

THE BATTALION

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Thunderbirds thrill crowd

By Bart Shirley
THE BATTALION

An estimated 35,000 people gathered in the fields surrounding the George Bush Presidential Library on Thursday morning to watch the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds perform acrobatic aerial maneuvers.

On a cool, crisp October day with clouds creeping across the sky, the five-plane troupe thrilled the crowd with high-G turns, aileron rolls and diamond formation, the Thunderbirds' trademark.

"I thought it was pretty cool," said Joe Klich, a freshman general studies major.

Before the show began, the Aggie Wranglers, Ballet Folklorico, Apotheosis and the Singing Cadets performed for the gathering crowd. Music from such artists as Jimmy Page and Eric Johnson blared. The jets were audible as they began powering up, and then, four white F-16Cs raced out of Easterwood Airport into the sky, trailing white smoke behind them.

Led by Commander/Leader Lt. Col. Richard G. McSpadden Jr., the quartet flew off into the distance in a diamond formation, which they rarely broke throughout the performance. Then, a single plane, piloted by Lead Solo Maj. Todd D. Canterbury, roared into the sky.

The five planes made many low passes over the assembled crowd in counterpoint with each other, with the four-plane group doing group rolls and turns. Canterbury, making his own passes, at times surprised the crowd by flying close to the ground.

"That is an example of tactical surprise," said Capt. David L. Steinhiser, team surgeon and emcee for the day.

He said the Thunderbirds are referred to as "America's Ambassadors in Blue." Steinhiser's commentary was helpful to spectators searching for the planes in the



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With the smoke on, four F-16Cs' position to form the signature Thunderbird Diamond and fly over the crowd in the Diamond Cloverloop (top). The United States Air Force Thunderbirds performed over the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M on Thursday. The F-16 Falcon jets aerial demonstration is part of the "A Century of Airpower: Past, Present and Future" conference, in which former President George Bush is scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at 11 a.m. Friday.

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Weis proposes parking by lot

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Transportation Services Director Rodney Weis proposed a parking distribution plan Thursday that would eliminate the current color-coding system of all lots and permits.

Each permit sold would be valid only in a certain lot, and a space would be guaranteed for all permit holders in that lot without a wait, Weis said. Students, faculty and staff would apply for permits in certain lots, and those requests would be granted based on seniority. Faculty and staff would get first choice, then graduate students, followed by seniors.

Occupancy counts and turnover rates would determine the number of permits sold for a given lot to guarantee a free space.

Weis, who referred to red and blue permits as hunting licenses, said he would like to see the new plan implemented April 15, if approved.

He said the need for the plan was made clear when he saw students lined up waiting for parking in Zachry lot, while the adjacent yellow lot was 35 percent unoccupied.

The plan would also change the way spaces are allocated in parking garages. Currently, garage permit holders have reserved numbered spaces. Under the new plan, permit holders in the Northside, Southside and Koldus garages would still park beyond the

gates, but not in specific spaces. Weis said he would guarantee every garage permit holder a space in his given garage.

Weis presented the plan in a forum sponsored by the Student Senate at the Memorial Student Center Stark Gallery.

The Student Senate had originally intended on writing a bill after the forum, but instead decided to wait so it could make sure students' views would be represented as accurately as possible, said Will Hailey, a senator representing Northside.

To get more student opinions, the Senate hopes to hold additional parking distribution plan forums every two weeks, said Leigh Ann Eisterhold, a senator representing the College of Education.

Hailey said Weis will present the plan at a forum for Northside residents at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10 in the Sbsa Quiet Room.

"(The current plan) is broke," Weis said. "We have to fix it."

The Campus Master Plan does not allow for any more lots to be built, Weis said, so the current spaces must be put to better use. He said the current use of space is horrible.

"I don't want to be the director of a department that has a 61 percent dissatisfaction rate," said Weis, referring to a Jan. 2003 survey of faculty, staff and students.

Police urge driver caution on Halloween

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Since alcohol-related deaths are doubled on Halloween and the holiday falls on a Friday this year, motorists and trick-or-treaters are being warned to use increased caution, said Teresa Hardt, spokeswoman for Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The 80 nationwide deaths resulting from alcohol-related accidents on Halloween in 2001 were more than on New Year's Eve or Super Bowl Sunday.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar with the Crime Prevention unit of the University Police Department said police have no special concerns for the holiday. He said officers will be more cautious and mindful of children.

"Everyone needs to be watching out for children, and drivers should be more careful," he said. College Station Police Department Sergeant Gary

Vick said CSPD will have more units patrol on Halloween because of the increase in weekend parties.

