

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Friday, March 7, 2003

Leaving on a jet plane

Springbreakers head to out-of-country destinations despite safety concerns

By Lyndsey Sage
THE BATTALION

Some students are packing their suitcases full of laundry to wash as they head home for spring break. Others are packing their swimsuits as they travel to the beach or their ski suits as they take to the slopes. Then there are those students, such as Cindy Smith, a junior biomedical engineering major, who are packing their suitcases with tourist gear for a week abroad.

Smith will visit a friend in London whose family recently moved there.

"We found really cheap plane tickets, which made us decide to go for sure," she said.

Even though spring break is a popular time for students to travel, this year travelling abroad takes on a new perspective with a war seemingly on the horizon.

According to Connie Lara, a travel agent at Aggieland Travel, the threat of war has not deterred some tourists from taking the opportunity to travel overseas, especially to Europe.

"(Those traveling) are a little wary," she said. "But it is not for us to tell them whether it is safe or not, it is up to their own discretion."

Smith said that she is not overly concerned about safety because England's relationship with the United States is pretty solid.

"I studied abroad in Italy for six weeks last semester and the world tension was also an issue then, but I didn't have a single problem the whole time I was there," she said. "The fact that we are going to be staying with her parents and not on our own is also a good thing as far as safety is concerned."

Ryan Couch, a junior business major who is going to Wittmund, Germany on a mission trip during the break, said that because of the possibility of war he has taken certain precautions before going.

"It's always wise to be cautious wherever you go internationally because you have no idea how our norms fit or don't fit with their culture," he said. "The idea is to be patient, teachable and friendly."

Couch and his team of 24 other Texas A&M students will be working with high school students in northern Germany. He said that as part of their preparations, they have been in contact with students already stationed in Germany.

"They say that anti-Americanism is the same as it was six months ago, and that safety isn't an issue as long as you don't wave your flag in a German's face and yell at them," Couch said. "In fact, one person remarked that because of Germany's neutral stance on the United States-Britain warfront, Germany is probably safer than the United States at this point."

However, as the tensions heighten with war sentiment, Lara said travelers should be alert of everything going on around them and be suspicious of everyone. She also recommends allowing for plenty of time at the airport, arriving two or three hours ahead of their scheduled departure time and following all instructions at airport security, such as taking off shoes or allowing easy access for bags to be searched.

Seeing the sights, such as the Tower of London, is something freshman finance major Lisa May looks forward to over the break when she will travel to London with a class from the Business School.

"I've never been to London and I thought it would be neat to go with friends," she said. "We're doing all the tours and going to all the main sightseeing places."

Although May anticipates a week in another country, the thought that war may break out while she is abroad has crossed her mind on occasion.

"I'm not nervous anything will happen; I'm just concerned about getting back into the United States if war does break out," she said.

May said her group has been warned not to "look American."

"They told us not to go in big groups, so we don't look like we're tourists and draw attention to ourselves," she said. "If we're asked if we're American, we're suppose(d) to say that we are from Canada, and we can't wear any kind of Texas A&M clothing to show that we are from here."



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SPORTS

THE BATTALION

injuries

goals against Boston
inst lowly Buffalo. Tugnut
a 2.41 goals-against average
at a .899 save percentage.

That's solid for a 35-year-old
pickup, but not quite the NHL
at 1.77 GAA and .931 save
percentage that Turco has posted
his first year replacing long
time All-Star Ed Belfour.

"Ron has been sporadic since
injury has gone down,"
Armstrong said, "but we're
confident he'll get more consistent
play. Even when Tugnut hasn't
been at his best, Dallas has had
the luxury of turning to a mix of
veterans and youngsters to fill the
shoes of Guerin. He's lost for
the rest of the regular season
due to a severe thigh injury that
landed him in a Dallas hospital.

The Stars have scored 15
goals in their last three games
without Guerin, and on
Wednesday's victory over
Chicago, seven players scored.
Dallas matched a season-high
offensive effort.

"You can't rely on three
guys and expect to win,"
wing Claude Lemieux
said. "I came to Dallas from
Montreal in a Jan. 17 trade
and you look at the great team
of your top guys are always
going to get hurt. It's going to
be down to everybody."

Now it's up to Armstrong
and Bett to determine if they
can push for a championship run.
I think we have the pieces
in place to compete for the
Stanley Cup," Armstrong said.
Dallas did a lot of our work
in depth in the offseason."

TS IN BRIEF

s begins spring

st SLU, Oregon

men's tennis team will

on its 5-0 home record

eastern Louisiana University

of Oregon Saturday at the

SLU will begin at noon and

will start off 6 p.m.

also face Abilene Christian

University and open Big

10rdo during the spring

all team to open

h against UTPA

defeats on the road, the No.

all team has bounced back

ay it beat the University of

5 and followed that up with

win over Southwest Texas

Wednesday.

(12-4) welcome the

n American (9-8) to Olsen

series starting Friday at 7

n American are coming off

three games against Texas

A&M sophomore Logan

d. Kensing has a 3-1 record

runs average. Senior Zach

Saturday night and junior

in Sunday's third game.

st Centenary (7-11) for a

uesday and Wednesday

2 Conference play against

at Olsen Field on Friday.

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