoral fellowship in petroleum engineering; and \$11,206 for a doctoral fellowship in chemical engineering.

Also, \$5,500 for a master's fellowship in geophysics; \$5,500 to a master's fellowship in industrial hygiene; \$5,000 for faculty awards; \$5,000 for minority engineering and science program; \$4,300 for minority scholarships in geophysics; \$4,300 for petroleum engineering scholarships; \$3,000 for mechanical engineering scholarships; and \$3,000 for chemical engineering scholarships.

Also, unrestricted grants of \$5,000 for petroleum engineering; \$2,500 for mechanical engineering, \$1,500 for geophysics; and \$1,250 for geology.

If you have an announcement or interesting item to submit for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald or call Tracey Taylor at 845-2611.

Omar's howls left over from 50's

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff
Omar and the Howlers played Rumours Tuesday night. They looked and sounded like middle-aged leftovers from the '50s.

Kent "Omar" Dykes, the band's guitarist, looked somewhat like an over-the-hill Fonzie. Bruce James, on bass, was dressed in cords, a button-down shirt and one of those old-fashioned hats that Clark Kent might wear. Gene Brandon, Omar's drummer, sporting a bright orange jump-suit, black beret and three-day beard, looked as if he were trying out for a part as a wino in an off-broadway production.

The group was entirely unimpressive on first sight. That impression didn't improve with time.

They played a very basic, unimaginative and boring brand of R&B. Their selections were undistinguishable. It sounded as if they had but one song in their repertoire — with 50 versions.

All three were competent

musicians, but they lacked that spark that is so essential to a good band. Repetition was the theme of the night. Song after song had the same chord patterns, the same bass runs, the same beat. Their songs seemed to just go on and on and on and on and on ...

The night wasn't a total loss, however. The far from capacity crowd was responsive and seemed to enjoy the band. Although there were a few nodding heads visible.

A couple of times the band seemed ready to take off. They just never made it.

For example, Brandon executed a drum solo towards the end of the first set, but just never let go. He stayed with one beat and one drum and the crowd was on the edge of its collective seats waiting and waiting for him to soar — but he stayed grounded.

The material was there and they had the talent — it just wasn't employed.



Omar and the Howlers

photo by Robert Steider



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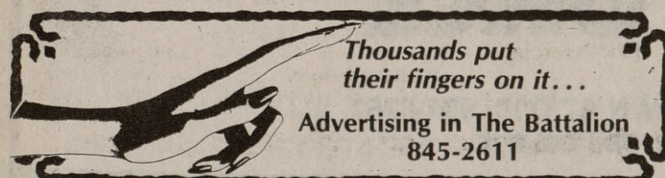
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