

AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

Page 3A • Thursday, April 3, 2003

Chilifest changes alcohol policy, provides park-n-ride

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

It's that time of year again. Time to skip your Friday classes, load up the tents and tarps and make the 20-mile trek to the thriving metropolis of Snook, Texas, for Chilifest 2003. But this year, don't plan on bringing your own alcohol to the party.

Previous Chilifests allowed those on teams to bring their own alcohol for Friday night's festivities. Gulbas said that due to problems that occurred last year, law enforcement and other parties involved asked people to purchase alcohol at the event to prevent excess amounts of alcohol on the premises.

"A lot of people think that change was motivated by money, and that was not the case," said Jeff Gulbas, a co-chair for Chilifest 2003 and a senior political science major. "We had a lot of problems last year because people brought an insane amount of alcohol. For us to continue to have Friday night festivities, we weren't going to be able to have alcohol brought in."

Gulbas said Chilifest is expecting one of its largest crowds ever due to the star-studded lineup.

"Last year we had more than 30,000 people, but our capacity is around 40,000. With Willie Nelson, this year should be a full house," he said.

With the increased crowd size comes more safety measures, which Gulbas said should not affect people's ability to have a good time, but rather make things smoother for those who follow the rules.

Among this year's changes are an increase in law enforcement to assist with traffic and crowd control, as well as the new alcohol policies.

The Burleson County Sheriff's Department issued more than 400 minor in possession of alcohol citations and arrested approximately 60 to 70 people in 2001. Burleson County Sheriff Gene Barber had said that the arrests exceeded the county's jail capacity of 38 people.

Last year's Chilifest brought 67 citations, three arrests and 15 accidents, according to an April 8, 2002 Battalion article. Most accidents were not related to alcohol, but were related to the rain, slick roads and heavy two-way traffic caused by people leaving early and those arriving at the same time, according to the Burleson County Sheriff's Department.

In an attempt to minimize such accidents, this year's Chilifest will provide a park-n-ride service that will operate only on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Park-n-ride users can park near 2818 and Welsh Road.

Gulbas said that organizers of Chilifest want people to have a good time, but the number one priority is safety.

Despite the new rules and safety measures, Saturday's entertainers all say Chilifest is one of the wildest shows of the year.

This year's lineup includes Roger Creager, Cory Morrow, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Gary Allan and Willie Nelson.

Creager, a 1993 graduate of Texas A&M, said he is looking forward to performing at Chilifest for the first time.

"I've been out there before as a spectator, as a partygoer and a beer drinker," Creager said. "This will be our first time to be there in an

official capacity."

Creager said although he is performing at 11 a.m. Saturday morning, he isn't worried about people being sleepy.

"One thing about Chilifest is you don't have to worry about getting a crowd riled up," he said. "Whether it's 11 a.m. or 10 p.m., those people come ready to party."

Creager said Chilifest is even more fun for him because it gives him a chance to party in front of his "adopted hometown" of College Station.

"It's one of those deals where there are thousands and thousands of people and most of them are Aggies," Creager said. "It's a lot of fun. They appreciate Texas music and they are proud of where it's come from."

Cory Morrow, another member of the Texas music uprising, said he has been waiting for Chilifest to come for a long time.

"I've been talking about it for so long," Morrow said. "College Station is a blast because everybody goes nuts — sometimes they get naked, and that's good."

Morrow said Aggies have some of the best crowds and that Chilifest is a great place for him and the crowd to get crazy together.

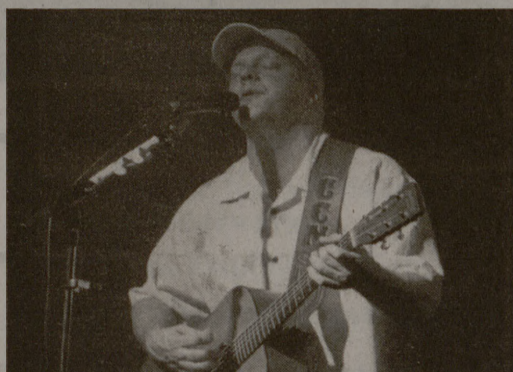
"The crowds that cheer and make a lot of noise between songs are most rewarding for us while we are on stage," he said. "The Aggies have always been like that, and you just feel like you are at home with your friends."

