



Sign of the times

Members of Squadron 15 hang their spirit sign en try Wednesday for Thursday's Hurricane Bowl.

Photo by Dean Saito

Hurricane Bowl to mark presence of spirit signs

By Rip Woodard
Reporter

Ever since Texas A&M has had football, students have put up spirit signs on dorms in an attempt to motivate the team. But, the signs have never been displayed in Kyle Field until the Hurricane Bowl game.

Beth Ammons, external affairs committee member, said spirit signs will be placed around the north side of the Kyle Field fence so everyone can see student spirit.

"Traditionally students have not allowed anything to be put up in or around Kyle Field, but we wanted to try something different because this is a special game," Ammons said.

Ammons said Michael Kelley, a senior political science major, came up with the idea to help make the Hurricane Bowl different.

She said Bryan-College Station and the student government are the primary sponsors of the Hurricane Bowl and the spirit sign event.

Attempting to increase community and student involvement in the game is the main focus of the project, Ammons said.

The spirit sign contest is open to all recognized student organizations willing to make a sign, she said.

A judging committee has been formed with students from different organizations, she said.

"We have a real diverse group judging," she said. "We tried to get students from all walks of life."

The committee consists of two students from the Residence Hall Association, two Corps of Cadets members, three senators from different colleges and one person from the interfraternity council.

Ammons said the signs will be judged on creativity, artistic ability and the Hurricane Bowl theme.

Judging will be before the game at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. today.

First, second and third place will be awarded ribbons based on the criteria, Ammons said.

She said the signs from winning organizations will receive local coverage by Channel 3, and could possibly receive national coverage by ESPN during the game.

The Chamber of Commerce will be providing a complimentary park site for an organizational function to the winner, Ammons said.

"We are disappointed that we have received so few (entries) for the competition so far," she said. "We only have 15 signs and we were hoping for about 30."

Soviet Union opens East-bloc airwaves

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Kremlin has shut down thousands of broadcast jamming devices, allowing Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe to be heard "loud and clear" across the Soviet Union and most of Eastern Europe for the first time in 38 years, government officials said Wednesday.

The Soviet action came so quickly that radio engineers were only becoming aware of it as Secretary of State George Shultz said in a broadcast to Europe Wednesday morning that radio jamming was one area where progress was still needed with the Soviets.

Soviet jamming of Germany's Deutsche Welle and KOL Israel also stopped Tuesday, officials said.

"It's another marker in the Soviet march toward trying to be an acceptable citizen of the world community as against the pariah that they have been," Charles Z. Wick, U.S. Information Agency director, said.

Wick said he and other U.S. officials have raised the issue of jamming, which is illegal under international agreements, several times with the Soviets — most recently in a September visit by U.S. broadcasting officials to Moscow.

He said the move was timed to coincide with the meeting of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with President Reagan and President-elect George Bush next week in New York.

The jamming shutoff means that millions of Eastern European and Soviet citizens will hear American and other Western news and analysis in their own languages of events in the Soviet bloc. Voice of America, which has not been jammed anywhere except in Afghanistan since May 1987, focuses more broadly on U.S. and world affairs. VOA operates independently of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

"The cessation of jamming represents a significant step on the part of the Soviet government toward the free flow of information," said Gene Pell, president of Radio Liberty,

which is a congressionally funded operation based in Munich, West Germany. Pell said that it was a strong signal in support of Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, or openness.

Pell said, however, jamming was still continuing against Radio Free Europe broadcasts to Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. VOA broadcasts in the Dari and Pashto languages into Afghanistan also were still jammed, but the broadcasts of Radio Afghanistan, affiliated with Radio Free Eu-

rope, into the war-torn country were clear, he said.

Some officials suggested the limited jamming might be the result of a mix-up between the Soviets and allies who operate separate jamming gear.

"Reports from the Soviet Union and the Baltic republics confirm that Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe broadcasts are being heard loud and clear," Pell said.

