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# All-U Night attempts to rewrite history

A&M tradition enters a calmer era after administration threatened to stop the event

By RILEY LAGRONE  
The Battalion

Thousands of Aggies will crowd into Kyle Field Wednesday night for Texas A&M's annual All University Night, a sort of combination pep rally and seminar in Aggie Traditions.

Hosted by the head yell leader, it is a chance to introduce the sports teams and campus leaders to the student body, welcome students back to the University and get everyone excited about fall sports.

In addition, All-U Night is the first opportunity the University President has each year to speak to students and a chance for upperclassmen to welcome the incoming freshman class.

Since its beginnings, All-U Night has grown in popularity and attendance by leaps and bounds.

The first All-U Night was held in G. Rollie White Coliseum, with an audience of 2,000. Only eight years later, attendance had grown to 8,000 students, filling G. Rollie to capacity.

By 1985, the crowd was so large it was impossible to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend, and the decision was made to move the event to Kyle Field.

Things were going well at All-U Night until earlier this decade when things took a turn for the worst.

Dorm competition, which had been gradually increasing over the years, began to get more and more heated, and profanity and violence became more prevalent.

The situation reached its peak in 1992 when several injuries were reported. In addition, two women filed sexual harassment charges.

The administration felt it was time to step in. If dorm leaders did not begin taking control of the situation, All-U Night would become a thing of the past.

To many dorm leaders, All-U Night is an opportunity to motivate freshmen and bring their dorms closer together.

Aaron Hamby, a Moore Hall crew chief, said although there have been problems in the past, the focus of All-U Night can be motivation and dorm unity.

"Because of the intensity level involved, tempers can flare at All-U Night," Hamby said. "Crew chiefs are always there to keep

everything under control. For the first time, it's a good chance to compete against other dorms and become a tighter unit."

Chad Bates, a junior computer science major, said his freshman All-U Night was a memorable experience and one of the best he had to meet people in his dorm.

"I don't remember any major problems at my freshman All-U Night, just a lot of fun. What I remember most is making a lot of my dorm," Bates said. "I met a guy I didn't even know existed."

Katie Allison, a senior marketing management major, said if she does anything offensive, the best thing to do is to do it in one ear and out the other.

"Sometimes dorm yells can get out of hand," Allison said. "It's something one has come to expect and not to take it personally."

Normally, All-U Night is held on the day of classes, but the football team from New Jersey to play the Kick Off Classic at Florida State, so the day of the event was moved.

This year's All University Night will be held this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

## FRESHMEN

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A source of apprehension for freshmen is their first experience with a roommate.

Gregory said she remains optimistic about her new live-in companions.

"I think that if you go into a roommate experience with the idea that you can tolerate each other's differences and look for the good in people you can work through any problems you'll have with your roommate," Gregory said. "Unless they happen to be a huge drug addict or something."

The old axiom "twice as much material in half the time" is still thriving in high schools across the nation.

Freshmen are surrounded by little reminders that they are not in high school anymore.

Kim Twiggs, a freshman biochemistry major, described her first experience with accelerated

course work.

"I was looking forward to classes starting," Twiggs said. "At least until I went to the bookstore and realized I have six books just for chemistry."

Each semester, countless A&M students go through the ritualized mantra of studying more, partying the same amount and getting back into shape.

This fall, the freshman class begins the cycle again.

"I'm hoping for late-morning, early afternoon classes so that I need to wake up early and study I can," Garza said. "Right now I have a few two-hour gaps in my classes that I'll use to study so I can socialize at night. Hopefully that will work."

Study habits and college living aside, the A&M experience is about what happens outside of the classroom and at home.

"I'm going to think about where my interests are and go see what kinds of things are out there for me," Twiggs said. "I'll realize what I really want to do and find



Freshmen in the Blue Camp follow their counselors in their group Fish Camp send-off this summer. Camp Lusk members (from left) Brittney Gage, a freshman finance major; Bonnie Bonds, a freshman natural science major; and Andrea Estes, a freshman general studies major.

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