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CHANGES: A&M alters traditions in new conference

Continued from Page 1

The freshmen scavenge for bottle caps in Bottle Cap Alley the sea of bottle caps between the Dixie Chicken and the Dry Bean Saloon on Northgate. The caps are hammered flat and fastened to the cadets' shoes.

'To have the honor of wearing senior spurs (on senior boots), every cadet must wear fish spurs first," said Foster, a senior political science major.

Corps Trips
The Corps, like many other students, organizes trips to away football games in support of the team.

Traditionally, there were two designated Corps trips each year. One was to SMU in Dallas or Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, and the other was to Rice University in Houston or the University of Texas in Austin, depending on which games were played away.

Without SMU, TCU Rice in the conference, the Corps will have new trips to take.

This season, the Corps has tentative plans for trips to Austin and Baylor University in Waco.

Band Travel

As part of the Southwest Conference, the Aggie Band traveled to most away football games.

Band Commander Mike Hays, a senior speech communication major, said this custom will continue with the exception of the Southwestern Louisiana game because the school's stadium is not large enough to give seats to the 460member band.

And for the Iowa State University game, the freshman band members will stay home because of a seating shortage.

All halftime performances will be shortened by one minute to meet Big 12 regulations.

Hays said the other schools' students will be bewildered by the Aggie Band.

"Last year, when we went to Colorado, people didn't really understand it," Hays said. People, at first, were kind of hesitant because of all the peo-ple with shaved heads walking around in boots.

"Performing for people for the first time is going to be

Foster said that in addition to the band, the Aggie yell leaders will "intrigue" the other schools' fans.

New Yell

The yell leaders are also bringing something new to Aggie spirit this season.

Head Yell Leader Chris Torn, a senior agriculture development major, said the end portion of "The Aggie War Hymn" - where A&M fans sway back and forth in a sawing motion -

will become a new yell.

Torn said "Saw Varsity's
Horns Off" is one of the most visible and intimidating things done from the stands, so he wanted to increase the number of times it was done.

"I was a junior yell leader last year, and one thing I noticed was some of the funniest comments from the other players about the swaying back and forth," Torn said.

"They didn't just worry about the game, they were worried about what was going on in the stands. Even some of the t-sip fans look over and say that's

Although it isn't completely new, Torn said the yell is something for today's students.

"My father (Sam Torn) brought the "Beat the Hell" yell. to the campus in 1969, when he was head yell leader," Torn said. "When he brought that, everybody wanted something to call

Midnight Yell Practice The proposed expansion of Kyle Field, plus the change from artificial to natural grass, changed the format of midnight

yell practice. The student body will stand on the student side of the stands, rather than in the horseshoe,

which would no longer exist after reconstruction. "If that's the inevitable, then we're going to have to move it

"They didn't just

worry about the

game, they were

worried about

on in the

stands."

what was going

Chris Torn

Head Yell Leader

sometime and that might as

protect the field's natural grass,

which may prevent the Aggie

Band from marching on field with their dates during yell

practice. Tentatively, the band

will play from the stands and

the junior cadets will stand on

Rivalries

A&M Athletic Director Wally

Groff said he expects the south

division schools, such as

Competing with new schools lends the opportunity for new

The University also wants to

well be now," Torn said.

the track.

rivalry, not because of the le last year," Groff said, "because we'll be competing for the national title. 'We're all excited about

new league because it will pr vide us additional national ex sure mainly because we'll be seven states rather than one."

Groff said the four school A&M no longer plays weren'the rivals, "but we had long-ter friendships that will be missed."

School Spirit

Megan McMahon, Traditi Council chair and a jur accounting major, said the even with the changes scho spirit will endure.

"I don't think (the changes) affect our school spirit at a McMahon said. "One of the thi that make our traditions greathe school spirit behind it."

Joe Fenton, Corps of Cade Center curator, said he expe A&M fans to take the chang

"in good sport."
"Everything bends with # times," Fenton said. "Traditio go in and out and are chang

three or four times. "I think it's a healthy sit tion to see flight modificat among the traditions. It mea people still care and are of ative. If you take life too se ously, you miss the point oft

tradition.' To prevent any misuno standings between A&M a other Big 12 schools, Traditions Council will conta the other schools.

"The Traditions Council a address things like staying Kyle Field memorial, so we do have a repeat of the Texas galast year," McMahon said, re ring to the fights that broken among A&M cadets and UT a

Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, to "That's something we d be the strongest rivalries of the want to happen again. A lot new schools because A&M will them don't mean to be dis play them every year. spectful, they just don't kn "Colorado will be a strong about our traditions."

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