

BRIEFS

General to review cadets for march-in

Lt. Gen. Thomas A. Schwartz will be the reviewing officer for the Corps of Cadets' march-in before the Texas A&M-Iowa State University football game Saturday. Schwartz is commanding general of the Army's III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Schwartz graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1967.

Aggie class of '87 dedicates gift

Members of Texas A&M's Class of '87 formally will dedicate their class gift after the Texas A&M-Iowa State University football game Saturday. The gift is three sculptures depicting various stages of Aggie Boner, a tradition at Texas A&M since 1909. The sculptures, created by Fred Dickes, Class of '52, are in the grassy area between the home of the vice president for student affairs and the University Center Parking Garage near Spence Park. The dedication event is part of the 10th reunion of the Class of '87, being celebrated this weekend at College Station.

Association to serve fajitas at cookout

The Association of Former Students will host a tailgate party before each home football game this year near the Clayton Williams Alumni Center. Fajitas will be served before the Texas A&M-Iowa State University football game tomorrow. The cost is \$5 per person, and a cash bar also is available. The party will begin three hours before kick-off and it will end 30 minutes prior to game time.

Former yell leaders convene for reunion

The 4th annual Association of Former Yell Leaders Reunion is this weekend, with more than 100 former yell leaders returning to Texas A&M. After a dinner Friday night, the former yell leaders will march to midnight Yell with the student yell leaders and the Aggie Band. At 9 a.m. Saturday, the former yell leaders will have a mixer and a meeting in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center. The president-elect and three members of the association's board of directors will be selected.

Blood drive to occur Monday

A blood drive will be Monday at Anthony's Catholic Church, 600 26th St. in Bryan.

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Shades of the same color: Multi-racial students claim to be more informed about the world.

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No. 13 Aggies to battle Iowa State Cyclones Saturday at Kyle Field.

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Varado: Students should understand etiquette of football seating.

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on-line

http://bat-web.tamu.edu

Look up with state and national news through the Wire, AP's 24-hour on-line news service.

A&M hosts Academic Convocation

By ROBERT SMITH
Senior staff writer

Texas A&M will host its first Academic Convocation in 21 years at 1:30 this afternoon in Rudder Auditorium. Dr. Ronald Douglas, executive vice president and provost, said the convocation should interest everyone at A&M.

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"It (the convocation) will be an opportunity for everyone to get together and to celebrate academic excellence and the faculty's achievement," he said. Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Texas A&M president,

will speak on the University's "Vision 2020" program and will announce new endowment programs.

The Vision 2020 project was passed by the Board of Regents last week. The project outlines the University's goals for the 21st century.

Dr. William Perry, associate provost and dean of faculties, said he encourages everyone at A&M to attend the convocation.

"I think everyone should take the opportunity to hear from the president and see what he has to say about it (Vision 2020)," Perry said.

The convocation is the first time Bowen has spoken on Vision 2020.

Bowen will announce the the University's plans for a \$25 million donation by A&M graduate Harvey "Bum" Bright. Bright's do-

nation was announced at commencement ceremonies last May.

Douglas said Bowen will announce \$15 million of Bright's gift will be used for Corps of Cadets scholarships and \$10 million will be used for faculty chair programs.

Douglas also said a \$10 million endowment will be set up for student scholarships, with \$5 million coming from profits made by the Texas A&M Bookstore.

Perry said the convocation is a chance to express A&M's optimism for its future.

"It will be a celebration of who we are as a community," Perry said. "It will give people an opportunity to get excited about the future direction of the University."

Perry will lead a faculty procession at the convocation ceremony.

There will be a luncheon before the convocation at Rudder, and the A&M Symphony Band will play during the convocation. The convocation will be televised on KAMU-Xtra, Channel 18.

Curtis Childers, A&M student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said students should attend the convocation.

"This will give the students a chance to understand what the faculty does," Childers said. A&M hosted its last academic convocation in 1976, the University's centennial anniversary.

Douglas said the convocation will become another A&M tradition, and he anticipates the convocation will become an annual event.

"I, along with others, decided that it would be a tradition worth having," he said.

The beat of a different drum



Nathan McFall, a senior environmental science major, and Hutch Butler, a senior recreation park and tourism science major, performed an informal drum jam outside the MSC Thursday. The jam was in association with MSC Town Hall.

Fans experience lodging troubles

By BENJI CHENG
Staff writer

Jean French, a clerk at the Super 8 Motel in Navasota, is amazed by the Aggies willing to stay the night in Navasota to attend football games at Kyle Field.

Although French has family members who attended and played football at the University of Texas, she said she admires, if not always understands, the spirit and devotion Aggies have for their football team.

"I always think those Aggies are crazy," French said.

Patty Sears, manager of tourism, sales and services at the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said local hotel rooms always are booked during football weekends. "You know how those Aggies are," she said. "Some of those folks have been coming to football games since they graduated."

The bureau can help visiting fans find places to stay in out-of-town locales, such as Navasota, Caldwell, Madisonville and Hempstead, Sears said. She compared the impact of a football weekend on Bryan-College Station to that of hosting a major convention.

"It tells you that football in Texas is big business," Sears said.

