

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

— John Comstock, 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse survivor

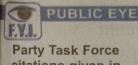
NEWS IN BRIEF Dub Miller to open All-U Night tonight

All-University Night will be d in Kyle Field tonight, folved by a free concert fearing Dub Miller on the Lawryear Field.

"The past few years, fights squabbles after All Uight were ruining it for erybody, said Jorge arrera, Residence Hall sociation (RHA) president d a senior electrical engiering major. "The concert free to everyone. We want turn this into an event that void of a lot of the bad bull at has shown up in the ast. This needs to be an ent that promotes hall ide and allows all campus. oups to come together.'

The band will begin playat 6:30 p.m. at the uadrangle and march rough campus, picking up udents along the way.

The route will run from the uad to the Commons, past the avilion and Sterling C. Evans ibrary, through the Academic laza and around Albritton ower to the side of Kyle Field. "We are very excited about he chance to get the students gether to promote fall sports. tudent participation is essenial 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.



citations given in seven weekends Fall 2000 Alcohol — 605 Disorderly conduct — 212 Arrests — 95

ADO

AGGIELIFE

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 Sbisa 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 begin-

ning 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 high-

est 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;



a LESS

say?

lar.com

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squad to open season Friday

OPINION

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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

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 sustained in the 1999 Aggie Bonfire collapse. Comstock says to A&M this fall after two years of rehabilitation from injuries he is excited about returning and eager to finish his education:

Northgate parking curtailed

By MAUREEN KANE THE BATTALION

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

HOURAY RATE

7 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$1.50

Monday through Friday

6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2 a.m. to 7 p.m. \$.50 cents

\$10 special event parking

Contract Park

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

Sunday: Free parking 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

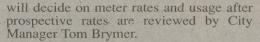
\$55/month, \$200/semester, \$550/

24-Hour, 7-Day Lease

Council votes to remove free street parking spots

Station Fire Marshal Jon Mies, the plan will increase mobility and decrease conflicts between bikes, parked cars and pedestrians in Northgate by reducing onstreet 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



The council's move preceded the grandopening 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 By EMILY HENDRICKSON

THE BATTALION

Lauren Michelle Goulas 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

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

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.

what she wanted to do yet,

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION