

CAMP TIME

T-Camp offers Aggie experience to transfers

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

When students think about their first introduction to A&M, Fish Camp usually comes to mind. But not everyone enters as a freshman. Some people come after attending junior colleges or other major universities. The student YMCA realized this in 1987 when it developed Transfer Camp, or T-Camp. Courtney Mayfield, director of public relations and marketing for T-Camp and a speech communications graduate, said the founders felt that transfer students were missing out on opportunities other orientation camps provided. "T-Camp is geared to people who have had the college experience before, just not the A&M experience," Mayfield said. "The campers have

seen other institutions of higher learning." Two weeks before school starts, the campers are whisked away for three days to Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian, just southwest of Dallas.

The camp's three sessions hosted over 600 campers, 200 counselors and 50 co-chairs and directors.

Mayfield said T-Camp has fundamental differences that distinguish it from Fish Camp. The counselors are not dealing with students who just graduated from high school, so they do not try to explain to campers what college will be like.

Most people do not understand that coming to A&M can be hard for transfer students because they are used to the academics, attitudes and surrounding town of their former school, Mayfield said.

T-Camp's main goal is to let the campers leave with the feeling they have made friends so they will not start school without knowing anyone.

See T-CAMP, Page 4

Freshmen find Aggie Spirit at Fish Camp

By Amy Uptmor
THE BATTALION

At a secluded campsite in East Texas, hordes of new students are running around, screaming, with their arms in the air. They are being led around by older and apparently wiser students wearing matching shirts and overalls covered with, among other strange symbols, fish.

Suddenly, the leaders call the new students together with an odd hand signal that is passed through the masses. All bend over and chant in unison. It sounds like a strange pagan ritual, but the trained Aggie eye will recognize it as just another day at Fish Camp.

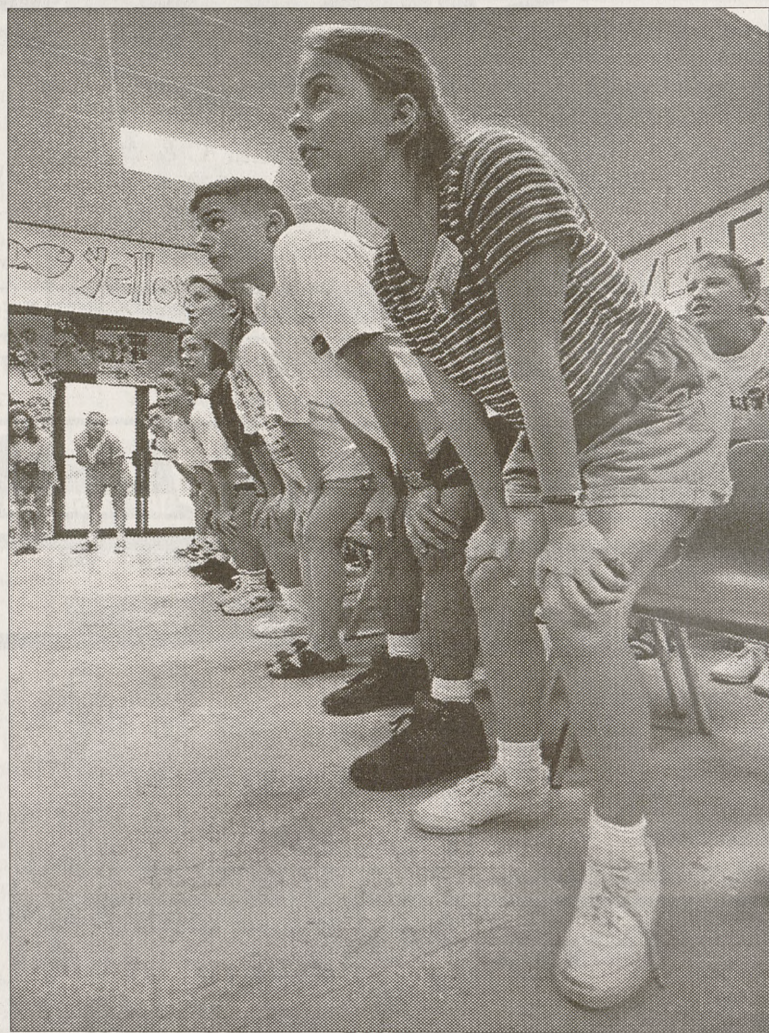
Fish Camp has become the premier rite of initiation into the culture of Texas A&M for incoming freshmen since it was started in 1954. Approximately 900 students serve as directors, staff, counselors and crew for the sake of welcoming freshmen and preserving Aggie traditions.

Amy Bigbee, a junior chemical engineering major and second-year counselor, said working with Fish Camp is the most rewarding activity she's ever participated in.

"Being a counselor is a chance to help change lives," she said. "Freshmen come to camp bewildered and leave confident about college. It's the most amazing thing to be a part of."

Emilie Winn, a junior elementary education major, said she became a counselor because she wanted to give something back to A&M.

"I love seeing the freshmen get excited about the traditions and spirit of A&M that they see in the



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Freshman Kristen Kirby "humps it" during a yell practice at Fish Camp.

counselors," she said. More than half of the incoming freshmen are able to attend one of the five four-day sessions of Fish Camp. While at camp, freshmen participate in group discussions to ask questions about what to expect during their first year in college.

Craig Iltschner, a freshman computer science major who attended session B Fish Camp, said time

See FISH CAMP, Page 4

I-Camp eases culture shock for international students



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

E-2 sophomore Jeff King spoke to the international students at I-Camp about Reveille VI.