Richard McElroy, reservations

manager for the College Station Hilton and Conference Center, said the Hilton turns away about 200 callers inquiring about room vacancies for big games, such as those against Texas and Colorado. He said the Hilton is booked for all remaining home football games.

McElroy said football weekends are a boom for businesses in the Bryan-College Station community.

"The amount of money football games bring here is tremendous," McElroy said.

French said things always are a little crazy at the Navasota Super 8 Motel during football weekends. She also said the Super 8 is booked for remaining home football games.

"We can always tell when there's a football game in Bryan-College Station," French said.

Sears said finding a place to stay may be more difficult after Reed Arena opens or if the College Station Hotel and Convention Center is not approved.

Since hotel rooms for high-profile home games tend to fill up a year or more in advance, Sears said people should call to reserve hotel rooms as soon as possible.

Help in finding hotel rooms during football weekends is available from the Bryan-College Station Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The bureau can be reached at (409) 260-9999.

Transportation officials suggest alternate game routes

By JENARA KOCKS
Staff writer

Texas A&M football fans can get the green light when coming to or leaving football games if they use the "Go with the Green" traffic plan.

Certain lanes of traffic are given more green time at certain intersections to move cars more quickly away from Kyle Field after football games.

Tim Lomax, research engineer with the

Texas Transportation Institute, said Go with the Green maps, which show the best departure routes, are posted at Kyle Field, local hotels, the A&M Athletics home page and the Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization (BCSMPO) Web page.

"We won't prohibit you from driving where you want to," he said. "But we are going to tell you where the green time is so you can go with the green."

Lomax said the red, yellow and green

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times of traffic lights are inefficient when dealing with a big crowd.

"If everyone is coming from three different directions, the light gives green time equally to each direction," he said.

Lomax said by using the Go with the Green plan, certain lanes of traffic may be given up to two minutes of green time.

According to the BCSMPO Web page, the

Bryan District office of the Texas Department of Transportation with Texas A&M and the cities of Bryan and College Station first worked together to develop a plan to regulate special event traffic in 1995.

Lomax said the organizers hope the program will improve the traffic flow in the area around the stadium, make Wellborn Road safer for pedestrians and keeping traffic from clogging the construction on Texas Avenue.

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Forum presents women's issues

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The second Women's Leadership Forum will present issues relating to women in leadership roles from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

More than 100 students are expected to attend the forum, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Christine Townsend, an agricultural education professor at Texas A&M.

Laura Baggett, MSC Leadership Development vice president and an electrical engineering major, said the forum will provide students with a chance to learn about women as leaders.

"Our keynote speaker will discuss leadership as an art," she said. "I really hope that students gain a new perspective on women's leadership. There haven't been that many opportunities to talk about women's issues (on campus). It is a good opportunity to talk about women's concerns and issues."

Following the presentation by Townsend, a facilitator will give small groups a topic to discuss relating to women leaders. Each group will have one or two former students leading the discussion.

"The former students and the University have been very supportive of the Aggie Women's Leadership Forum," Baggett said. "It is a good opportunity for students to meet with former students."

Jennifer Vohac, Class of '87 and a Ph.D graduate student working on occupational progress and career planning for former Big 12 players, said she looks forward to meeting with undergraduates at the forum. Vohac serves as assistant athletic director for athletic career services, an on-campus organization that helps student-athletes find jobs.

"I hope that the former students can convey some of the elements of leadership," she said. "I am excited. These ladies have stuff to teach us. I have been out of school for 10 years and a lot has changed."

The event is sponsored by the MSC Leadership Development, the Association of Former Students, the Student Government Association and the Houston Reveille Club.

Dean Clark, the MSC program adviser, said representatives from campus organizations will attend.

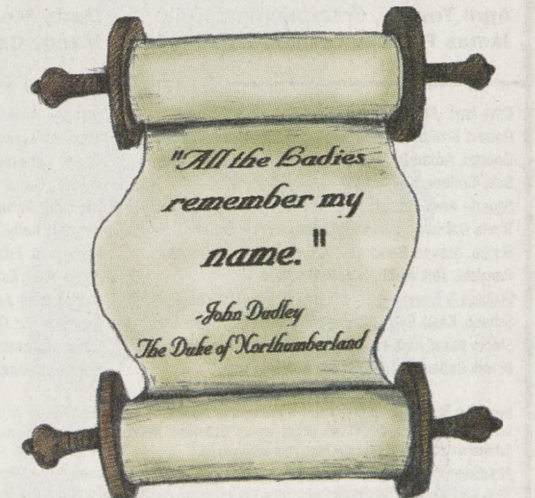
"Basically, the networking was done through organizations such as Student Government, the Residence Hall Association, the Corps of Cadets, Off-Campus Aggies and other organizations that have expressed interest," Clark said. "Students do not have to be in an organization (to attend), but it helps."

Last spring, about 110 students attended the first Women's Leadership Forum.

"It went great," Clark said. "We are looking to develop this into a day-long event and then possibly into a full conference."



Retreat to the Renaissance



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Open every Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to dusk, the 23rd annual Renaissance Festival runs through Nov. 16