Snapped bolts, glue may delay shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Technicians used glue for a quick fix on Atlantis' nose Wednesday and prepared to load the space shuttle with fuel for a Thursday launch on a top-secret military mission. An approaching storm loomed as the only obstacle to liftoff.

The glue was a last-minute substitute for two bolts on an access panel that could not be tightened. Replacing them would have meant a delay.

After deciding the glue would hold, NASA rolled back the service tower which has surrounded the shuttle, clearing the way for filling the huge external fuel tank with a half-million gallons of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen.

"The bond is OK and we are proceeding on a decision for tanking," Barbara Selby, a NASA

headquarters spokesman said.

The bolts were two of 10 that secure a 24-by-18 inch access cover on the right side of the shuttle's nose. The access plate, which is covered by 14 of the shuttle's heat protection tiles, is normally removed before flight to fuel a tank for the steering rockets the shuttle uses while in orbit.

The problem surfaced as workmen replaced the cover.

"We have to have to have assurance that panel isn't going to come off in flight," Lisa Malone, a Kennedy Space Center spokesman said. Meanwhile, the source, who requested anonymity, reported the launch pad crew discovered that two bolts had been stripped on an access panel leading to a cluster of small engines used to steer the shuttle in orbit.

Dallas gay leader criticizes punishment of 'gay bashers'

DALLAS (AP) — A local gay leader has criticized the punishment of 30 years in prison given to a Dallas area teen-ager convicted in the killing of two men in a park area frequented by homosexuals.

District Judge Jack Hampton Tuesday sentenced Richard Bednarski, 18, of Mesquite, to serve concurrent 30-year prison terms for the May shooting deaths in the park about a mile north of downtown Dallas.

William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance, said crimes against gay people are a nationwide epidemic and that Hampton's decision will not improve the situation.

"It certainly doesn't speak well for the lives of gay men," Waybourn said. "I think it just encourages that sort of thing."

Hampton said he reached his decision on the sentence by weighing the facts of the case against the fact that Bednarski had no criminal record.

"I'm not the person who killed those two people," Bednarski told the judge before he announced the sentence. "I'm not a violent person."

A jury earlier convicted Bednarski in the deaths of Tommy Lee Trimble, 34, and John

Lloyd Griffin, 27. The defendant had requested that his punishment be set by the judge instead of the jury.

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— William Waybourn
president Dallas Gay Alliance

Bednarski, who could have received a maximum of life in prison and a \$20,000 fine for each of the killings, will be eligible for parole in about eight years.

Defense lawyer Kevin Clancy said he will appeal and contend that one of the 12 jurors engaged in misconduct by visiting the scene of the killing during the trial.

According to testimony, Bednarski was arrested two weeks after he and five North Mes-

quite High School friends embarked on a nighttime joy ride to harass gay men, a pastime the teen-agers engaged in when bored.

The teen-age witnesses testified they had been standing on a street corner, jeering at passers-by, when Bednarski persuaded one of his friends, Jeff Bridwell, to accompany him in robbing Trimble and Griffin, who had invited the boys into their car.

The four drove to Reverchon Park, where they walked to a hilltop clearing.

Bednarski shot the men after they refused to take off their clothes as he had ordered, Bridwell testified.

Bednarski later bragged about the slayings, according to testimony, saying he stuck the gun in Trimble's mouth and shot him.

When the shooting started, witnesses said, Griffin fell to the ground and was trying to crawl away when Bednarski shot him three times.

The friends testified that although they were shocked by the slayings, they kept the deaths secret from their parents and police.

An anonymous tip led to Bednarski's arrest two weeks after the shootings.

RHA council votes to accept proposal for coed dorms

By Michelle M. Carney
Reporter

Some dorms on the Texas A&M campus could become coed if a proposal approved by the RHA Wednesday is upheld.

A unanimous 55-0 vote for co-ed housing set the proposal in motion at the Residence Hall Association meeting. If the proposal is approved through the various chains of command, co-ed halls will become an alternative choice for on-campus living in Fall 1989.

