

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Friday • November 12, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 55 • 10 Pages

Slocum, club ask to change Midnight Yell to earlier time

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

Midnight Yell Practice is too late in the evening to allow the Texas A&M Football Team to participate and there are some Aggies who think the tradition should change.

The idea of moving yell practices to an earlier time was raised by questions posed at a Quarterback Club meeting two weeks ago as to how the football team could have more interaction with the student body.

R.C. Slocum, A&M head football coach, said he is not trying to change the time of yell practice but is posing questions in response to questions he has been asked.

"It would not be for me to carry the ball with this idea," he said. "At the Quarterback Club meeting, several past yell leaders felt the idea of changing the time of yell practice was a good idea, and it could enhance and benefit future yell practices."

Slocum said the team does not get to see the enthusiasm of former students, and current students and other fans at yell practices because it is too late for them to be out before game day.

"I would love to bring the football team out to a yell practice, to let them see the elevated significance of the game and the enthusiasm of the fans," he said. "I have been here for 27 years, and the yell practices have always been at midnight. I am not wanting to change Midnight Yell to 8 or 9 p.m., but I feel it would be motivating to the team to have them participate at the yell practices."

Jeff Bailey, head yell leader and a senior agricultural systems management major, said even though he and the other yell leaders are in charge of changes to Midnight Yell Practice, they would not do anything without the consent of the student body.

"We would not make a hasty decision, because Yell Practice is a big tradition at Texas A&M," he said. "Since yells are over for this year, any possible changes will take place next year with the 2000-2001 yell leaders and the student body."

Bailey said if Slocum is serious about a change, then there can be a compromise, but they would not abolish Midnight Yell Practice.

"If they [Slocum and the football team] want an early yell, then we'll have one," he

said. "But it's not necessarily going to be at the cost of Midnight Yell. We'll just have both."

Slocum said every new idea is bound to start some controversy.

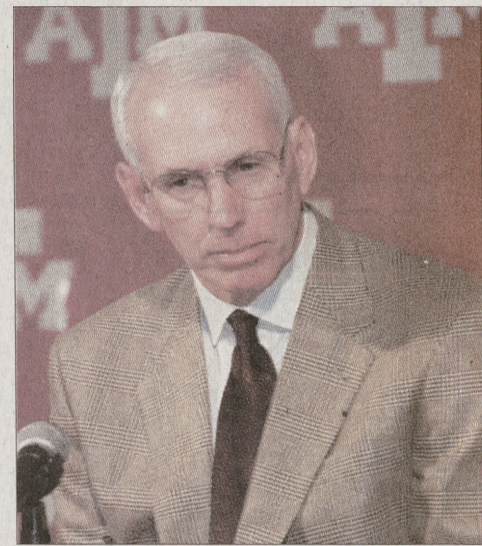
"My question was, 'If Midnight Yell is intended to create enthusiasm for a football game, for the team and for current and former students, then why isn't the team there?'" he said. "Is there anything magical about 12 a.m. instead of 8 or 9 p.m.?"

Slocum said he wants closer interaction between students and the football team.

"I feel a lot more people would be willing and able to attend the yell practices, from older Aggies[to] parents who want their children to participate in a yell practice but are unwilling to have their children stay up until 1 a.m., to students and former [students]," he said.

Slocum said yell practices have not always been at midnight.

"Many years back, yell practices were held after chow, which would be around 7:30 or 8 p.m., and was initially for A&M students," he said. "As the years progressed, former students and families be-



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M head football coach said he would like to have Midnight Yell Practice at an earlier time.

gan to attend, therefore evolving into Midnight Yell Practice."

Slocum said another factor to consider is intoxicated students participating at Midnight Yell Practices.

"There are some students who get out of class on Fridays and begin drinking at bars, before the yell practices," he said. "Therefore arriving in an intoxicated state at the yell practices, possibly getting into their cars and driving intoxicated on the roads at 1 a.m."

ALLIES to host Advance

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Aggie ALLIES will support the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community at Texas A&M today by hosting an ALLY Advance, a three-hour workshop for those interested in becoming a member of ALLIES.

Sherree Schwarz, a graduate assistant in the Gender Issues Education Services (GIES) office, attended the last Advance and said moving forward is the focus of Advance.

"A lot of organizations take retreats, which is a step back, moving away from everything," she said. "[ALLIES] call ours an 'advance,' because we want to take a step forward." ALLIES was started in Summer 1993 by A&M staff and faculty to support the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community on campus, and the Advances started soon after. This is the third advance this semester hosted by Aggie ALLIES to educate supporters of the GLBT community at A&M.

Schwarz said there usually are 20 participants, but attendance varies. The workshops are scheduled about three times each fall and spring semester. Participants explore their personal knowledge of "heterosexual privilege" and homophobia through films and discussions with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered panels.

"The [GLBT] community is very misunderstood, and ALLIES provides an opportunity for A&M to raise awareness and support for them," Schwarz said.

Alison Ewing, an ALLY and a senior psychology major, joined ALLIES this summer to show support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community at A&M and in the Bryan-College Station area.

"[ALLIES] provides a safe haven for members of the GLBT community to talk about issues that affect them without being judged," she said.

Schwarz said attending an advance does not automatically make someone an ALLY.

"Participants of Advance are not required to join ALLIES; it is their option," she said. "People can weigh their options for as long as they need. To ensure their place as an ALLY, though, they have to sign a contract."

Once the contract is signed, ALLIES are required to display placards distributed by GIES in a visible area.

Schwarz said people pin the placards to their backpacks, put them in car windows or hang them on their doors.

