

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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All-University Night marks new semester

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

Tonight, All-University Night, a biannual Texas A&M event, will bring students together at Kyle Field to kick off the beginning of a new school year.

Jeff Bailey, head yell leader and a senior agricultural systems major, said the activities will start at 6:30 p.m. under the arches of the Corps plaza with the All-U Walk.

"There's a new addition to All-U Night this year," he said. "The difference from last year is that there will be an All-U Walk."

The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Corps of Cadets and the yell leaders will meet at the Corps plaza and leave heading down Lubbock Street to gather the residents of the Southside residence halls. The participants will continue past the Academic Building to the Fish

Pond to gather the residents of the Northside halls at 6:40 p.m. Everyone will then be led to Kyle Field where they will have the first yell practice of the year.

"All-University Night is intended to introduce the freshman [c]lass ... to Aggie traditions with the help of the yell leaders."

— Dusty Batsell
Senior yell leader

Bailey said he wants to concen-

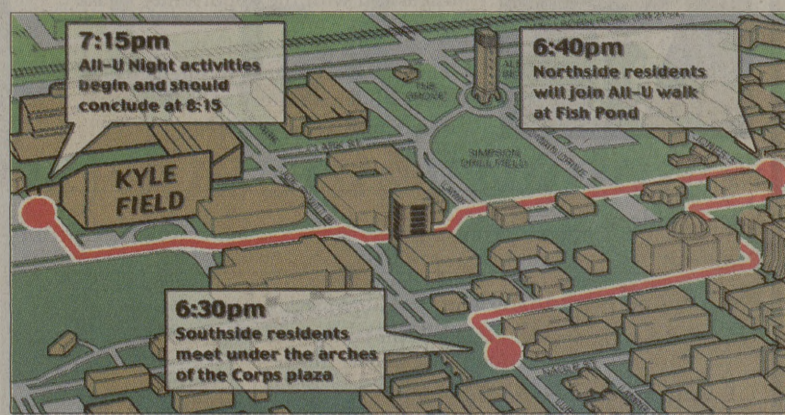
trate on making students feel welcome and involved in A&M's traditions. Bailey expects more than 8,000 people to participate in All-U-Night.

Dusty Batsell, a senior yell leader and a construction science major, said All-U Night is an event where everyone can look forward to having a good time and meeting other Aggies.

"The entire University is welcome to join with the yell leaders, the Aggie Band and the Corps of Cadets to kick-off the semester and get to know student organization leaders," Batsell said.

Leah Naso, assistant hall director for Mosher residence hall, said individual halls can bond by participating in tonight's events.

"All-University Night is intended to introduce the freshman Class of 2003 to Aggie traditions with the help of the yell leaders," Naso said.



MARK MCPHERSON AND ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

All-University Night will consist of several activities that take place at different areas of campus beginning at 6:30 p.m.

She said Bailey will lead the program, starting with a welcome, a prayer and the national anthem.

Bailey said A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Student Body President Will Hurd, Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs and A&M fall athletics will be introduced and participate in the evening's events at Kyle Field.

"Starting at 7:15 p.m., the jumbotron will come on showing highlight videos from each sport," he said.

Bailey said coaches and teams will be recognized and given the

opportunity to talk to the student body.

Daniel Pace a junior philosophy major and a resident of Hart Hall, said he has participated in All-U Night for the past three years and is looking forward to attending tonight's event.

"I've had a blast every year, and I've met thousands of new people," he said. "I think the new All-U Walk will be an asset in encouraging more students to participate."

Activities are expected to conclude around 8:15 p.m., and Howdy Dance will follow at Hurricane Harry's, Batsell said.

aggielife

C is for College

A variety of sources are available to help students make the grade.

sports

See the Texas A&M Football Preview '99 insert.

opinion

Closet skeletons

Columnists battle over whether or not Gov. Bush should answer question about drug use.

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new feature

The Battalion now has a daily crossword puzzle.

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Conference promotes campus unity

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

The 47th Annual MSC Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) held last Wednesday through Friday in Trinidad, Texas, provided 105 student leaders from various campus organizations with valuable leadership skills and the opportunity to build relationships used to unify campus.

Student Body President, Will Hurd, said the conference was helpful in building connections with other leaders.

He said the conference helped him better understand his own leadership abilities.

"It taught me a little bit more about my own personal style of leadership as well as how to communicate with others," Hurd said.

The conference consisted of a presentation on reading nonverbal communications by Jan Harveave and a question-and-answer session with Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, the Texas A&M Board of Regents and members of A&M administration.

Hurd said meeting with these influential leaders offered students an opportunity to interact with the Board of Regents, Dr. Bowen and the other administrators.

Barry Hammond, delegate for the Student Government Association and a sophomore business management major, said the conference provided him with a chance to see other areas of leadership he might be interested in.

"It gave me an opportunity to look at other [organizations]," Hammond said. "I'm going to get applications at Open House and really see how I can spread myself out and not just focus on one area."

Hurd said he has attended the conference three times, and every time, he leaves the conference with valuable information and a great vision for the upcoming year.

