

Scaffoldings at Olsen Field banned by health officials

By ROBERT SMITH
City editor

Students who have built scaffolding around the outfield fence at Olsen Field have to find a new way to get a better view of the baseball games beginning this week.

The Environmental, Safety & Health Department of Texas A&M University announced Monday it is working with the University Police Department (UPD) to ban the construction of scaffolding at Olsen Field.

Chris Meyer, director of the Environmental, Safety & Health Department, said safety is the primary reason for the ban.

"We tend to get nervous about these

things," he said. "The scaffolding could cause a tragic danger, and with the big

"The scaffolding could cause a tragic danger."

Chris Meyer
Director of the Environmental, Safety and Health Department

series with Baylor coming up and the possibility of hosting a conference

championship, you have to worry that this is going to proliferate."

Meyer said he saw one scaffolding set up at Saturday's University of Texas-A&M game and four sets of scaffolding during Sunday's game.

"We don't want to interfere with the enjoyment of the games or diminish the great baseball atmosphere at Olsen Field, but when it comes to building scaffolding, we just have to draw the line. It's too risky."

Meyer said signs will be posted at Olsen Field to inform fans that scaffoldings are now prohibited.

UPD officials said they will assist in enforcing the regulation, but have not determined what the penalty will be for violation.

AG lets affiliation go to trial

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Attorney General Dan Morales wants the courts to decide whether Texas A&M University's alliance with the state's South Texas College of Law is legal.

Under the affiliation agreement, South Texas College of Law of Texas A&M University would remain a privately owned institution, but could receive greater name recognition under the A&M banner without having to relocate. Texas A&M would get a law school at

no additional expense.

But the schools could not award law degrees under A&M's name without the approval of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. And the panel is not convinced that Houston needs a fourth law school or that Texas A&M's charter permits a law school.

So the coordinating board put the issue to Morales. On Friday, Morales decided not to issue a ruling, because the law school on

April 13 filed a lawsuit in Austin against the board.

Texas A&M is not a party to the suit.

"We have a standard policy if we are reviewing an issue and it goes to court we drop the issue," said Ward Tisdale, a Morales spokesman. "We yield to a higher power."

The law school's lawsuit challenges the coordinating board's view that Texas A&M needed permission before entering into the public-private affiliation with South

Texas in January.

South Texas spokeswoman Sheila Hansel praised the Morales decision.

"We believe it's an absolutely correct decision by the attorney general's office. It is now our goal to get a binding decision in open court on this issue," Ms. Hansel said on Monday. "Our lawsuit will continue."

The coordinating board did not have an immediate comment on the matter Monday.

Muster 1998

Reed Arena hosts first Muster

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Dr. Robert Spoede will light the last candle tonight at the Muster ceremony fifty years after he graduated from Texas A&M University as a member of the Corps of Cadets.

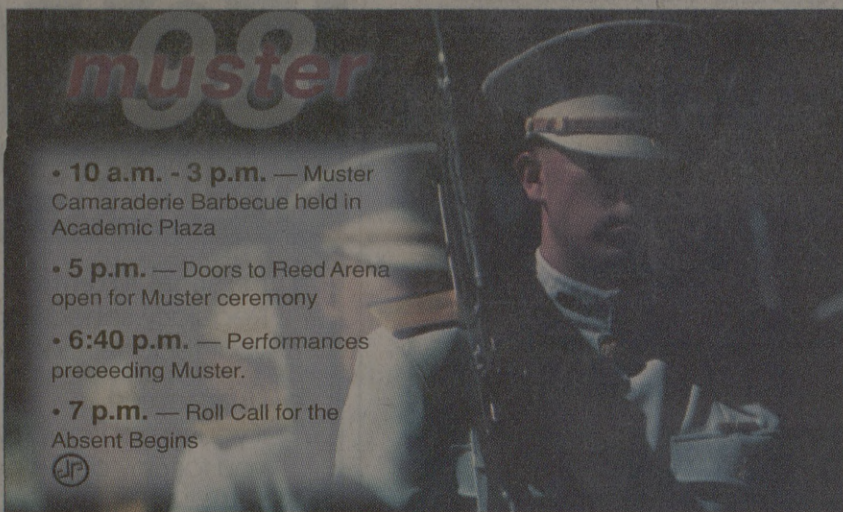
Spoede, a co-agent for the Class of '26 and a College Station resident, said he is honored to have the opportunity to participate in the first Muster held in Reed Arena.

He remembers the Muster ceremonies he attended as an undergraduate at A&M.

"Muster was not the somber ceremony that it is today," Spoede said. "I had Muster in front of the Administration building. There were usually several hundred people there, and I still remember the loyalty to (the name of) soldier, statesman and mighty gentleman."