MCA recording artist Gary Allan said he has played in College Station before, and the biggest thing he remembered about it was the attractive women.

"(College Station) has gorgeous girls and beer's a little colder," Allan said. "It's one of my favorite places, but anytime you come to Texas, it's a good time."

Allan also said he is hoping the crowd at Chilifest lives up to its reputation because he likes it when the audience gets a little out of control.

Those who are on Chilifest teams can enter the gates Friday at noon. Gates open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Creager gets things going on stage at 11 a.m.



Cory Morrow will perform at 12:30 p.m.



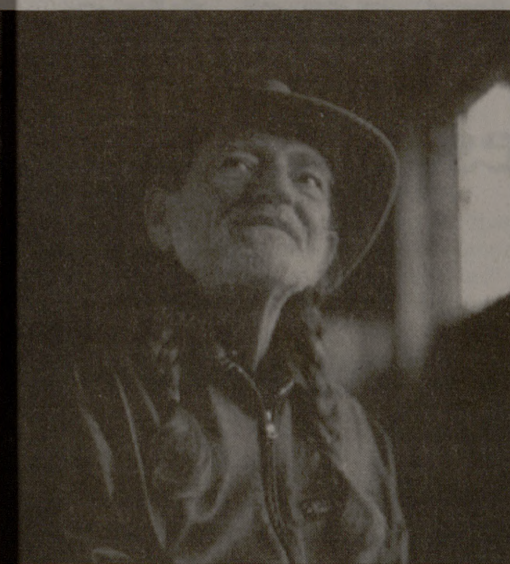
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHILIFEST.ORG

Roger Creager will perform at 11 a.m.

Chilifest has raised more than \$230,000 over the past two years, which was distributed to 17 charities and non-profit organizations around the Brazos Valley, including Big Event, Special Olympics of Texas and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

"Everything we do goes back to the community," Gulbas said. "All of our supporters and sponsors make a difference in a lot of people's lives. We want to stress why we do this."

Visit www.chilifest.org for: maps and directions, safety information, and concert times.



Willie Nelson will perform at 6 p.m.

APRIL 10

FREE REGISTRATION. FREE LUNCH WITH REGISTRATION

Taking Action:

Embracing Diversity in Higher Education

Speakers: Dr. Robert M. Gates, President, TAMU, and Dr. Sylvia Hurtado, University of Michigan

When and Where: 8:15-11:45 am, Rudder 601

Partnering Student Organizations in Support of Diversity

General sessions with guest speakers, including FREE lunch and a variety of workshops

When and Where: Noon-5:00 pm, Rudder 601

Faculty Panel:

Understanding and Supporting Research Diversity

Featuring: Dr. Yvonna Lincoln, Dr. Christine Stanley, and other faculty

Topics: Paradigms, diverse purposes and methods, and retention of diverse individuals

When and Where: 1:30-3:30 pm, Rudder 401

Tools to Increase Staff Diversity

Organized by Human Resources Department

Topics: Increasing diversity of applicant pools, recruitment, and retention of diverse individuals

When and Where: 1:45-3:30pm, Rudder 601

For registration and more information visit the [igsa](http://igsa.tamu.edu) web site

<http://igsa.tamu.edu/university>

UniDiversity Day

FRIDAY, APR 4TH

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

@ 6:30 PM

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE TWO TOWERS

@ 10:00PM
RUDDER THEATER
\$1.00 @ RUDDER BOX OFFICE

Please call 845-1515 for assistance

Ladies Night

All Ladies FREE all night!!
Guys over 21 Free until 10:00 pm

\$1 Bar Drinks
\$2 Premium Drinks
8-11 p.m.

\$1 Pints, \$2 Tap Teas
all night

Kitchen open all day, all night!!
696-5570
for details
Party Safe and Designate a Driver.