

THE BATTALION

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Football Weekend Yell practice adapts to grass

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

Protecting the newly installed natural grass on Kyle Field will become the priority at tonight's midnight yell practice. The most visible change in the yell practice procedure is the removal of the Texas Aggie Band from the field.

In the past, the band members stood on the north end of the playing field, but now sit in their usual one-day seats — the center of the east-side stands on the first deck.

Band Commander Mike Sells, a senior speech communications major, said the band is happy to accommodate the necessary changes and recognizes the sole reason for

yell practice. "The purpose of yell practice is not for the band to stand on Kyle Field, but to practice yells and motivate the fans," he said. "Everyone has to make sacrifices, and I think this is a pretty small one for the band."

Yell leaders, junior cadets and the Parsons Mounted Cavalry will be the only ones allowed on the track surrounding the field. No one will be permitted on the actual playing field.

Students will also endure changes and sit on the first and second decks of the east stands, rather than in the horseshoe. The change is in preparation for proposed construction to the horseshoe.

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Now painting at the north end of Kyle Field...



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Kyle Kelley, a former student and ground keeper for the athletic department, paints the letters on the north end zone of Kyle Field. The paint allows the grass to continue photosynthesis through the coating.

Coca Cola flies over Lemon Chills

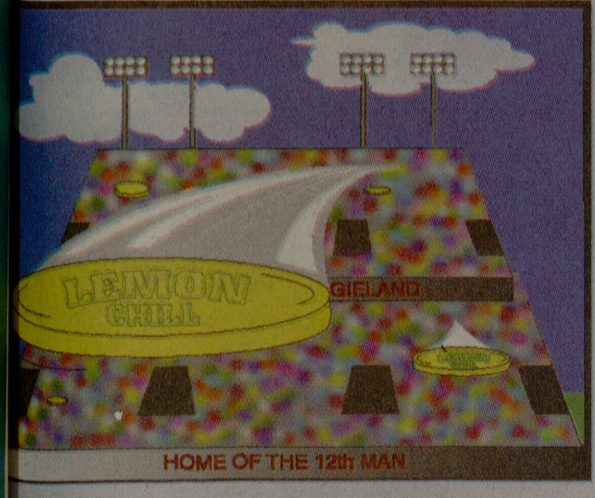
By ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

Small flying yellow lemons will no longer be a part of Aggie games, because the Lemon Chill will no longer be sold at concession stands for Texas A&M athletic events.

Last season, the product's plastic lids created a

trend when fans would throw the lids — aiming to land them on Kyle Field. This season, fans will have a similar product to buy. Minute Maid, a Coca-Cola subsidiary, has developed a 12-ounce product that will cost \$3.50, the same as the 16-ounce Lemon Chill.

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Reveille rebounds for Friday

By CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES
THE BATTALION

Despite episodes of epileptic seizures, Reveille VI is in good health and will be able to attend tonight's midnight yell practice and game activities, University Relations announced Thursday.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, said Texas A&M's mascot will attend tonight's midnight yell practice and will march into Kyle Field with the Corps of Cadets before the game against the University of North Texas.

Reveille will rest inside after the march-in and then return for the second half of the game.

The 3-year-old mascot was hospitalized Monday after experiencing an apparent epileptic seizure and has been under observation by Dr. Claudia Barton, a veteri-

narian at A&M's Small Animal Clinic. Reveille was brought to the clinic Monday at about 10:30 p.m. by Mascot Corporal Lance Hill and other cadets from Company E-2. The collie was experiencing muscle tremors from what appeared to be a mild epileptic seizure.

She experienced a second seizure about 15 minutes later, and a tranquilizer was administered to stop the abnormal activity.

Reveille experienced an earlier bout of apparent epileptic seizures after the December 1995 Alamo Bowl game against the University of Michigan. Such seizures are often provoked by excitement.

Barton increased the collie's medication after this Monday's episodes and said this will allow Reveille to continue her activities as mascot.

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A&M observes POW/MIA week

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

This week, the brave are honored and the lost are remembered. This is POW/MIA week.

Col. James E. "Jim" Ray understands the life of a prisoner of war.

Ray recounted Mother's Day 1960 when he attacked a target between Hanoi, Vietnam, and Red China in his F-105-D single-seater fighter craft. "Triple A" anti-aircraft ammunition ripped through his plane, forcing him to eject outside of the search-and-rescue area, he said.

A few minutes after landing, Ray was captured by the Vietnamese and sent to the French-built "Hanoi Hotel" prison where he was tortured for information, he said.

It was typical to be kept isolated from the other prisoners, the colonel said. Ray spent several months in solitary confinement until overcrowding granted him a roommate.

When he arrived, Ray said 80 to 85 other prisoners were in captivity. At the time of his release, about 550 air crewmen were being held prisoners of war in Hanoi.