By Amy Collier
THE BATTALION

Taking on Texas A&M with all its traditions can be a big adjustment for new students, especially if they're from a foreign country and have not mastered the English language.

The International Student Association made the transition for some international students easier by sponsoring the second annual International Camp (I-Camp) on Aug. 19, when 150 students from all over the world were united to learn about the university they now call home.

Magali Hinojosa, a senior marketing and international business major and president of

See I-CAMP, Page 4

ExCEL gives new students insight into multiculturalism on campus

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

At a school of more than 42,000 students, it is easy for students to feel intimidated and fall through the cracks. This can be especially true for minority students coming to Texas A&M.

ExCEL, which stands for Excellence Uniting Culture, Education and Leadership, is a program sponsored by the Department of Multicultural Services, designed to make entering minority students feel more at home. ExCEL is a two-day welcoming or celebration hosted the weekend before school starts.

"It is a time for new students to meet other ethnic minorities and to meet new friends," Chantelle Freeman, executive conference chair of ExCEL, said. "The whole idea behind ExCEL is to start the idea of diversity with these students before they actually start school."

Although ExCEL targets ethnic minorities, Freeman said all races are encouraged to participate in the program.

New students participating in ExCEL are divided up into teams of

about 10 freshmen. Two team leaders, who were selected last spring, work with the new students and help them adjust to the challenges of college.

While in their groups, freshmen participate in programs which introduce them to A&M traditions.

The program also offers Club ExCEL, a mixer for the new students, and a culture extravaganza which introduces the students to some of the multicultural performance groups on campus.

"The whole idea behind ExCEL is to start the idea of diversity with these students before they actually start school."

- Chantelle Freeman
executive conference chair of ExCEL

A separate program is offered for the parents of minority students, which is designed to help parents recognize some of the problems students might experience in their first year of college.

"We want to let them know that the Department of Multicultural Ser-

vices is here to help," Freeman said.

ExCEL continues through the school year with ExCEL Plus, which offers workshops twice a month. Workshops focus on studying, roommates, relationships, the difficulty in going back home for the first time and other issues that challenge freshmen students.

"I know that A&M is a big family," Freeman said, "but sometimes minority students don't see that. ExCEL gives these students resources that let them know they're not alone."

Rodney McClendon, coordinator of student retention and development and adviser to ExCEL, said the program is one of the most attractive features of the Department of Multicultural Services.

"This is one of the best mechanisms to help students and parents make the transition from high school to college," McClendon said.

Texas A&M has the highest minority retention rate of Texas schools, but McClendon said that should not be taken for granted.

"ExCEL is the main mechanism through which I will try to boost our retention," he said. "This is a success program, not a remediation program."

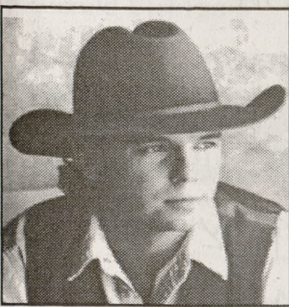


Amy Browning, THE BATTALION

Primetime Posse was one of the multicultural groups introduced to the students during the ExCEL weekend.



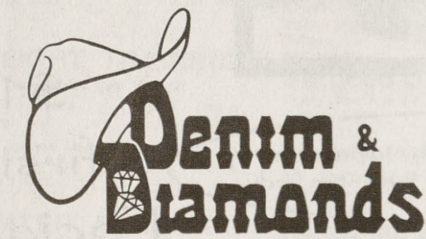
Radney Foster
SEPT. 1ST



Kenny Chesney
SEPT. 22nd



Presents:
FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERT SERIES



Tickets On Sale Now at DENIM & DIAMONDS and CAVENDER'S BOOT CITY

Denim and Diamonds reminds you to always drink responsibly. Ask our Front Door Staff about Designated Driver Program.



Confederate Railroad
SEPT. 15TH



Terri Clark
SEPT. 29TH

NIGHTLY SPECIALS

- WEDNESDAY NIGHT
RETRO NIGHT
- Music From The 80's
LONGNECKS
Well, Wine, Draft, & Shots of Schnapps
6 - 10PM
50¢
- THURSDAY NIGHT
DAISY DUKES CONTEST
- Hottest Short Shorts in Aggieland
LONGNECKS
Well, Wine, Draft, & Shots of Schnapps
6 - 10PM
50¢
- FRIDAY NIGHT
CONCERT SERIES
- SATURDAY NIGHT
LIVE with Aggie 96
LONGNECKS
Well, Wine, Draft, & Shots of Schnapps
6 - 10PM
50¢

ANGEL NAILS
Professional Nails Care For Men And Women
(409) 764-9582

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sun.-By Appointment only
2406 Texas Ave., Suite D
College Station, TX 77840
(In the Kroger Shopping Center, next to OLD COUNTRY BUFFET)

Everyday Special
* Full Set.....\$25.00
* Refills.....\$13.00
w/coupon expires: 9/30/95

Freshly made Desserts,
Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks,
Gourmet Coffees,
and Breakfast Croissants
Certified Heart Healthy

AGGIE SPECIAL:
• Sandwich (Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef)
• Chips
• Large Drink
\$4.95 +Tax

BOX LUNCH:
• Variety of Sandwiches to choose from
• Chips • Cookie • Fruit
Call it in, ready when you arrive
\$5.50 +Tax

696-DELI Fax: 693-6606 Hours: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm Mon. - Sat.