

THE BATTALION

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Students gear up for First Yell

By Sarah Szuminski
THE BATTALION

Although last year's First Yell show featured nationally famous comedian Martin Short as its headliner, it was Texas A&M medical student Kamran Hamid's opening act that stood out to many of the event's attendees.

"I still don't think I'm funny, but I guess other people do," Hamid said.

Hamid will return as part of this year's lineup of student entertainers at First Yell tonight.

"Hopefully, the common

denominator will be that the audience will be laughing this year too," he said.

The event is structured differently this year, said Rusty Thompson, Memorial Student Center assistant director of student programs. Rather than a single headlining act, several student groups and solo acts will perform, and video segments chronicling the history of Aggie football will be shown, along with appearances by players from those respective seasons.

"Our student acts are so popular each year," Thompson said. "We want to showcase all of the

talent we've got here at A&M."

Performances will be given by the Singing Cadets, Aggie Wranglers, Aggie Dance Team, Freudian Slip, Kappa Pickers, singer Lindsey Kane, Percussion Studio and Hamid.

The video, "Aggie Football Through the Decades," will play between acts and will be accompanied by former Aggie football players such as Howard Shelton, Class of 1941, who helped bring home A&M's national championship in 1939.

One reason for the change in this year's show is the unpopu-

larity of Short's performance last fall, Thompson said. Many people who attended the event last year left early during Short's act.

"He had a more Broadway type of style," Thompson said. "His style of comedy and our crowd weren't a good match."

Bringing in a headlining act each year that is better than the last is difficult, he said, because First Yell only has one date to offer to prospective artists. Bill Cosby and comedian Jeff Foxworthy are two celebrity acts

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First Yell Weekend:

Friday-

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. "Weekend Warmup" Free food at Rudder Plaza
8 p.m.-11 p.m. First Yell show at Reed Arena
12 a.m. Midnight Yell Practice at Kyle Field

Saturday-

2 p.m.-6 p.m. "Cookoff Classic Barbecue" at Rudder Plaza
7 p.m. TAMU v. Utah football game at Kyle Field



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SOURCE: MSC OFFICE OF STUDENT PROGRAMS

MSC Open House hosts 250 groups

By Lauren Smith
THE BATTALION

On Sunday, thousands of students will enter the Memorial Student Center between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and search the 250-plus tables for the best organization for them.

If 2003's MSC Open House is anything like last year's, the majority of the students who turn out will be freshmen.

For freshman general studies major Emilie Weissler, Open House is something that she has been looking forward to since the first day of school.

"It seems like there is just an overwhelming amount of organizations to get involved in, and I think attending Sunday's Open House will help make things a lot more clear for me," Weissler said.

Although it is mostly freshmen who will attend Sunday's event, Open House will also give transfer students and those who have yet to find their niche at Texas A&M, a chance at campus involvement.

"I think that finding a group to get connected with will

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MSC's Fall Open House

- 2 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 7
- More than 250 organizations will be present.
- Thousands of students expected to attend.
- Students may win door prizes from local merchants.

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SOURCE: AGGIE DAILY AND OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Lord of the Ring



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Brad Goodman, a senior electrical engineering major, surprised Lyndsey DiAgostina, a senior biomedical engineering major, with an engagement ring instead of her Aggie Ring Thursday afternoon at the Association of Former

Students headquarters in the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni center. President Robert M. Gates and men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins were present to distribute around 2700 rings. DiAgostina said "Yes."

Financial farewell

A&M CFO Krumm decides to step down

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

From a Fish Camp namesake to working with students, William B. Krumm, Texas A&M Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, said his seven and a half years with the University have been spectacular.

Krumm announced last Tuesday his decision to step down as vice president beginning Jan. 1, 2004. However, Krumm said he plans to continue to work closely with University President Robert M. Gates for the remainder of the 2004 fiscal year.

"Dr. Gates and I talked about my retirement and I'm going to work on some special projects until next September," he said.

Before Krumm was recruited to his current position at A&M, he was associate vice president for business operations at the University of Michigan, his alma mater. He received his degree in business and also attended the Institute of Education Management at Harvard University.

