



The Battalion

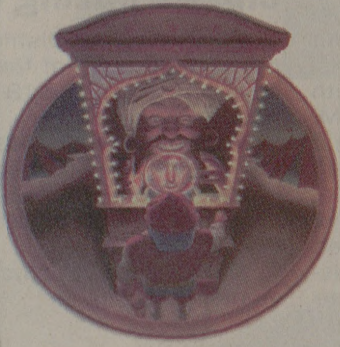
105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY

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aggielife

• OPAS brings musical adaptation of hit movie *Big* to Rudder Auditorium for family fun.

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Thursday's issue

Construction of The Zone draws criticism with decision to allow alcohol to be served.

sports

• Kansas State University travels to A&M to face 'All-U Walk' crowd as Big 12 Football Championship trophy will be presented at half time.

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No charges in death

Official says hostesses used 'poor judgment'

BY MEREDITH HIGHT
The Battalion

No criminal charges will be pressed against the two women who hosted the party Barry Joseph Vail II attended the night of his death. Vail died after falling three stories from a stairwell of the Southside Parking Garage after returning from the party around 3 a.m. Jan. 30. His blood alcohol level was 0.223, more than twice the legal limit. Randy Fields, an agent for the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (ABC), said TABC completed the investigation and presented everything to the county attorney. John Kuboviak, Brazos County attorney, confirmed that no criminal charges will be pressed

on the women. "The TABC investigation led to the fact that, first of all, he had a false ID card used by him to buy alcoholic beverages that he consumed at his home and bought more when he left," he said. Kuboviak said Vail was not an invited guest to the party. "[He and his friends] crashed the party," he said. "The girls did not serve them the beverages. They didn't even know the boys were there. We see no criminal liability on their part." Fields said the women who held the party acted irresponsibly. "These three females exercised poor judgment in throwing the party," he said. "They were not being careful about who came to

the event." Fields said Vail and his friends began drinking around 6:30 p.m. "They drank some beer, and then went to an A&M Consolidated soccer game," he said. "Mr. Vail bought a 40 oz. malt liquor and an 18-pack of 12 oz. beer and another six-pack of 12 oz. beer with a fake driver's license." Fields said from there, the group went to two or three other locations, eventually stopping at a friend's duplex on Medina Street. From there, they went to the party the three women hosted and stayed there until returning to A&M. "They noticed people gathering outside [the women's duplex] and went there," he said. "Their party didn't start until after midnight."

'Borrow-A-Bike' to begin

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT
The Battalion

Texas Aggies Making Changes (TAMC) will release the first 20 bicycles of the "Borrow-A-Bike" program for student use today from 9 to 11 a.m. at Rudder Fountain. The bicycles are painted yellow and have a decal on the frame to identify it as part of the Borrow-A-Bike program. When the system is fully implemented, the bicycles will be available at various campus locations. Borrowers should leave them in a bike rack outside the building for the next person to use. Tida Pichakron, director of the Borrow-A-Bike program and a sophomore business analysis major, said the program has been in development for three years. "Cass Burton brought the idea of community bikes to the Student Senate," Pichakron said. "It was passed by the senate and they passed it to TAMC to finish."

Joey Neugart, a sophomore political science major, said Burton researched the program, which has been implemented in other communities around the United States. "This program has been tried in places like Portland, Denver, St. Paul and Boulder," Neugart said. "It was successful in all of those locations. Although they didn't have the means to keep track of how many were stolen, enough were used around the community to consider the programs a success." Some of the bicycles being used have been donated by Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS). Every summer, PTTS confiscates abandoned bicycles on campus to auction in September. Neugart said PTTS's help was an integral part of the implementation of "Borrow-A-Bike." "The program wouldn't have happened without the help of PTTS," Neugart said. "They let us have the bikes we are using, a place to keep them and the

SEE BICYCLES ON PAGE 2.

Tree limbs delay traffic

BY SALLIE TURNER
The Battalion

A large section of a tree fell yesterday in front of the Zone construction at Kyle Field, blocking two lanes of Joe Rountt Boulevard and causing traffic delays for an hour. Todd Watson, an urban forester for Physical Plant, said he speculates the accident was caused by a large truck, probably an eighteen-wheeler, driving close to the curb. Officials from Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), University Police Department (UPD) and Physical Plant responded to the call, clearing the tree branches out of the road and restoring the traffic flow. Grounds maintenance employees used chain saws to remove the damaged limbs from the tree. Jaclyn Holiday, a police officer with UPD, said the truck fled the scene of the accident. Watson said the tree limbs hanging over the bicycle lane ranged in height from 13 feet, 6 inches to 14 feet tall. He said the side of the tree was split. "It's too soon to tell what the long term damage to the tree will be," Watson said. UPD and PTTS officials are investigating the cause of the accident. They hope to have the case closed by Friday.



Philip Campbell, a tree maintenance specialist, clears the branches off of Joe Rountt Boulevard near the construction of The Zone. Officials say the tree may have been hit by a vehicle.