"I am a veteran of FLC, and every year, you always walk away thinking positively of the year," he said.

Campus Kick-Off Concert



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Peyton Lowrey (foreground) and Robb Marr (background) of Blue Earth performs Sunday at The Grove. The band was the final act for the First Annual Campus Kick-Off Concert. The concert was sponsored by the Texas A&M Interfraternity Council, the Panhellenic Council and the Department of Student Life.

Jury selection in Jasper trial to begin

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Tomorrow in Bryan the jury selection begins for the trial of Jasper resident, Lawrence Russell Brewer, the second of three accused in the 1998 dragging death of James A. Byrd Jr.

JASPER TRIAL

This trial follows the February 1999 conviction of John William King, who now sits on death row for Byrd's murder.

In June 1998, Byrd, a 49-year-old disabled black man, died after being chained to the back of a pick-up truck and dragged along a back road in the East Texas town of Jasper.

All three men charged with Byrd's murder, including Brewer, are accused of killing Byrd in an attempt to gain recognition for a white supremacist group they were planning to form. Brewer, 32, has entered a not guilty plea.

Brewer's defense attorneys successfully argued for a change of venue due to the

enormous publicity generated in Jasper by King's trial.

Jasper County District Judge Monte Lawlis planned for jury selection to start at the beginning of the Texas A&M fall semester when A&M employees would be available to ensure the largest possible pool for jurors. Brazos County, with a population of 138,000, is four times the size of Jasper.

Tomorrow's jury selection for the trial and is expected to last two weeks.

Brazos County mailed 600 jury summons to prospective jurors. Jury coordinator Ginger Lanehart said turnout will probably be a few hundred less. Following the completion of jury selection, presentation of evidence will begin.

Officers from the Bryan Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the FBI and the U.S. Marshal Service, along with 72 representatives from various media organizations, will be in attendance at tomorrow's proceedings.

The third defendant accused of Byrd's murder, Shawn Allen Berry, is still awaiting trial.

New cadets complete program

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The Corps of Cadets Freshman Orientation Week (FOW), a preparation for freshman members for life in the Corps and the upcoming academic year, concluded Saturday.

Deputy Corps commander, Mark Macicek, a senior business major, said FOW serves as a part of the learning process for freshmen cadets, who are not only taught how to operate in the Corps, but are also prepared for the upcoming school year by doing such things as setting up e-mail accounts and buying books.

Macicek said this early cadet training is necessary so once the school year begins, the cadets can focus on academics instead of being distracted by learning how to dress and march properly.

"The transition from high school to college is a huge step," he said, "but the transition from high school to the Corps is a change of life."



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

John Anderson, a senior biomedical science major, gives drill instruction to new freshmen during Freshmen Orientation Week Monday on the Quadrangle.

Col. Shady Groves, assistant commandant for operations and training, said one of the greatest achievements of this year's FOW was the cadet retention rate.

As of last Friday, 16 of the more than 600 freshmen had dropped out. Normally during FOW, 25 to 30 freshmen are lost, Groves said.

Macicek said he attributes the low drop-out rate in part to a new attempt by the Corps to change old policies.

Groves said one such change is the revision of the dining hall policy, which will allow cadets to eat in a more casual manner without as many rules from now on.

SEE CADETS ON PAGE 2.

Rush draws fewer applicants

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

During the annual sorority rush week, held last week, the Panhellenic Council experienced a decline of 150 applicants this year, as compared to last year for the event.

DaLynn Barker, Panhellenic rush chair and a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, said in past years more women have chosen to rush but were unsure if they would pledge a sorority at the end of the week. This year fewer women began rush, but were more confident in their decision to pledge.

"This year, there is a smaller freshman class, but the women were more definite about choosing to pledge," Barker, a senior public relations major, said.

Taylor Young, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and a junior recreation, parks and tourism major, said she was not concerned with the lower number of women participating because the quality of the participants had increased.

"Even though the numbers are

decreasing, Texas A&M still has one of the largest groups of girls deciding to affiliate with the Greek system," Young said. "The numbers don't matter because the new members this year uphold the highest standards."

Ten of the 12 houses participated in formal rush last week. Alpha Phi sorority will host a deferred rush in September as will Kappa Delta Delta sorority, which is a new sorority this year at A&M. Information sessions will be offered at the MSC Open House next Sunday.

Rush began with a convocation ceremony last Monday in Rudder Auditorium. The women were introduced to the events of the upcoming week by speeches, songs and skits performed by the Panhellenic Council executives and the Rush Team, headed by Barker.

Barker said convocation helps women to understand the events of the week ahead and what it means to be involved in the A&M Greek system.

"We try to enforce the idea that we are all Aggies first," Barker said.



ROBBIE GEHBAUER/THE BATTALION

Martha Tyroch (center), congratulates her daughter Melissa Tyroch (right) and her daughter's best friend Laura Pringle after both receive bids Saturday.

"And we don't want to overshadow the week after rush when school begins. Convocation emphasizes

SEE RUSH ON PAGE 2.