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All plans are priced per semester and prices and tax rates are subject to change without notice.

The only college band exciting enough for television
Aggie Band marches into local homes

□ Halftime performances and interviews with band members will be broadcast on Monday nights during football season.

By Maria Jimena Albarracin
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's band will march onto television Monday with the premiere of The Texas Aggie Band Show on KYLE-TV. Dr. Don Powell, president of the Texas Aggie Band Association, and Barker Productions will sponsor the broadcast every Monday night at 7 p.m. on channel 28, TCA channel 17, during football season.

The nation's largest military marching band will perform with its more than 400 members at A&M football games this fall. Powell, who hosts the live-television coverage of Bonfire, said the 30-minute show is believed to be the only college band show in the country.

"The networks don't show the bands on TV anymore, and the reason they stopped doing it is because most college bands don't do anything exciting on the field," he said. "It's almost as if the Aggie Band was created for television."

Bob Barker, owner of Barker Productions, plans to include old band footage and interviews on the show. The show's purpose is to let people see what being part of the Aggie Band is like, he said.

"We have films all the way back to the '40s that we've transferred onto videotape, and we plan to show some of the roll drills," Barker said. "The Aggie Band's been around 101 years now, and I imagine some of the newcomers aren't



File Photo

The Aggie Band marches during the halftime performance at the Southern Mississippi game. The band will be featured on television every Monday night this season.

familiar with how it got to where it is. "The band started with 13 members, so it's been 100 years of transition to get to this point."

Sheldon Blackwell, B-Battery band commander and a junior forestry science major, said he is looking forward to more exposure.

"I think it (the TV show) is a good idea," Blackwell said. "It will give other people an insight as to what the band does on an everyday basis because a lot of people only see what's on the field."

Cynthia Garcia, a sophomore business major, said the broadcast will allow those who do not attend football games or who leave during halftime to enjoy the band.

"I think it's great that the band will finally get the audience it deserves," Garcia said. "And if I end up waiting in line forever in the bathroom, I can see what I missed on Monday."

If the show is a success, it will continue next year, Barker said. Plans are in the works to expand the show to independent stations in San Antonio, Dallas and Houston.

"We've already had some requests from A&M Mothers' Clubs in the cities," he said. "We would hope to have it expanded into other cities."

Last year's band centennial brought back over 1,000 people, with 900 former band members marching on Kyle Field. This is proof that the Aggie Band is a unified organization, Powell said.



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