According to the proposal, the co-ed concept will be on a trial basis for one year, subject to continual review by a special committee consisting of residence hall presidents, delegates and members of the Department of Student Affairs.

Visitation hours will be different from those in regular dorms. After visitation hours conclude, only the hall entrance leading into the 24 hour area can be used by the residents not of the same sex as those on the first floor.

Sign-ups for the coed halls will occur at the same time as sign-ups for the other halls. If the demand is greater than the space available, then a male and female lottery system will choose the hall's residents under the following guidelines: of those selected, 40 percent will be sophomores, 35 percent will be juniors and 25 percent will be seniors. This will only be used the first year.

The increased demand for the residence halls is one of the reasons for the proposal, David McDowell, director of co-ed housing ad-hoc committee, said. In a recent survey of 1,000 on-campus students, 75 percent were in favor of co-ed housing, he said.

"Quality of programming and organization is better in co-ed housing," McDowell said. "Residents feel more secure. The decrease in crime rates support this."

The five new dorms will house 1,200 students, McDowell said. Assignments of the sexes will be by floor and residents must have at least 30 credit hours, he said.

Because the demand for living in

halls has dropped in the past two years, co-ed housing will increase students' motivation to remain on campus, McDowell said.

"A couple years ago there were 900 overassignment spaces," he said. "Now 45 vacant rooms account for about a \$36,000 loss for the University."

Recent changes in housing policies, construction and parking problems all account for the decrease.

"Students are frustrated," he said. "Living on campus is an important educational experience that you don't get off campus," McDowell said. "There are a lot of activities and unity. There is also the convenience."

Shuttle buses will operate for game

Free shuttle service to campus for the Alabama football game will be offered beginning at 3 p.m. today and will continue until one hour after the game ends.

Each regular shuttle route will be serviced by one bus. Bus passes will not be required to ride the shuttles to and from campus before and after the game.

After 6 p.m., all routes will stop on campus only on Throckmorton Street near the president's house and on Jersey Street near the Clayton W. Williams Alumni Center.

Those whose homes are not on or near regular shuttle routes may board buses at K-Mart on the corner of Longmire and F.M. 2818 or at J.C. Penney's at Post Oak Mall.

Shuttles will stop at both locations between 3 p.m. and one hour after the game ends.

There will be ample parking at these locations.

For more information call Bus Operations at 845-1971.

Special dogs provide guidance, friendship to impaired owners

By Lesa Y. Smith
Reporter

According to the age-old saying, "A dog is man's best friend." But for some people, a dog is more than a best friend.

To a blind person, a guide dog is independence and freedom; a vision into a whole new world.

About 500,000 people in the United States are legally blind. Each year, 47,000 people become blind, and 1 million suffer visual impairments after injuries.

A dog guide is a generic term used for any dog trained to assist a blind person. A Guide Dog refers to dogs trained by Guide Dogs for the Blind Inc. of San Rafael, California.

The specialized dog training and personal benefits offered by Guide Dogs for the Blind make it different

from the 10 other dog guide schools in the United States.

In-residence training of the student and dog, food and housing, transportation to and from the school, the dog and dog handling equipment and follow-up services are free to a blind person at Guide Dogs for the Blind.

About 24 students attend the month-long training sessions, which are held during every month but January.

German shepherds, labrador retrievers and golden retrievers are used for Guide Dogs because of their intelligence and mild tempers.

The dogs are bred at the school and live there for three months. During the next year, 4-H members in various states care for the puppies, raising them in a family atmosphere and teaching them simple

obedience and social skills. When the dogs are 16 months old, they are returned to the school.

The dogs spend the next six months in extensive training, learning commands, disciplines, safety and working skills.

Not all dogs can withstand the rigorous training that prospective Guide Dogs go through. About half of the dogs who begin training become Guide Dogs. Those that don't qualify are put up for adoption as family pets.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit organization funded primarily by donations.

The cost of training a Guide Dog is about \$10,000.

To qualify for a Guide Dog, a blind person must be 16 years old. He or she sends a letter to the school requesting information, and the

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