

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Safety, spirit, unity: First cut to kick off

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

First cut will begin tomorrow when Aggies gather at a wooded patch off FM 1361 near Jewellville to cut trees for Bonfire, the annual yell race held before the Texas A&M, University Texas-Austin football game in November.



An estimated 2,500 to 4,000 Aggies are expected to participate in the first phase of cut.

Josh Broach, a junior redpot and an industrial distribution major, said participation is always high for first cut.

"First cut is always a big number bringer," Broach said.

Broach said the number of participants will increase as students' academics take priority over extracurricular activities.

Rusty Thompson, Bonfire adviser and MSC assistant director, said safety will be an issue, as is every year.

"There are three priorities at Bonfire — safe-

ty, spirit and unity, but the safety of the students is [of] the utmost importance," Thompson said. "This may be the first time for some of these students to cut down a tree."

Whitney Turner, a Kruger Bonfire co-chair and business major, said students who wanted to attend cut must have attended one of the classes held this week by the senior redpots to teach students about safe and proper conduct in the woods.

"Safe conduct would be calling 'clear' when when you are about to swing or 'headache' when a tree is falling," she said.

According to Bonfire policy, participants at cut must wear jeans, steel-toed boots and protective glasses, which will be handed out at the site. Medics will be at the site to deal with any injuries.

Policy states that rest stops will also be available for the safety of weary drivers and their passengers while they transport logs back to the Bonfire site.

Also, alcohol is not tolerated at any Bonfire-related activity, and those who violate this policy will be asked to leave the area.

Contributing to Bonfire is the Bonfire Reload Committee, which will be at the cut site delivering water and lunches to the students participating.

In the future, the cut site will be the site of a new power plant operated by Alternative Fuels Corporation.

Collision



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

A collision occurred at the intersection of Coke and Lewis Streets Thursday at 6:10 p.m., involving a Jeep Grand Cherokee and Toyota. The drivers, Jim Butler of Bryan and Angela Winker of College Station, were not seriously injured in the accident.

Women's awareness event's focus

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Five years ago, the First Friday event began in Corpus Christi as a way to remind women to take the first Friday of every month off as a day to care for themselves and their personal health.

Today, the event has been brought to College Station by the Texas A&M chapter of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) as a way to bring awareness of early detection of breast cancer to the A&M community.

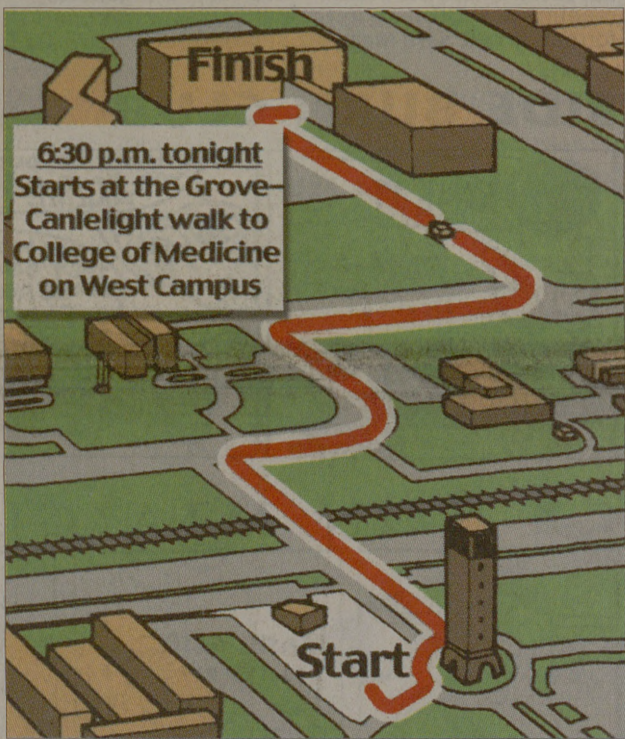
Kristen Parker, president of the A&M chapter of AMWA and a second year medical student, said the idea to bring the event to A&M began when she first witnessed the event in Corpus Christi with her mother.

"I was just so moved by the entire event that I knew it was something that had to happen at A&M," Parker said.

Parker said the motivation for the original event stemmed from the idea that women are often so busy taking care of their family and friends they often forget to take care of themselves.

"We decided [to] join with other organizations such as the American Cancer Society and St. Joseph Regional Cancer Center to instead put on an event that will remind women of the importance of breast cancer detection, such as monthly self examinations and regular mammograms," she said.

Shannon Blalock, a member of the A&M chapter of AMWA and a second year medical student, said



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

the event will begin with a candlelight walk as a way of honoring those who have survived the battle with breast cancer, as well as a way to attract the community's attention so they can learn about this deadly, but correctable illness.

"Breast cancer is one of the most deadly cancers in women, but it is also one of the most curable," Blalock said.

"It is a real tragedy that more people don't realize that."

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. with a candlelight walk from the Grove near Albritton Tower to the College of Medicine's facilities on West Campus.

The First Friday event will also feature speakers to discuss their personal battles with the deadly disease along with some of the most recent discoveries made toward a cure for breast cancer.

Garages to begin charging handicapped students

BY RICH BRAY
The Battalion

Starting today, Sarah Whitlock, a senior psychology major who requires the use of a wheelchair, will have to pay for a parking garage space, like many other Aggies.

