

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

# THE BATTALION

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Dub Miller to open All-U Night tonight

All-University Night will be held in Kyle Field tonight, followed by a free concert featuring Dub Miller on the Law-Puryear Field.

"The past few years, fights and squabbles after All-U Night were ruining it for everybody," said Jorge Barrera, Residence Hall Association (RHA) president and a senior electrical engineering major. "The concert is free to everyone. We want to turn this into an event that is void of a lot of the bad bull that has shown up in the past. This needs to be an event that promotes hall pride and allows all campus groups to come together."

The band will begin playing at 6:30 p.m. at the Quadrangle and march through campus, picking up students along the way.

The route will run from the Quad to the Commons, past the Pavilion and Sterling C. Evans Library, through the Academic plaza and around Albritton Tower to the side of Kyle Field.

"We are very excited about the chance to get the students together to promote fall sports. Student participation is essential for all the events," said Kevin Graham, a senior yell leader and a marketing major.

All U-Night is sponsored by RHA, MSC Town Hall and Class Councils.

### PUBLIC EYE

#### F.Y.I.

Party Task Force citations given in seven weekends Fall 2000

Alcohol — 605  
Disorderly conduct — 212  
Arrests — 95

### TODAY

#### AGGIELIFE

Page 3A

Back to school

• Businesses, local organizations prepare for the back to school rush

### SPORTS

Page 7A

Aggs pound Hurricanes

• No. 11 A&M squad to open season Friday

### OPINION

Page 12A

MTV turns 20

• Network continues to push the bounds of acceptability

### WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 95° F  
LOW 74° F

TOMORROW

HIGH 97° F  
LOW 75° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanted.com

"I just want to get better, finish my education, and get out in the real world."

— John Comstock, 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse survivor

## Comstock returns

By SOMMER BUNCE  
THE BATTALION

When John Comstock was a freshman, the letter "A" shaved into his hair helped spell "Moses Hall" when he joined his fellow "letterheads" for pictures on the steps of Sbis Dining Hall.

Like his fellow freshmen, Comstock "pushed" when his upperclassmen caught him "pulling out." He played in a football game against the older students during his residence hall's Fish Fry and lost. He went to his share of parties, with some of his earliest classes beginning at 3 p.m.

He also responded to the 4:15 a.m. wake-up calls from crew chiefs to be the first hall at the Bonfire cut site.

"Moses Hall was always 'first in, last out,'" Comstock said, remembering the two-hour waits for the sun to come up and the red pots to arrive. "But I had a blast. There was always something going on — never a dull moment."

Before the night of Nov. 17, 1999, the highest Comstock had been on the Bonfire stack was the first tier. He had stood on the ground and gazed up at the 60-foot-tall center pole, watching as each tier of logs emerged and the Aggie Bonfire began to reach its full height. He and the crew from his hall had swung axes at the logs that were then at the Bonfire site.

Working into the early morning hours of Nov. 18, 45 feet up on the third tier of the stack, Comstock had told a friend to give him five minutes to finish setting up wire that the next shift of Bonfire workers would use to tie in more logs. At 2:42 a.m., the stack swayed, and Comstock heard a loud crack.

"The only thing you had time to do was hold on to the log in front of you and ride it down," he said.

The 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse left 12 people dead and 27 injured. Each one of these Aggies has a story, but for Comstock, who awoke from a coma between Christmas 1999 and New Year's and spent a year and a half in intensive physical therapy, the return to a normal life is just beginning.

Today, for the first time since the collapse, Comstock, a junior biomedical sciences major, will return to classes at A&M, no longer a "letterheaded" freshman, but a man whose "crazy streak died down."

"I'm just trying to finish out my education; that's my main goal right now," Comstock said, sitting in his wheelchair in his room in Moses Hall. "Certain parts of my personality are different, but I have the same feelings as before. I want to have fun, and I just want to be a college kid."

See COMSTOCK on page 9A.



John Comstock, a junior biomedical sciences major, returns to A&M this fall after two years of rehabilitation from injuries sustained in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. Comstock says he is excited about returning and eager to finish his education.

## Northgate parking curtailed

By MAUREEN KANE  
THE BATTALION

### Council votes to remove free street parking spots

Aggies heading to Northgate soon will have to dig a little deeper into their pockets to finance their fun.

The College Station City Council approved an amendment Thursday night that will prohibit parking on both sides of the streets in the Northgate area and will turn remaining on-street parking into metered parking.

This is one of the final steps of the Northgate Parking Plan, adopted by the council last year. According to College

Station Fire Marshal Jon Mies, the plan will increase mobility and decrease conflicts between bikes, parked cars and pedestrians in Northgate by reducing on-street parking by 50 percent.

Since July 2000, 148 spaces west of Nagle Street have been removed, as have 220 spaces from the Brazos Duplex Property. Soon, 120 on-street spaces south of Cross Street and west of Nagle Street will become metered spots. The council

will decide on meter rates and usage after prospective rates are reviewed by City Manager Tom Brymer.

The council's move preceded the grand-opening of the \$6 million College Main Parking Garage Saturday. The garage offers free parking from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday; otherwise, rates during the week are 50 cents per hour between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. and \$1.50 per hour from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Some College Station residents who attended the meeting voiced concerns about the effect the parking plan could have on Northgate establishments. Don Ganter owns three establishments on Northgate, which can hold a total of 1,844 customers. He said the 59 parking spaces he owns are insufficient because he cannot even provide parking to his 68 employees.

"We are becoming victims of inverse condemnation," Ganter said. "The parking garage and surface parking are totally inadequate."

Robert Forrest, owner of Sarge's on Northgate, said current parking is necessary and that Northgate actually needs 2,000 more spaces. Forrest said the council is focusing solely on the Northgate garage and surface lot.

"We are so worried about whether the garage is going to pay for itself that we've lost focus about all of Northgate: all of the churches, restaurants, retailers, all of the people who have to live and deal in Northgate," Forrest said.

Representatives from churches on Northgate were also present to voice their opinions on the plan.

See PARKING on page 2A.

## Ag dies from car accident

By EMILY HENDRICKSON  
THE BATTALION

Lauren Michelle Goulas, a 19-year-old sophomore business administration major, died Aug. 5 from injuries sustained in a July 16 automobile accident.

Her car was struck on the driver's side, leaving her with serious head injuries. She fell into a coma and never regained consciousness.

Her mother, Cindy Goulas, said Lauren was making her way home to Spring, Texas, with four friends after a day of shopping in the Houston Galleria when the accident occurred. None of the passengers were injured.

Lauren had gone shopping to get her mother a birthday present, Cindy said. She had been doing one of the things she loved most, being with friends, Cindy said.

"Lauren enjoyed friends and enjoyed life," she said.

"She wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do yet, but she was always busy and full of life," Cindy said.

See GOULAS on page 2A.

### HOURLY RATES

2 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$ .50 cents  
7 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$ 1.50  
\$10 special event parking  
Sunday: Free parking 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



### CONTRACT PARKING RATES

6 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Monday through Friday  
\$55/month, \$200/semester, \$550/year



### 24-Hour, 7-Day Lease

\$640/semester, \$1,600/year



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