Ray said the Vietnamese did not grant him the rights of a prisoner of war as agreed upon at the Geneva Convention. This was because, in their opinion, the military action was illegal. The United States Congress never issued a declaration of war, so the soldiers captured were "mercenaries and pirates" who did not deserve proper POW treatment.

Six years, nine months and four days after being captured, Ray was returned to his country and family.

"But who's counting," he said.

Every one of Ray's comrades has a similar story. A story that made them outlaws to an enemy and heroes to a country.

POW/MIA week is a time to remember the bravery of the ones who made it home. It is also a time to honor the families of the ones who made the supreme sacrifice, Ray said.

"I think it's an appropriate thing to do," he said, "especially for the MIAs because they were never recovered."

"More should go to the families whose sons, husbands and fathers didn't come home."

The Arnold Air Force Society, an Air Force service organization, and Angel Flight/Silver Wings, their civilian counterpart, will present memorials on campus this weekend to remember the missing.

Anyone with questions about an MIA or POW may contact the National League of Families or call Jason Galyon at (409) 847-1885 or Mark Andrews at (409) 847-1785.

Events occurring this weekend:



- Friday — The POW/MIA flag will be raised at the Academic Building flagpole at 7:30 a.m. Arnold Air Force Society members will hold a vigil at the pole until 11:30 a.m.
- Saturday — Following the Corps march-in before the football game, Arnold Air Force Society Commander Mark Andrews and Vietnam War POW Col. John Stavast will place a wreath below the scoreboard. Buglers from the Aggie Band will play "echo taps" and four F-16 fighter planes will fly over in "missing man" formation. The names of the 24 Aggie POWs and MIAs from Vietnam will be listed on the scoreboard.

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A&M buses rolling on time

By WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

A shortage of drivers slowed down the bus services on campus during the beginning of the semester, but drivers and passengers agree the system is back on schedule.

Suzanne Skrabanek, manager of the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Bus Operations, said they were short several drivers the day before classes started and this put a cramp on the routes and schedules of the remaining staff.

Trevor Hull, a driver trainer and a senior history major, said Bus Operations resolved the problem by hiring more drivers.

"We had a lot of routes open," he said. "So we've hired about 10 more people. Everything is starting to smooth out finally."

Skrabanek said all of the

vacant driver positions were filled last weekend when applicants completed their commercial driver's license requirements and their PTTS training.

"You can't just put someone behind the wheel," she said.

Increased passenger loads have also burdened the shuttle system, Skrabanek said.

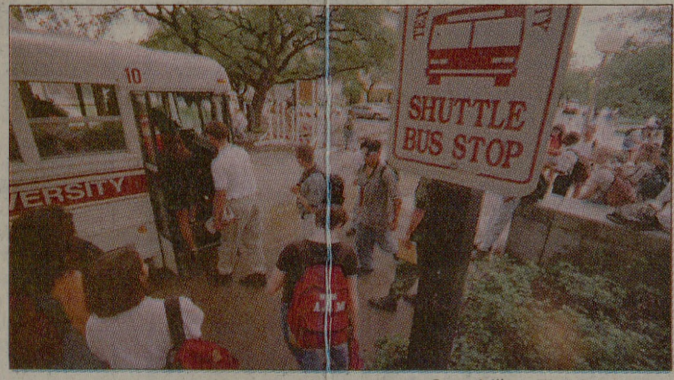
"A lot more people are riding

the bus," she said.

She also said that the increase in campus traffic slowed the buses. Bus drivers have to yield to pedestrians and watch for bicycles.

"It's a constant challenge of trying to get people to class, but keeping safe," she said. "Safety first, schedules second."

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Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Shuttle bus riders line up to get on the bus.

DAB relies on students to continue driving on

By BRANDON HAUSENLUCK
THE BATTALION

The new Bryan-College Station nighttime shuttle bus system will be driven into the ground unless people start using it, program organizers said.

Matthew Kenyon, DAB Transit executive director and a senior biomedical science major, has been working for almost a year to get the program going to make B-CS streets safer at night.

Kenyon, who is also a B-CS defensive driving instructor, said Texas A&M students need to give DAB Transit a chance.

"We are constantly trying to improve

[DAB Transit] to accommodate students," he said. "Our main problem right now is the maps [aren't accessible], and people aren't sure how it works."

To board a bus, patrons must stand on the side of the road the bus is traveling along and flag it down. If patrons board a bus that does not service the particular establishment they wish to visit, they can be dropped off to board a bus on another route that does service the area.

The cost of a one-way ticket is 50 cents.

Gary Seaback, owner of The Tap, J.D. Wells, Hurricane Harry's and the soon-to-be-opened Barracuda Bar, expects DAB Transit to work.

"I would really love to see this work," Seaback said. "It will be something that stops people who drink too much from driving."

Alex Cates
Owner, Dream Associates Advertising Agency

See **DAB**, Page 12

"My vision is to see busloads of college students ... who will be saving their driving records, court costs and possibly their lives."