

# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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## Just go to Yell

### First Yell events to kick off Friday

By Heather Campbell  
THE BATTALION

A weekend filled with comedians, yells and entertainment is on its way to Aggieland. Kicking off the fourth annual First Yell, Martin Short and Mark Curry will bring laughter to Reed Arena on Friday night.

Four years ago, a group of former yell leaders got together and planned First Yell, said Rusty Thompson, assistant director of the MSC and the yell leaders' advisor.

"This was in 1999 when we still had Bonfire, which ended that season, and they were looking for something to kick off the new season," Thompson said. "It also gives the current yell leaders a chance to increase their visibility and purposes, building spirit on campus and at athletic events."

Bill Cosby put First Yell "on the map" and increased the size of the event, Thompson said. He said Jeff Foxworthy kept that momentum going the next year.

Cardo Walthall, head yell leader, said his favorite part is the concert on Friday night.

"I think it will be the best show ever," Walthall, a senior agricultural development major, said. "Mark Curry is really good at standup, and Martin Short dresses up a lot and gets into different characters. His comedy is different than most because he is also a great performer. He's going to sing and dance with a band he will be performing with."

Scott Goble, senior yell leader and philosophy major, agrees with Walthall and said that Martin Short received a huge honor as the best col-

legiate comedian of the year.

Dr. Robert M. Gates, Texas A&M University's president, will also appear on stage and impersonate Jiminy Glick.

"Martin Short may have his hands full. Dr. Gates is a sharp guy," Goble said.

"The student acts are what makes First Yell great. They're the reason the Aggie Spirit is felt throughout the weekend."

— Cardo Walthall  
head yell leader and senior agricultural development major

Thompson said that he's looking forward to seeing Dr. Gates perform.

"It will be neat to see the new president in a situation like that," Thompson said.

Tickets are still on sale, starting at \$10. With a student ID, buyers can get \$5 off two tickets.

"A lot of good seats are left," Thompson said. "There will be two big screens on either side of the stage so no matter where you're sitting you can see all of the facial expressions."

Before the concert on Friday night, the Weekend Warmup will begin at 11:30 a.m. in Rudder. Goble said plenty of refreshments will be available.

"Vendors come out with a lot of free food. Everything from turkey legs

to fajitas will be served," Goble said. "The well-known band Feeding 5000 will entertain as well as the Aggie Wranglers, Singing Cadets and Percussion Studios."

The events are slated to continue on Saturday. The Cook-off Classic brings 11 barbecue teams from all over the state and begins at 11 a.m. Tickets for the Cook-off Classic are \$7 for an all-you-can-eat meal and will accept Aggie Bucks, cash and checks.

"They're going to make some good Fightin' Texas Aggie barbecue with all the fix-ins," Walthall said. "I think it's going to be awesome. Honey Browne and Owen Temple, which are some really big up-and-coming bands, will play."

In addition to performances by the Aggie Dance Team and the Philippine Student Association, many other students will perform while the audience enjoys home-cooked barbecue.

"The student acts are what makes First Yell great," Walthall said. "They're the reason the Aggie Spirit is felt throughout this weekend."

While the Virginia Tech game is one of the main highlights of Yell weekend, Goble said the fun doesn't have to stop after the game. The women's soccer team will play against Idaho State on Sunday at 1:30 at the Aggie Complex.

Walthall said this weekend will be a chance for Aggies to come together and have fun.

"The purpose of First Yell is to bring all Aggies together, former students and students alike, to spend a beloved weekend in Aggieland."



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