Spoede said although not all go on to serve as soldiers, the Muster ceremony must be appreciated by those who attend and for those it remembers.

The honored Roll Call of the Absent has become a tradition remem-



bered by Aggies and friends of the University today. Muster began as a celebration of college days' victories and defeats on the drill field and inside the classroom.

Tonight, old Aggies will join the new at the Muster ceremony in Reed Arena at 7 p.m.

Lisa Eubanks, a Muster committee

member and a sophomore English major, said Muster has become a part of the Aggie tradition.

"The spirit behind Muster motivates you to do things like Big Event and Fish Camp and Bonfire," Eubanks said.

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Students prepare Arena for ceremony

By RACHEL DAWLEY
Staff writer

In preparation for today's Muster, A&M students are working with Reed Arena staff to ensure the new complex is ready for its opening.

Steve Hodge, director of special event facilities for the University, said people have been working 18-hour days since Saturday to prepare the arena.

"We really didn't start final cleanup and preparation until this weekend," Hodge said. "We want to make sure it is presentable and ready."

Hodge said the building still has rough edges, including a temporary sound system that will be used for Muster. He said student volunteers have helped make the opening possible.

"We had Town Hall come in last week to check seats and the Corps said Muster committee have been working on cleanup efforts," he said. "I've been here for 25 years and seen Aggies help each other, so I'm not surprised, but I am pleased."

Muster committee members spent last weekend cleaning the arena, but they realized on Sunday that they could not finish it alone. Members of

the committee contacted the Corps of Cadets to help in the task.

"We were in a tight situation," said Wynn Rosser, advisor to the Muster committee. "We knew we had a good bit of cleaning to do, but we were not sure how much."

Tase Bailey, incoming Corps commander and a junior aerospace engineering major, said the Corps was honored to help with the cleanup.

"The Muster committee called and asked for the Corps help, and we worked to put the word out," Bailey said. "This is what the Aggie Spirit is about — helping others do a job."

More than 500 cadets volunteered on Monday to help with basic cleaning duties, including vacuuming the arena seats, picking up trash and polishing surfaces.

"The arena was extremely dirty after all the construction," said Clint Weber, a senior history major in Company E-2. "We (the Corps) went over every part of the arena about three times. Muster's one of the biggest events and cherished traditions, and it is important that it goes smoothly."

Dion Bruggier, a sophomore business management major in Company C-2, said cadets were thrilled with



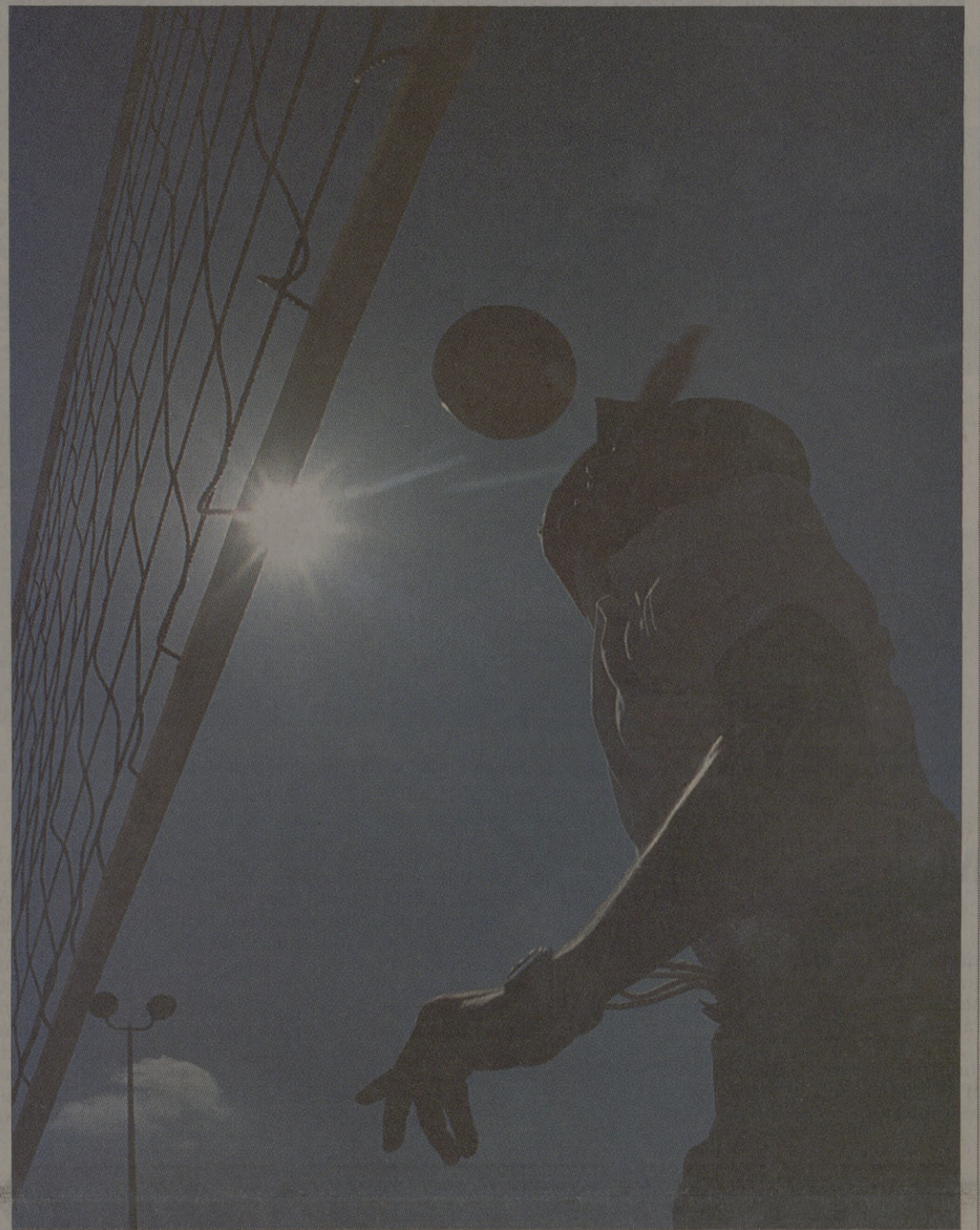
Priscilla Rappaport of Rapport Piano Work Services, tunes a piano for tomorrow's Muster ceremony.