Aggie fans to support team at first 'All-U Walk' to Reed

BY MEGAN E. WRIGHT
The Battalion

The Texas Aggie Band, Corps of Cadets and student body will meet at Rudder Fountain tonight for the first "All-U Walk to Reed Arena." The walk is an effort to support the basketball team and honor the Big 12 championship football team. The Aggie Band and Corps of Cadets will form on the Quadrangle and meet the rest of the student body at Rudder Fountain for a yell practice. After the practice, the group will continue to Reed Arena for the A&M-Kansas State basketball game. Students who walk to Reed Arena with the event will be admitted to the game without having to purchase a ticket. During halftime, the football team captains will present the Big 12 South Championship trophy, the Big 12 Championship trophy and the Sugar Bowl trophy, in addition to recognizing the football team and its efforts.

Jeff Bailey, a junior yell leader, said the purpose of the event is to encourage support for the basketball team. "We really want everyone to come out and see what A&M basketball is all about," he said. Bailey said he is expecting a successful turnout for tonight's events. The idea for All-U Walk to Reed Arena was conceived by the yell leaders. "The five [yell leaders] were talking about wanting to do something special with the

new arena and the fact that we had Coach Watkins," Bailey said. "We wanted to get people excited about the basketball season. Football season was long this year, and we finally got a chance to play this." Mike Caruso, assistant athletic director and game manager for men's basketball, said he feels the student body presence will have a positive impact on the team. "We invited the Corps out to the Tech game, and we had an amazing victory," Caruso said. "The end zones in the stadium were full, and the energy level of the whole place rose." Caruso said if the attempt is successful, future rallies are possible for other sports. "If this is a success, this event really won't have limitations," he said. "If people get behind this, we can look at doing this for other teams, especially highlighting an important contest they may have. This could be a great new tradition."

"This (All-U Walk) could be a great new tradition."

— Mike Caruso
Assistant athletic director

SWTSU hazing suspect found dead

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — A man sought in the beating death of a Southwest Texas State University student was found dead Tuesday, police said. Police Chief Steve Griffith said authorities had been looking for Jeremiah Marshal Wilkerson, 21, of Lockhart. He apparently committed suicide in Van Zandt County before police could obtain a warrant charging him with capital murder, Griffith said. The Van Zandt County Sheriff's Department was investigating his death Tuesday night, Griffith said.

Wilkerson, who was a Southwest Texas student in 1996-97, had been wanted in connection with the beating death of Nicholas George Armstrong. Armstrong, 21, of Baytown, a junior communications major and pledge at Tau Kappa Epsilon, died Monday at an Austin hospital. "We regret that this terrible tragedy has profoundly touched the lives of two families and at least two communities," Griffith said. Armstrong had been sleeping on the ground floor of the TKE house early Sunday after a party when he was beaten, police said.

Student leaders offer 'Luv Line' advice

BY AMANDA PALM
The Battalion

Long-distance relationships, creative date ideas and sexually-transmitted diseases were topics discussed last night at "Aggie Luv Lines." It was the third in the series of events for Sexual Responsibility Week sponsored by Student Health Services. Brandon Neff, head yell leader and member of the student panel, addressed long-distance relationships during college. "Long-distance relationships can be a blessing," he said. "You can either grow stronger together or find yourself going your separate ways." Suggestions for inexpensive, creative dates were asked of the panel. James LaMarr, a senior construction science major, suggested flying a kite with your date. Laurie Nickel, student

body president, suggested finding a new recipe and cooking with your date. Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator for Student Health Services, said intimacy is important in any relationship. Griffith said people need to understand that sex and intimacy are two different aspects. Dr. Mark Sicilio, a pediatrician at Scott and White Health Services and a human sexuality professor at A&M, said the four things to remember when thinking about intimacy in a relationship are to keep the relationship safe, sober, selective and sensual. Coping with a partner's ex-boyfriend or girlfriend was a concern of students at the discussion. Nickel said nothing can ruin a relationship quicker than jealousy. "If you aren't mature enough to handle your partner's ex-boyfriend or girl-



Adrian Leday, Pan-Hellenic president, answers a student's question about long-distance relationships Monday at "Aggie Luv Lines."

friend, then you aren't mature enough to be in a relationship," she said. Sicilio said there is no such thing as sex without consequences. He said one in seven Americans will

SEE LUV LINES ON PAGE 2.

Kissing to leave mark with lecture

BY RONDA COOK
The Battalion

The history of kissing will be discussed tonight at 7 in MSC 212. Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, professor and head of the anthropology department, will present "The Origin of the Kiss" sponsored by MSC Great Issues. "Any Aggie who goes to a football game needs to know how and why we kiss," Bryant said. Bryant will begin by telling the audience how kissing orig-

inated and explain how the tradition was passed through generations. He will discuss cultural beliefs about kissing and the styles and where they originated from. Bryant has researched kissing for 20 years and has written several articles. He said his research is not from experience, but from extensive studies. Bryant has researched other topics such as chivalry and the origin of the curtsy and bow. Carrie Garcia, a member of MSC Great Issues and a junior political science major, said the

event was successful last year, and the audience was enthusiastic. "We held this lecture last year, and it was really fun and interesting," Garcia said. MSC Great Issues will hand out Hershey kisses at the door. The lecture will last until 8 p.m., and a reception will follow, during which Bryant will respond to questions. Garcia said couples and single students will enjoy the event. "You might be able to impress someone with your knowledge," she said.