Some of Krumm's accomplishments include membership on the A&M University System Investment Advisory Committee and the Texas A&M Foundation Investment Advisory Committee. He also had a leadership role with the budget and financial management at A&M-Galveston.

Krumm is credited with enhancing several electronic-based initiatives created to benefit students, including "Aggie Bucks."

"I'm a financial guy, but I am a technology guy too, and I've pushed that my entire career," Krumm said. "I've built computers from the chip level. That's more of a hobby of mine."

Although Krumm has received an exceptional amount of awards and honors, he said one of his favorite things was the 1999 Fish Camp named in his honor.

"We still see the counselors and some of the campers," he said. "In June, my wife and I went to another one of the counselors' weddings. The great privilege of working at a University is that



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

William B. Krumm, VP and CFO of the Finance, will leave office Jan. 1, 2004.

you get to work with the students."

Krumm's original career intentions were to go into manufacturing, but after working for Michigan, he learned that working with students made his job rewarding.

"Both my wife and I have had a wonderful time here at A&M. We really enjoy working with the faculty and staff but most importantly, the students," he said.

Gates said Krumm will be missed after his retirement and that it has been an honor to work with him. "Bill has given many years of distinguished service to higher education," Gates said. "Bill was a tremendous help to me during my first year here, and a delightful colleague. He will be greatly missed."

Krumm said he plans to stay in College Station after his retirement with his wife, Martha, and his two dogs, Maggie and Wags.

He said having good luck and big breaks are not the only things students should count on for the future. Some of the most important things are to have good mentors and to always look for a number of opportunities.

Head of English department resigns

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

After 14 years in the position, Dr. J. Lawrence Mitchell, head of the English department, announced Wednesday that he is stepping down at the end of the semester.

Citing the recent awarding of five new faculty positions as one of the reasons, Mitchell has elected to take a semester-long leave of absence.

"Given this happy outcome of our collective efforts, it seems an appropriate time for me to announce that I am stepping down as head effective January

15, 2004," Mitchell said in a Sept. 3 letter to the department heads of the College of Liberal Arts. "Now it is time for a change, and I believe that it is a marker of a successful administration that the transition be effected smoothly."

Charles A. Johnson, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, expressed his gratitude to Mitchell in a memorandum to the Department of English dated Sept. 3.

"During his term as head, Dr. Mitchell contributed greatly to the department and to the College of Liberal

Arts," he said.

Johnson praised Mitchell for his work on the Interdisciplinary Group for Historical Literary Study, the University Writing Center, the Modern Language Association and the Association of Departments of English.

Johnson has called a meeting on Sept. 12 to discuss the search process which will move "expediently" because the resignation is effective in January.

The search will be conducted internally due to the current funding situation.

Texas Democrats turn redistricting fight into attack on Bush, GOP power grab

By Suzanne Gamboa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Texas state Democrats turned their redistricting fight into an attack on President George Bush Thursday, accusing him of trampling on minority voting rights and being part of a Republican national power grab.

Three of the remaining 10 Democratic state senators who fled Texas over the redistricting dispute were in Washington to promote new radio and TV ads that will run in swing presidential states including Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Arizona, New York, Nevada and Texas, along with the District of Columbia.

The Democrats said Thursday they are trying to expose involvement of Bush, presidential adviser Karl Rove and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay in the Texas redistricting effort and the last-minute

redrawing of a congressional map in Colorado. "We're here today because our story is true. What happened in Texas is real. There is only one person who can stop it. He could stop it with a phone call and that's President Bush," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio.

The news conference came a day after state Sen. John Whitmire left his 10 Democratic colleagues who have been in self-imposed exile in New Mexico and returned to Texas. His return could possibly give Republicans the quorum they need to pass a congressional redistricting plan. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has to call a third special session to take up the measure.

"We are not conceding defeat," said Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston.

Democrats hold 17 of Texas' 32 House seats in Congress. Republicans say they should have a

"We are not conceding defeat."

— Senator Rodney Ellis

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