

AggieLife

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THE BATTALION

Page 3



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Students discuss how to have the perfect tailgate party

By MARIANNE HUDSON
THE BATTALION

On Saturdays when Aggie football commences in Kyle Field, maroon-clad students fill the stadium by the tens of thousands. Yet for some fans, game day begins much earlier. Hours before kickoff, \$11.86 per semester hungry for action satisfy their appetite with a pre-game tailgate party.

Tailgate parties, commonly referred to as "tailgates," can serve a variety of purposes. Tailgates can range from personal ventures hosted by a group of friends or a family to full-blown, commercial tailgate parties — an option that is becoming increasingly popular and attractive to fans.

When planning a tailgate party, a variety of factors must be considered. Planning, supplies and University rules and regulations are vital to the success of pre-game festivities.

One or two weeks of preparation can be very beneficial for all involved. This allows sufficient time to contact friends and family in order to make arrangements such as where to meet, what time and who will bring the various necessities.

The size of the party is often a determinant on where the tailgate should be held. Small groups of friends often find places such as parking lots to suit their needs.

Bryan Shore, a senior psychology major, has his own system for ensuring an optimal tailgating site. "We usually have somebody park their truck in a spot the night before to reserve a place for our tailgate," he said.

Tailgate parties can be found in virtually all parking lots and open areas prior to all football

games. Recreational vehicles (RVs), can park in Lot 74. Parking is free and is on a first-come first-serve basis. RVs must park after 5:30 p.m. on the night before the game. Because of 12th Man parking occupying all close parking areas around Kyle Field, many students tend to seek out a nice piece of real estate on some grass or under a tree for convenience.

Larger tailgates, such as those held by The Association of Former Students, require much more space.

"A grill, an ice chest and people are essential to a good party. It is a good way to socialize with a large crowd without a cover charge."

— Bryan Shore
senior psychology major

"We tailgate before every home game in front of the Clayton W. Williams Alumni Center," said Christina Horz, communications coordinator for The Association.

When a tailgate party occurs, its duration fluctuates from group to group.

"We begin an hour and a half or so before the game if it is a night game," said Josh Connelly, Class of 1999. "If it is a day game, the tailgate starts right after the game and ends whenever everyone decides to leave."

The Association regularly starts three hours

before the game and ends 30 minutes before kickoff. Once the location and time have been set, the real fun begins.

"A grill, an ice chest and people are essential to a good party," said Shore. "It is a good way to socialize with a large crowd without a cover charge."

Current and former students, family and friends find tailgates an opportune time to reunite. Lawn chairs, tents and picnic tables create a casual environment in which conversations flourish, not to mention large consumption of food and drinks.

Most of the social activity, however, gravitates around the food. Many party-goers add their own touch to the party by contributing to the food selection. Tailgate cuisines vary from barbeque to deli sandwiches to fajitas. Homemade pudding, cookies, brownies and various other deserts enhance the meal. Drinks range from lemonade to alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is permitted only on the day of the event in the general proximity of the event. However, it is prohibited in any University facilities, on the MSC Lawn, Simpson Drill Field, Chapel Grounds and Cain Park. Therefore, students and visitors who are 21 or older may consume alcohol in designated locations on game days.

Once the food has been eaten and the tent has been packed, many leave for the game or head home.

Early arrival for pre-game parties is beneficial to those who are eager to snag a prime parking spot, minimize the walk and ensure a full stomach for the game. On the other hand, post-game tailgate parties ensure a relaxing environment, especially if the outcome of the game is in the Aggies favor, and avoidance of the severe traffic congestion after the game.

Personal Foul Richard Lieberman Academy Chicago



Personal Foul by Richard Lieberman will have students reading on the way to their classes and in their cars in the Zachary Lot.

Lieberman tells the story of his client, Joe Moore, former offensive line coach for nine years at Notre Dame, who was fired for age discrimination by head coach Bob Davie, a former defensive coordinator at Texas A&M.

This book covers the case of Joe Moore vs. The University of Notre Dame and uncovers many secrets within the athletic department discovered during the trial, including the abuses between coaches and players.

Lieberman provides the readers with expert legal tactics and gives thorough backgrounds of all persons in the book.

Blue and Gold Illustrated, the newspaper covering Notre Dame football, also gave *Personal Foul* rave reviews and wrote: "Lieberman ... does an impressive job of ... standing up to and defeating the bully that is Notre Dame ..."

