

First female band member earns senior boots after years of work



Andrea Abat, a senior member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, poses with her senior boots and trombone. Abat is the first female senior band member. Two other females joined the band in 1985 with Abat.

By Kathleen Reilly
Staff Writer

Andrea Abat caused a stir when she became one of the first women to join the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. Now, four years later, she has become the first female band member to receive senior boots.

Abat joined the band with two other women in the fall of 1985, but is the only original female member remaining.

"She said she worked hard for four years to earn her boots, anticipating the first day she could wear them. 'I was wary the first day of class,' she said.

"All the freshmen were running for the senior boots. Everyone notices when a senior cadet walks into class."

Abat first became interested in

joining the band during the summer conference before her freshman year.

"I saw the band perform in a film and decided I wanted to join," she said. "It was essential that someone make it that first year."

Of the 300 band members, only seven are women.

"I'm glad I was the first woman," she said. "It was essential that someone make it that first year."

Abat said she considered herself a role model and thought that she had to do well and set an example for those who would join the band after her.

"I didn't expect special treatment," she said. "I had to do the same things as my buddies."

"When I came here I was determined to make it, so I went the extra yard. I came in with a very pessimistic attitude. I think that helped me a

lot because I competed with everyone and kept up with my studies and duties.

"Now, some cadets come in and aren't trying so hard. They think it will be easy."

"I watch freshmen to make sure they keep up and work hard."

Abat said she wanted to be able to tell her children about marching in four Cotton Bowls, but the NCAA restrictions against Texas A&M changed that dream.

"I was very disappointed," she said. "I was in a construction class when the news came. I'm in there with a lot of my buddies from the band and we were all raising Cain."

After graduating in May, Abat will be commissioned into the Army.

She said she wants to work for military intelligence in Europe. "I'm not sure what I'll do after that."

Abat will take a lot of memories with her, including stepping onto the field in New York for the first game.

"I was scared to death!" she said. "Then we heard the announcer and the crowd went wild. Everybody was cheering for us and we stepped off into our drill. I forgot about everything else but the crowd cheering," she said.

What she will remember most, she said, is the friends she made in the band.

"Our freshman year, we are lined up against the wall and told to look at our best friends," she said.

"We look sideways at someone we had never seen before. I didn't know the guy next to me from Adam. Now I realize these are the people that I want in my wedding. I want to keep in touch with them."

CINEPLEX ODEON AND PLITT THEATRES

\$3.00 BARGAIN MATINEE DAILY ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM AT SELECTED THEATRES-CHECK SHOWTIMES

POST OAK THREE		CINEMA THREE	
1500 Harvey Road 693-2796		315 College Ave. 693-2796	
DIE HARD (R)	7:00 9:30	BETRAYED (R)	7:00 9:20
YOUNG GUNS (R)	7:05 9:25	MESSENGER OF DEATH (R)	7:45 9:45
NIGHTMARE ON ELM ST. IV (R)	7:15 9:15	MOON OVER PARADOR (PG-13)	7:30 9:30

The Attic
Antiques

10,000 S.F. OF QUALITY RESTORED & UNRESTORED ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

BEAT THE HELL OUT OF ALABAMA SAY

BUD (74) & BETTY SPARKS
PROUD OWNERS SINCE 1974

118 S. Bryan St. Bryan, Texas 77803 (Downtown)

(409) 822-7830
Tues. through Sat. 10:30-5:30

10% OFF COUPON

Quick Cash!

- Student Loans-GSL, SLS and Plus Loans
- 7-10 day Average Turnaround
- FREE First Order of Checks With Student Loan Application and This Ad.

We Finance Futures

First Bank & Trust

268-7575

Galleria Village • 1716 Briarcrest Drive • Bryan

Member FDIC

SCHULMAN THEATRES

2.50 ADMISSION
1. Any Show Before 3 PM
2. Tuesday - All Seats
3. Mon.-Wed. - Local Students With Current ID's
4. Thur. - KORA "Over 30 Night"

2002 E. 29th 775-2463

*BIG PG	2:25 7:20 4:50 8:50
*DOLLAR DAYS	
MARRIED TO THE MOB PG	2:15 7:15 4:45 8:45
LICENSE TO DRIVE PG-13	2:30 7:15 4:30 8:30
SHORT CIRCUIT II PG	2:10 7:05 4:40 8:25
BULL DURHAM R	2:15 7:10 4:45 8:20
WILLOW PG	2:05 7:00 4:35 8:35

*DENOTES DOLBY STEREO

PLAZA 3
226 Southwest Pkwy 693-2457

*COCKTAIL R	2:10 7:05 4:30 8:45
*STEALING HOME PG-13	2:15 7:15 4:40 8:40
*A FISH CALLED WANDA R	2:30 7:10 4:45 8:40

MANOR EAST 3
Manor East Mall 823-8300

*COMING TO AMERICA R	2:25 7:25 4:40 8:50
*WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT PG	2:15 7:05 4:45 8:35
HOT TO TROT PG	2:30 7:15 4:40 8:40

COMING SOON-CHARLIE SHEEN in EIGHT MEN OUT

TOM CRUISE
Cocktail

"It fires the imagination and touches the heart. Jodie Foster should get an Oscar nomination."
- Rex Reed, AT THE MOVIES

STEALING HOME

TIME TO TOON IN AGAIN
for the most highly acclaimed movie of the year!

Who Framed Roger Rabbit

HOT TO TROT

The funniest talking horse movie ever!
DABNEY COLEMAN BOB GOLDTHWAIT

EDDIE MURPHY
COMING TO AMERICA

Tom Hanks
big
A wonderful new comedy

theStitchery

- *Aggies maroon 18 & 14 count Aida
- *Counted cross stitch
- *Needlepoint
- *Crochet
- *Embroidery
- *Knitting
- *English smocking
- *Ready made frames
- *Mats cut

Aggie Designs

Mon-Sat 10am-6pm 809 University Drive East
Sun 1pm-5pm College Station
846-1849

Mail orders available

SONIC

After the game drive in to SONIC and treat the whole family with Brown Bag Specials. They're only \$3.99 each. And they're only at SONIC

Brown Bag Special

2 REGULAR BURGERS
2 ORDERS OF FRIES
2 MEDIUM COKES*

\$3.99
PLUS TAX

*OR OTHER SOFT DRINK.

College Station
104 University
696-6427

Bryan
914 S. Texas Ave.
779-1085

FASTER & BETTER SONIC THAN EVER.

DOMINO'S PIZZA

Sunday Special!

Call us when the dining halls are closed.

12" 1 item pizza **\$4.95!**
or
16" 1 item pizza **\$6.95!**

No coupon necessary. Prices do not include tax. Limited Delivery Area

260-9020 693-2335
4407 S. Texas 1504 Holleman

Sweep UP BIG SAVINGS!

Buy and Sell Through Classified Ads Call 845-2611