the opportunity to see the arena before it opens to the public.

"It's exciting for us to look at the arena before it opens tomorrow," Bugger said. "Everyone is anticipating the ceremony and the opening of Reed."

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Side out



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Kevin Coffman, a junior computer engineering major, spikes a volleyball Monday afternoon outside the Student Recreation Center.

Eppright, Class of '26, dies at age 95

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

Colonel George J. Eppright, member of the Corps Hall of Honor and Class of '26, 95, died Saturday. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Austin.

Col. Eppright, of Manor, Texas, was born January 27, 1903. He earned a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and received commissions as a second lieutenant and a member of the Air Corps of the United States Army. He became a pilot in the Air Corps Flying

Schools at Kelly and Randolph Fields in San Antonio.



George Eppright pictured in the 1926 Longhorn Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. There he flight-tested more than 200 planes and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his contributions.

Col. Eppright served in two wars, World War II and the Korean War. In WWII, he was a member of General Eisenhower's staff in North Africa. Between wars he was assigned to the War College in Washington, D.C., and at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

He was Air Force Plant Representative at the Boeing Airplane Company in Seattle, Wash., before his retirement in 1955.

Eppright Hall was named after Col. Eppright in 1990, and family members said that of all of his recognitions, his most treasured was his induction to the Corps Hall of Honor in 1994.

UT students hold sit-in to support affirmative action

AUSTIN (AP) — Two dozen University of Texas students marched to Attorney General Dan Morales' state office building Monday to demand an appeal of an anti-affirmative action court ruling, staged a brief sit-in and left without the meeting they sought with him.

But the students vowed to be back — perhaps next time after making an appointment.

"The attorney general has denied us access and opportunity with his interpretation of the Hopwood decision, and today he denies us access and opportunity to talk to him on the matter ... There is no justice in the attorney general's office," said Oscar de la Torre, a graduate student at the University of Texas' Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and march organizer.

Morales spokesperson Ward Tisdale said the attorney general "is glad to meet with people, but based on an appointment. Just to show up and demand a meeting is not an appropriate way to go about doing it."

The debate is over the case named after Cheryl Hopwood, one of four whites who sued af-

ter being denied admission to the UT law school. A 1996 federal court ruling in that case has left state colleges and universities unable to consider race in admissions and financial aid.

A recent injunction against racial preferences by a federal judge, in connection with a ruling on Hopwood attorney fees, opened the way for a new appeal. But Morales said he does not know whether he will pursue one, noting that he opposes such preferences.

Students demonstrating in favor of an appeal were kept from Morales' secure eighth-floor office by his security detail because they didn't have an appointment.

They did wait in the lobby for less than an hour, sitting part of the time and chanting, "Dan Morales, you can't hide. We've got justice on our side."

The students then moved toward the elevators but were blocked by security. At one point, they collected dollar bills and change and held the money up to one of Morales' special agents, suggesting campaign contributors would get them in.

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