This book does not only appeal to football fans. Readers who know nothing about the sport can get a clear picture of the politics within the Notre Dame athletic department.

Perhaps what makes this book even more gripping is the fact that it is a true story.

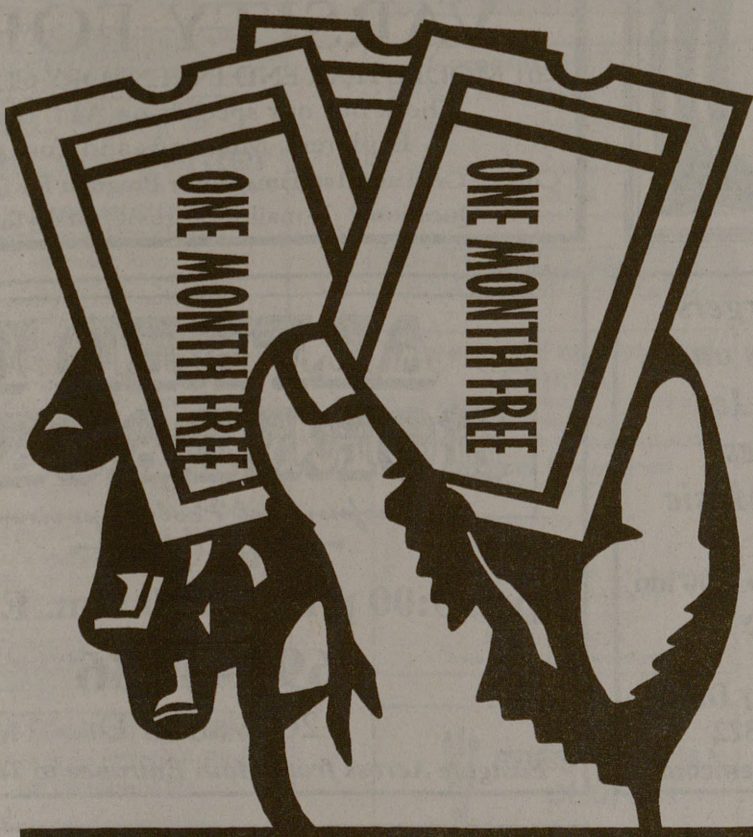
Lieberman describes the good — Joe Moore and Lieberman's team of lawyers, and the bad — Michael Wadsworth and Father Beauchamp, former executive vice president of the University of Notre Dame, who let this and several other occurrences pass right under their noses. And of course, Lieberman covers the ugly — Davie, who in the past allegedly had convinced one of his graduate assistants at Tulane to spy on Mississippi State in the early eighties and "bilking the [University of Arizona] out of over \$13,000 by filing phony airline receipts for recruiting trips."

This book has more dirt than an anthill, which makes for a great read for this "enquiring-minds-want-to-know society." Touchdown for Lieberman. (Grade: A)

— Lizette Resendez

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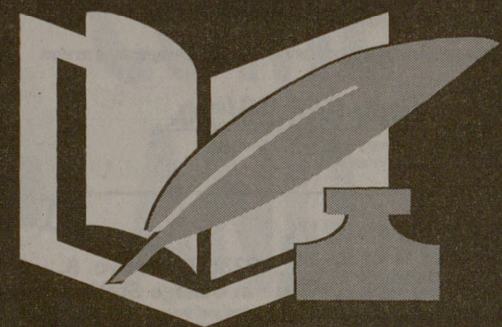
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Saturday, September 29th, 2001
immediately following the football game

Sally Pont



Signing copies of her book — *Fields of Honor: The Golden Age of College Football and the Men Who Created It*



The daughter of a former Yale football coach and the niece of a Big 10 coach, Sally Pont is dean of students and teaches English at Moravian Academy in Pennsylvania. Her first book, *Finding Their Stride* was a testament to her experience coaching high school track. In her most recent work, *Fields of Honor: The Golden Age of College Football and the Men Who Created It*, she brings the real story of how the game of football emerged after World War II.

Sally Pont offers an intimate look at the legendary football coaches of the 1950's and '60's who gave their all and created the modern game. She features greats such as Woody Hayes and Ara Parseghian, brilliant coaches who created the offensive and defensive strategies that fans reel off today.

As part of our Author Series at Long's Bookstore and the Ohio State University Bookstore, Sally Pont will sign copies of her book *Fields of Honor* on Saturday, September 29th, directly following the football game. All events are open to the public.



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