"We are already prepared for parties and alcohol violations. Alcohol violations will be strictly enforced, as well as sound violations. Everyone just needs to use common sense," Vick said.

Caring Aggies 'R' Protecting Over Our Lives (CARPOOL), which usually operates 10 to 12 cars a night, will operate 14 cars Friday night, said Ben Carter, chair of operations for CARPOOL.





"This weekend will be very busy, especially Friday. More people will be going out, and we want to make sure that we maintain efficiency," Carter said. "Make sure you have a safe ride home, whether it is with CARPOOL or a friend."

Hardt said it is important for people to plan

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Halloween Safety

Motorists are advised to be more cautious because Halloween has become an increasingly dangerous holiday for drivers.

-  - Watch for trick-or-treaters darting into traffic.
-  - Stay alert and drive patiently.
-  - Drive slowly.
-  - Always designate a driver.

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SOURCE: NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Reveille VI Funeral

Services for the former A&M 'First Lady,' who was euthanized Oct. 18, will be held this weekend.

WHEN: 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2

WHERE: Kyle Field

- Following the funeral, Reveille VI will be buried outside the North end of Kyle Field along with previous mascots.

- Former Mascot Corporals Marky Boynton, Class of 1997, and Jeff Bailey, Class of 2000, will speak.

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SOURCE: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Aggie women switch-off for kick off

By Jenna Jones
THE BATTALION

Makala Chandler waited for the right time to do the asking as her prospective date for Midnight Yell ranted about how it was bad bull that the girls of Texas A&M just buy the T-shirts for Switch-Off for Kick-Off and don't care about the event's tradition of asking a date to go to Midnight Yell with them.

"To carry on the tradition, will you go to Midnight Yell with me?" Chandler asked.

Chandler, a freshman business major and member of Traditions Council, will be taking a fellow council member to Midnight Yell and the Aggie game on Saturday against University of Kansas to follow through with the Switch-Off for Kick-Off A&M tradition.

Switch-Off for Kick-Off is a tradition in which women ask men to Midnight Yell and the Aggie game the following day instead of the other way around. This tradition started in the mid 1980s but died out in the early 1990s, said Traditions Council Promotion Chair Lauren Huly, a senior communications major.

Research from the Traditions Council found the origin of the tradition dated back to 1937, when the Texas Women's College junior class invited the A&M junior class to a dinner and dance the Friday before the football game against Southern Methodist University.

"Along with these findings, we think Switch-Off for Kick-Off was inspired by the 1950s when they used to bring girls in from Texas Women's College and other schools around Texas by the bus loads," Huly said.

"Then when girls came to A&M it was a lot easier to get dates."

Huly said the tradition originally started as a fundraiser for the Traditions Council and Student Government through T-shirt sales as a "Sadie Hawkins" event.

"Traditions Council has been successful in the past four years bringing Switch-Off for Kick-Off back and we are trying to focus more on promoting the tradition now versus just the T-shirt fund-raiser," Huly said.

The picture on the back of the Switch-Off for Kick-Off T-shirt is one from the 1947 Aggiland.

"Asking a guy to Midnight Yell and the game was more of a challenge than I thought it would be," said Tiffany Sjogren, a senior animal science major. "It was kind of weird but funny to see from a guy's point of view. It made me have more respect for guys when they have to ask a girl out."

Sjogren said it was fun getting to do the asking, but she is glad she said she does not have to do it on a regular basis.

Head Yell Leader Tim Bailey, a senior agricultural development major, said he thinks Switch-Off for Kick-Off is a fun way to do something a little different.

"I think it is fun but I've never had a girl ask me," Bailey said. "I don't know how many guys want to wait around to be asked and risk not having a date."

Ben Johanningsmeier, a senior construction science major and member of Traditions Council, said some men

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Silvy wins Wildlife Society award

By Lindsay Broomes
THE BATTALION



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Nova Silvy stands next to a stuffed quail. Silvy is being presented with The Wildlife Society's Aldo Leopold Award.

Nova Silvy, a professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, will join the ranks of The Wildlife Society (TWS) elite after being awarded the Aldo Leopold Award.

"This award is a lifetime achievement award and most people do not receive it until they are retired," Silvy said.

The Leopold award was first presented in 1950 and is presented to one individual a year. It recognizes those who have made substantial contributions to the wildlife profession.

Roel R. Lopez, assistant professor in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, said Silvy has contributed to the wildlife profession through his teaching, research, service and leadership.

Silvy has been teaching at Texas A&M for 28 years, in that time instructing more than 1,500 undergraduate

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