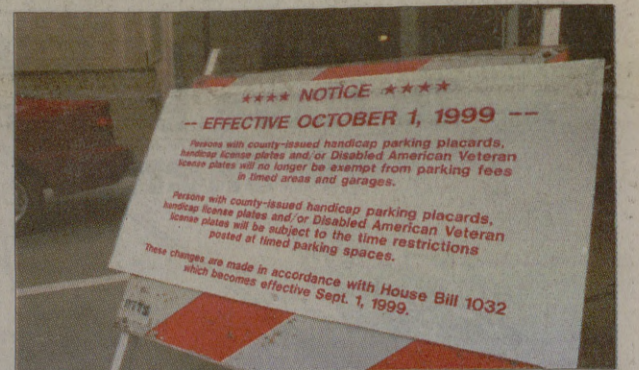
Whitlock is an officer in Sigma Phi Lambda, is a Breakaway volunteer and attends football games; the only difference between Sarah and most students is that she was born with spastic cerebral palsy, which is caused by brain damage resulting in abnormal functioning of the nerves controlling her arms and legs.

"I can do everything that everyone else can do," she said.

For the past few weeks, signs have been posted outside the entrances to all of the parking garages on campus stating "persons with county issued handicap parking placards, handicap license plates and/or Disabled American Veteran license plates will no longer be exempt from parking fees in timed areas and garages [and] will be subject to the time restrictions posted at timed parking spaces."

Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said some patrons of the parking garages want everyone who parks to pay for parking.

"Basically, handicapped parkers had always been exempt from paying the parking meters or paying in pay areas," he said. "This caused concern with the people in all of the pay areas, airports and cities especially."



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Signs like these have been placed at parking garages on campus.

Williams said he anticipates no problems with charging disabled garage users.

"The handicapped students, if they choose to park in a garage, I don't think, will mind," he said. "The handicapped community, those who are truly disabled, are just asking for a place to park."

Whitlock said she agrees and does not mind paying a fee to park.

"I don't really care that I have to pay, as long as I can get a spot," Whitlock said. "Many other handicapped A&M students feel the same way. They just want to have a place to park."

India business, technology topic of panel's discussion

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

The common man in India first logged onto the Internet on Aug. 15, 1995, and according to the India Business and Technology Consortium (IBTC), India has the fifth largest economy in the world and is poised to become a powerful participant in the world's future market.

The IBTC will host a panel discussion today from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White 267 about the advancement of Internet use in India.

Four guest speakers will spend 10 minutes each discussing ways the Internet affects the business link between India and the United States.

Sunil Menon, president of IBTC and a business administration graduate student, said the purpose of the discussion is two-fold.

"This panel is going to get across to people that the technology in India is advancing rapidly," he said. "It will also inform the audience of the expanding business opportunities through the Internet."

Dr. Willis Marti, a computer science senior lecturer, will discuss the technical aspects of the internet, its working and present situation in India and the changes

and improvements in relation to India joining the information super highway.

Dr. Manjit Yadav, internet marketing associate professor, will focus on the business commerce between businesses in India and the relationships India has with other web educated countries.

Dr. Ramdas Menon, a sociologist, will present the social impact of the Internet in India and citizens' responses to the addition of the internet in their country.

Closing out the panel, Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Income Tax Deputy Commissioner, will discuss the role of India's government, GOI policies, security systems required for e-commerce in India and the road map for the future.

Dr. Arvin Mahajan, professor of finance at A&M's Lowry Mays School of Business, will moderate the final discussion which is open to local graduates, undergraduates and the business in the community. IBTC will provide free pizza for patrons.

"We hope to accomplish many things during the discussion," Menon said. "But most important is the fact the Internet makes the world a smaller place, and the advancement of other countries can benefit the rest of the world."

News in Brief

Bush School target of false bomb threat

University Police Department officials evacuated the George Bush School of Government and Public Service yesterday between 1:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. due to an anonymous bomb threat.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department, said police inspected the building and found no evidence of explosive devices.

Charles Johnson, head of the Department of Political Science, said the evacuation resulted in several classes between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. being canceled.

"Students in these classes should be prepared to pick up where they left off on Tuesday, including being prepared for missed tests," Johnson said.

"If they have any questions, they should try to contact their teachers."

Wiatt said if the caller is found, he or she may face the charge of "issuing a false report," a class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine of up to \$4,000 and one year in prison.

"We get anywhere from four-to-six of these types of hoax calls a year," he said. "But that doesn't mean that they aren't serious, criminal offenses."

The George Bush Presidential Library Complex did not evacuate patrons.

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This weekend's game against Texas Tech kicks off competition.

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Charging disabled students garage fees poses new obstacle for some.

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Batt Radio

Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on upcoming Brazos Valley Orchestra performances.

Reception to honor African-Americans

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

African-American students, faculty, staff and administrators will be recognized at a reception celebrating and honoring "Thirty Years of African-American Tradition" tonight at 6:30 in Reed Arena.

Betty Hanks, Class of '69 and owner of Big Top Learning Center in Bryan, entered A&M as one of the first African-American students in 1965, determined to get an education and become a teacher.

"I am a very outgoing person," Hanks said. "I didn't see color. Even though I would be the only black person in my class, it never really bothered me. Most people didn't act like [color] was factor either."

Hanks said she chose to come to A&M because she is originally from Bryan, and it was convenient to home.

"I was confident and knew I'd be able to excel [even if I was in the minority]," she said.

Mary Broussard, coordinator for special programs for the associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services, said this is the first reception honoring African-Americans at A&M.

"We are celebrating students, faculty and staff who have played a big role in helping Texas A&M to remain one of the world's primary institutions," she said.

Others recognized include Bryan County Commissioner Carey Cauley; Mel Pruitt, a retired educator and community activist; and James Courtney, Class of '67 who was the first African-American to graduate and earn a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from A&M.

Broussard said they will recognize past African-American student leaders, such as Ronnie McDonald, the first African-American yell leader; Bobby Bisor, the first African-American MSC president; and Frederick McClure, the first African-American student body president.

