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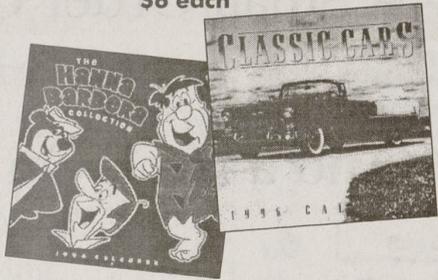
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SBISA YELL

Food Services, students clash on Northside tradition

By Katharine Deaton
THE BATTALION

Traditions may be the heart of Texas A&M. However, traditions are subject to change.

Sbisa Yell, a tradition since the early '80s, has brought spirit and motivation to Northside residents, Jason Brazeal, a Schumacher yellowpot and sophomore mechanical engineering major, said.

"The getting together of dorms brings Northside closer together," Brazeal said.

But, Sbisa Yell is not as motivational as it used to be, Brazeal said.

The Department of Food Services and the Texas A&M Board of Regents has restricted the actions of students at Sbisa Yell to just holding yell practice, foregoing the traditional "food fight."

"Basically, we hold a yell practice on Fridays in Sbisa Dining Hall," Brazeal said. "We bring our dorms there, eat and yell. Last year, we had more freedom to have a 'food fight' that we totally cleaned up."

Brazeal said the "food fight" is really just tossing napkins and beating out "Hullabaloo, Caneck Caneck" on the tables with cups and silverware.

"We'd launch sneak attacks on other dorms and throw napkins at each other," Brazeal said. "Just good bull kind of stuff."

Rusty Thompson, Bonfire adviser, said the students were throwing food and destroying school property at the Sbisa Yell for the LSU game.

"The Friday night of the LSU game, there was food being thrown, chairs being destroyed, cups and plates being broken, and that ends up costing money," Thompson said. "It was such a mess that even after the guys did a lot of cleaning, there was still a lot of mess Food Services had to clean."

Ron Beard, director of Food Services, said the action taken was for the safety of students and the University.

"It becomes a high-liability case," Beard said.

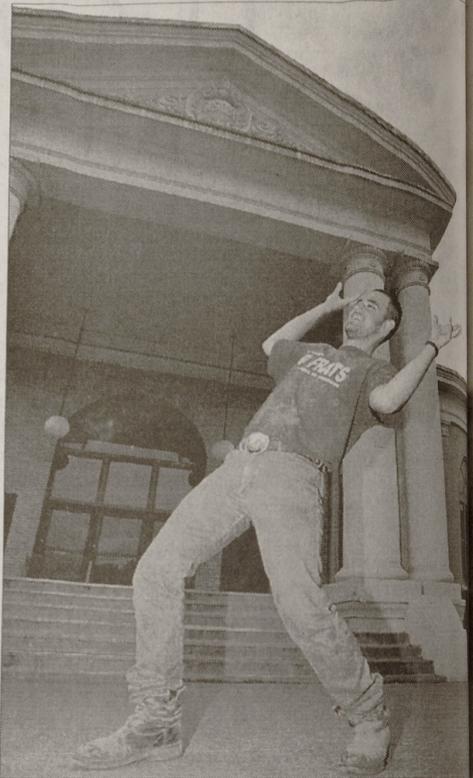
Thompson said that liability is the main concern of Food Services.

"Anyone can see that the University is wide open (for liability) when they allow [food fights] to occur," Thompson said.

Another concern Food Services has is the abuse of the privilege to have Yell Practice in Sbisa, Thompson said.

"When you allow things to be thrown, it becomes more of a right than a privilege in some students' minds," Thompson said.

Students have started throwing things on weeknights also, Thompson said. A girl was struck



Stew Miller/The Battalion

Sophomore yellowpot Weldon Russell often leads Sbisa Yell days before home games.

in the back of the head with a popsicle on a night when Sbisa Yell was not being held.

Janette Garner, manager of Sbisa Dining Hall, said that although Sbisa Yell is a good idea, food fights and destruction have no place on the A&M campus.

"I don't think [food fights] should be a tradition," Garner said. "Food fights are not the kind of good bull that Aggies should be associated with. Destructive behavior doesn't have any place in traditions."

Since the change in Sbisa Yell, the yellowpots and redpots have shown great cooperation, Beard said.

"The students helped control yell and cooperated well," Beard said. "They talked to the dorms, and it worked out well."

Brazeal said that although the students are cooperating, they still don't like the changes.

"We've accepted it and agreed to it, but that doesn't mean it doesn't take away from it," Brazeal said.

Aaron Flautt, a sophomore civil engineering major, said that students' complaints were a main factor in the restriction, but students could avoid Sbisa Dining Hall during yell rather than ruin the tradition.

"Everyone knows yell happens at that time," he said. "If they don't like it, they can eat somewhere else."

Vince Johnson, a Walton yellowpot and sophomore business major, said Food Services is not justified in its decision.

"I can't stand it," Johnson said. "It's taken away from the tradi-

tion. We've always cleaned up. They always checked and cleaned up to leave, then a couple of days later, they were angry with us. We said we didn't clean up enough. I think they're just trying to screw us."

Sbisa Yell has changed a bit every year, not for the better, Brazeal said.

"Every year yell has gotten a little less crazy," Brazeal said. "When it started, they had throw food fights. They would throw mashed potatoes and buckets of stuff on people. Army days, the fish would come down on hands and knees with toothbrush and clean until the floor shined."

The changes and loss of tradition have caused a decrease in spirit, Brazeal said.

"It's not as fun," Brazeal said. "More freedom is more fun."

The students have discussed ways to increase the spirit without defying the regents' and Food Services' decision.

"We discussed the situation with the regents, and in my opinion, it is not advisable to bring the food fights back for safety and sanitary reasons," Beard said. "So the students discussed having some people from the campus get involved. Maybe some players, yell leaders, or Ol' Army come talk at [Sbisa]."

Brazeal said he is happy Sbisa Yell has survived.

"The regents think it's a good bull, so they're OK with that," Brazeal said. "It's a Bonfire, pro-Aggie thing. Ol' Army Sbisa Yell has faded away."



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