

Reveille VII will debut Saturday at Reed

Four-month-old collie to arrive with breeders from Florida

By COURTNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

Reveille VII will quickly realize that she has big paws to fill when she arrives in College Station this afternoon. Her arrival in Aggieland marks the beginning of Reveille VI's last chapter as the first lady of Texas A&M.

The process of finding a successor was not easy.

Craig Serold, mascot corporal in 1998-'99 and a senior computer engineering major, spent the last year and a half examining collie breeders throughout the country to find a suitable match for the needs of Texas A&M.

"Our No. 1 priority in this whole deal was to get a healthy dog," Serold said. Health is important because of the large

amount of traveling that Reveille must do each year, he said.

Dr. Claudia Barton, the official veterinarian of Reveille VI, found an article about Dr. Cyndi Bossart, a collie breeder and veterinarian in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Serold said. The article said Bossart is a specialist in genetic engineering for collies. Her research in the field is highly acclaimed, and the University was confident it had found the right breeder, Serold said.

With the help of her husband, Jim Efron, and Nancy McDonald, a collie breeder, Bossart was able to engineer a "perfect" collie. Collies bred by Bossart, Efron and McDonald consistently rank among the top in the nation, Serold said.

Reveille VII is being donated to the University by Bossart, Efron and McDonald. Her value as a show dog is an estimated \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Efron said they decided to give away such an expensive collie because of the myth and folklore surrounding the Aggie mascot.

"We were absolutely impressed in the tradition with this collie. We are very excited for her, and she is looking forward to her new home," Efron said.

It took eight months and two litters before breeders had the perfect dog, Serold said. Reveille VII was the only puppy in a litter delivered Oct. 9, 2000, by a collie owned by McDonald.

Kevin Graham, 1999-'00 mascot corporal and a junior marketing major,

said the University normally gets the new mascots when they are younger.

"They come on campus when they're three weeks old, as little fuzz balls, and they're real cute, and everybody loves them," Graham said. "But, we've kind of had the dilemma of whether we wanted to have that."

After consulting with the veterinarians in Florida, Corps of Cadets Company E-2, the outfit that handles Reveille, decided to let Bossart keep the puppy for a few extra months and begin some basic obedience training.

"For the past several months down in Florida, they've had her through some extensive training, obedience training

See REVEILLE VII on Page 6.



Reveille VII arrives from Florida today and will make her Aggie mascot debut at Saturday's basketball game. COURTESY OF COMPANY E-2

Student parades for pageant's crown

By ELIZABETH RAINES
The Battalion

This weekend, Texas A&M will try to hold on to its state title of Miss Black and Gold for the fourth year in a row. Fully Diallo, a senior chemical engineering major, will compete for the title in Waco Saturday.

The Miss Black and Gold pageant is held annually by the 15 Texas undergraduate chapters of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

"This pageant is important because it shows Texas A&M's commitment to diversity," said Alpha Phi Alpha member Michael Broussard, a senior economics major. "In the past 14 years, we've been on campus. Texas

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All that jazz



Jazz saxophone players and members of the Texas A&M Jazz Society David Simmons, a senior biology major; Derick Sager, a graduate student; and

Lindsay Lambourne, a freshman general studies major, perfect a jazz number during jazz ensemble rehearsals on Thursday night.

STUART VILLANEUVA/THE BATTALION

Task forces hear Aggie concerns

Committee stresses safety

By SOMMER BUNCE
The Battalion

Students looked to Bonfire 2002 committees Thursday to explain how the void caused by Bonfire's absence on campus could be filled.

In an open forum held Thursday afternoon in the Memorial Student Center, task force representatives met with students to reiterate the goals of Bonfire planning and hear the students' concerns.

Bonfire Steering Committee co-chairman Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs,

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co-chairman of Student Leadership and Participation Task Force

said he recognizes that changing Bonfire means changing the way students relate to one another.

"When this enormous tradition and event was not there, the vacuum [it left] was enormous, absolutely enormous," Southerland said. "Maybe for student leaders and the staff of residence halls, that was 100 percent clear. But as far as the reaction time of filling that void is concerned, we're not all the way through that [time] yet. We still need to be having these conversations."

Students who are concerned that Bonfire has taken on a negative meaning on campus asked the committees what could change that and asked when the idea of Bonfire would no longer be taboo. Southerland said students should think of Bonfire in a positive light, beginning now.

"In the Bonfire committees, it's our goal [to be] extremely connected to the past," Southerland said. "We have to remember this enormous tragedy as we move forward so that we can move forward in the right way. [but] we also have to keep the positive aspects of Bonfire with us."

A top priority of the Student Leadership and Participation Task Force is to create a plan that will allow the same amount of camaraderie from the past in 2002.

"It wasn't the love of waking up at 4:30 every morning to go cut wood that got you to go out [to cut]," said co-chairman Josh Kaylor, a junior agricultural development major. "It was going out there with the 15 or 20 people from your dorm that you had built a bond with. That's what got you out of bed, because you didn't want to let them down. And that's what we want to preserve."

Student involvement in Bonfire is paramount to the committees' plans, Kaylor said.

However, so is keeping those students safe, said Safety Task Force co-chairman Chris Meyer, director of Environmental Health and Safety at A&M.

Meyer said the design of Bonfire 2002 must be safe for students. He said he will challenge the engineering team chosen to design the structure to create a stack that is "inherently collapse-proof."

"We need to build safety in from the ground up, not have it as an afterthought," he said.

Risk is present in any situation, said Design and Construction co-chairman Jim Smith. The safest way to move a log between two points is with a crane — but a design plan will have to include a safe way for students to move the log, he said.

"There's no way 20 Aggies can't pick that log up and move it from point A to point B," Smith said. "The designer is going to be challenged to come up with maximum student participation to make it safe for 20 Aggies to move a log or to do whatever needs to be done. I am confident in this next Bonfire. It will be different, but it can be made safe. We're obviously looking for a firm that's got some imagination and ideas about how they can make this next Bonfire truly unique," he said.

Thinking of Bonfire as a symbol for A&M, one must also see Bonfire's collapse as a signal to the University that it is time to change the

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Opening delayed again

PTTS sectioning lot into student, event parking

By AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

The opening of a new parking lot adjacent to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum has been delayed for the second time in three weeks. The additional parking spaces will be available to students with commuter tags on a limited basis.

PTTS decided Tuesday not to open the lot today because of damp weather.

Providing a total of 327 spaces, the parking area is divided in four sections.



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

The opening of the parking lot adjacent to the George Bush Presidential Library to students has been delayed.

See LOT on Page 2.

Senate encourages Aggies to vote for transportation fee

By JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

In support of its own bill that created Transportation Fee Referendum, the Texas A&M Student Senate approved a resolution Wednesday urging the student body to vote in favor of the fee during special elections next week.

The special elections will be held Friday and Wednesday so that the fee,

if approved by the student body, can appear on the Board of Regents' agenda for its March meeting.

Online and on-campus voting will be available for the special election.

The resolution urged the Election Commission to advertise the special election and applauded Bus Operations and Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) for working with the student

body. The proposed \$50 transportation fee would provide extended bus services for students both on and off campus and provide for the purchase of new buses.

In other business, the Student Senate passed a resolution demonstrating appreciation to Patrick A. Williams, Class of '92, for his work with student government as the campus programs director for the Association of Former Students.

Wednesday was Williams' last day at the Association; he has taken a job in Dallas.

Finally, the Senate approved a resolution expressing its concern about the situation in which students' voter registration cards were allegedly misplaced or discarded by the Voter Registrar's Office of Brazos County during the registration process for the November 2000 presidential election.