Other activities ALLIES participates in to show support include hosting speakers, question-and-answer discussion groups and information tables, she said.

Ewing said a panel consisting of homosexual and bisexual community members will answer questions about the discrimination and persecution they deal with daily.

Schwarz said those interested in attending an Advance must R.S.V.P. to the GIES office.

Just Peace Institute to aid creek cleanup

One hundred expected to participate in event

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Susan Scott, environmental coordinator for the Just Peace Institute, is not afraid to get dirty to help clean up local creeks. In fact, she says, she would not have it any other way.

"It's really just fun," she said. "We get together and eat doughnuts before we go have a great time mucking around while cleaning up the creeks."

Scott will be one of an estimated 100 volunteers who will meet tomorrow morning to clean up White Creek, a waterway extending from the George Bush Presidential Library and Conference Center to the Horticulture Building on West Campus.

"We get to improve the aesthetics of the campus while improving the local wildlife habitat," Scott said. "This is a really special area that should be enjoyed by everyone."

She said the activity will be a worthwhile and exciting activity that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

"We never really know what we are going to find out there," Scott said. "While working on a different creek, we once found things that were at least 20 years old."

David Scott, vice president of the Brazos Greenways Council (BGC), said the cleanup will be a joint effort between the BGC and the Just Peace Institute to draw attention to local creeks and waterways as a source of

aesthetic pleasure for the community and a vital part of local habitats.

"People very often see creeks as a hindrance to growth, but they can be a great contributing factor to expansion through their contribution of beauty," he said.

Scott said the amount of trash found by volunteers can be surprising.

"It's unbelievable how much trash you collect sometimes," he said. "A friend and I once worked in a 5-square-yard area and collected about a dozen trash bags full of trash."

Scott said the cleanup is motivated by an effort to promote the White Creek area as a site for a potential greenway.

"A greenway is basically a linear, open and natural space that often follows creeks or other natural corridors," he said. "It's something that would really improve the aesthetics of the area while providing a more preserved natural habitat for plants and animals."

Scott Shafer, a BGC board member, said the University already has set aside approximately 40 acres along the creek but cannot sculpt the area into a greenway until sponsors are found to pay for construction.

"We can start off small with a relatively small amount of money," Shafer said. "When people realize the potential beauty of the area, I am sure that funding will be relatively no problem."

Reflections



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Faith Burton, a junior psychology major, works on a project as part of a stained-glass class at University Plus. University Plus offers non-traditional classes on a variety of subjects for both students and non-students.

Veterinarian to teach first aid, CPR for pets

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

First aid and CPR are important not only for the safety of people but of animals as well. A pet first-aid class will be offered tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon.

The class will be conducted by a veterinarian and Kathy Glaze, veterinary technician for the Veterinary Small Animal Hospital.

Kandy Rose, vice president of the Brazos Valley Golden Retriever Rescue (BV-GRR), said the course is to promote animal safety and to serve as a fund raiser.

"This is the first year we have had a course dealing with pet first aid," she said. "A number of owners of golden retrievers have not gone through pet first aid; therefore, this is a great benefit for the owners."

Rose said BVGRR helps animals — mainly dogs — within a 100-mile radius of the Bryan-College Station area.

She said the class will offer an overview of first aid for pets and will allow participants to get hands-on experience in performing first aid on animals.

She said Glaze will bring dogs for participants to practice on.

The class will present a slide presentation on how to recognize an emergency and what to do for an animal during an emergency. There also will be activities, such as counting heart rates and bandaging.

Glaze said they have done these types of classes in the past, and focus will on the aid of dogs and cats.

"We [did] a pet first-aid class like this one for Red Cross last year," she said. "These types of classes help people to recognize an emergency situation, such as bleeding, stomach problems or anything potentially life-threatening to an animal."

Glaze said the class will offer advice on what to carry in a first-aid kit and what people can do if they see an animal hit by a car. She said this class also offers tips on what people can do to help an injured pet while en route to a veterinarian.

"Everyone needs to know how to perform first aid on an animal, even if you are or are not a pet owner," she said. "Even the simplest things, like carrying a blanket in your car or an old T-shirt to tie around

PET FIRST AID CLASS

Learn:

- to recognize emergency situations
- what to do when your dog is hit by a car
- how to save a pet's life



Saturday
9AM to noon

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

a hurt dog's muzzle to protect yourself, can help when you least expect it."

Ashley Anderson, a sophomore general studies major and a dog owner, said the class will benefit those who want to learn how to help save a pet's life.

SEE PETS ON PAGE 2.

Architecture to present first global symposium

BY DIANE XAVIER
The Battalion

The College of Architecture will host its first global symposium conference in celebration of international expertise today at the Langford Architecture Center Building C in rooms 105, 111 and 414 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Approximately 40 presenters will cover topics ranging from architectural and planning theory to structures and construction education, historic preservation, computers and design. These 40 presentations represent more than 200 refereed papers presented during the 1998-99 academic year by College of Architecture faculty at scholarly meetings and academic institutions around the world.

"This is an opportunity for our students to see what our department offers in knowledge and research," Shana Hutchins, communications specialist, said. "There aren't a lot of colleges that can present these vast amounts of research like ours. Students will also get the opportunity to see their professors in action and outside of classroom settings."

Tom Regan, dean of the College of Architecture, said the symposium is a reflection of a college with something to offer in every field.

"This symposium is a mirror image of the range and depth of research and scholarly work currently underway in our college," he said. "Regardless of the nature of your fascination with the built and virtual environment, this symposium includes a paper that you will find of interest."

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