



ENTERTAINMENT:
The Houston Symphony Orchestra puts a new spin on Dr. Seuss.
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Muster ceremonies to be held worldwide

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

More than 350 Muster ceremonies will be held worldwide this week, including the biggest one on the A&M campus Wednesday, said Scott Jarvis, coordinator of club programs and Aggie Muster.

"As of today, the worldwide roll call has approximately 1,197 names," Jarvis said. "Of course that could change tomorrow."

There will be about 170 ceremonies in Texas, 140 nationally and 35 internationally, including three in Baghdad, Jarvis said.

The ceremonies usually resemble the campus Muster with candles and a solemn and somber mood, Jarvis said.

"Some (ceremonies) are simply a get-together to eat barbecue and tell stories," he said.

On the A&M campus, Wednesday will begin with a flag-raising ceremony at 7:05 a.m. in the Academic Plaza, said Alfredo Balderas, Muster roll call coordinator.

Balderas said the Camaraderie Barbecue will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Academic Plaza. Sbis Dining Hall will be closed for lunch, and each barbecue plate will cost \$6.95. Aggie bucks, cash, credit cards and meal plans will be accepted.

Vegetarian plates will be available at the barbecue, Balderas said.

"Roll Call for the Absent" will take place in Reed Arena at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., Balderas said.

Balderas said 139 names will be read, and a family member or friend representing each of them will light a candle and answer "Here."

John Hagler, Class of 1958, will be this year's Muster speaker, Balderas said. Hagler

was a member of the Corps of Cadets and served as an artillery officer in the U.S. Army.

"Muster is the epitome of the Aggie Spirit," Balderas said. "It is the perfect representation of what the Aggie spirit truly is. When people experience that, they truly understand what Texas A&M is all about; it's the love we have for each other."

Mandy LaCombe, a sophomore general studies major and Muster host, said Aggie Muster is one of the most influential traditions at A&M.

"I think of all traditions, (Muster) sets us apart from any other university in the world," LaCombe said. "No matter what, you are always part of the Aggie family."

LaCombe said she likes the fact that one does not have to be in College Station to celebrate Muster.

"It's neat to be with fellow Aggies and be part of it forever," she said.

Aggie Muster 2004



● 7:05 a.m.: Flag-raising ceremony, Academic Plaza

● 11 a.m. to 3p.m.: Camaraderie Barbecue, Academic Plaza

● 7 p.m.: Muster Ceremony, Reed Arena. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

GRAPHIC BY: ANDREW BURLISON • THE BATTALION
SOURCE : MUSTER.TAMU.EDU
PHOTO : FILE PHOTO

Fish Drill Team



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Freshman general studies major **Zachary Baskara** practices with the Fish Drill Team Monday afternoon on the quadrangle. The Fish Drill Team placed first overall at the 32nd annual

Mardi Gras Drill Meet at Tulane University in New Orleans, La. this February. The drill team finished with four trophies among 55 schools nationwide.

A&M students urged to explore the world

By Elizabeth Knapp
THE BATTALION

There is no such thing as institutional excellence without diversity and globalization, said James Anderson, vice president and associate provost for institutional assessment and diversity.

"Students need to take more advantage of all international and social activities like this at Texas A&M to open and expose themselves to a lot more," Anderson said. "Even if you don't believe in it, just be open to exposure."

Anderson, who spoke Monday at the Faculty Club to kick off UniDiversity Week, stressed the importance of being open to diversity to create a more diverse environment on campus.

"All great movements have started with things very small," Anderson said. "If students simply watch the news more, they will see what is going on internationally."

There are about 4,000 international students at

A&M, but diversity not only encompasses the differences in national origins; it also includes stereotypes of people who are different from racial groups, said Roemer Visser, president of the International Graduate Student Association.

Marie Leonard, vice president for advocacy in IGSA and IGSA's representative for the Graduate Student Council, said moving toward a diverse campus is a process that people must be socialized into.

"We are in the right place because this is a learning institution. It is important that we teach people about diversity because it is not natural and we have to build it," Leonard said. "In the workplace, you need that diverse experience because there are other cultures and different ways to do things."

People can learn from diversity while enriching their education the different experiences, Leonard said.

Anderson said he hopes UniDiversity Week will become one of the traditions at A&M.

"We are simply following a pathway," Anderson said. "If you think large, you can move in that direction, and UniDiversity Week does just that."

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— James Anderson
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institutional assessment
and diversity

"We aren't talking about race or gender, we are talking about all sorts of ways that prejudice will be encompassed," Visser said.

Recycling contest to collect plastic bottles for backpacks

By Sonia Moghe
THE BATTALION

This fall, the University of Texas and Texas A&M University will compete against each other in a recycling drive to collect the most plastic bottles, which will later be used to make backpacks, duffel bags, sports bags, fanny packs and purses.

"A friendly competition with UT is a good idea to motivate students," said John David Blakley, a sophomore political science major and director of recycling for the student government association's Environmental Issues Committee (EIC). "The mindset of A&M is not concentrated enough on recycling. Perhaps a program like this could provide an incentive to students to get them motivated."

Earthpak, a company based in Muenster, Texas, manufactures the recycled merchandise by melting plastic bottles and turning them into fiber, yarn and cloth to create bags. Earthpak will oversee the competition, and has joined forces with Traditions bookstores, where the bottles will be collected in the fall. Students can turn in plastic bottles and be given discounts on Earthpak merchandise.

Scott Figueiredo, owner of Earthpak, said colleges are the ideal place to start recycling competitions because most college campuses do not have good recycling programs in place, and students are interested in helping out with environment.

"The idea was to promote as much recycling as possible," Figueiredo said. "(We want students to know) they can actually make a difference the next time they drink a bottle of water."

The Texas Environmental Action Coalition (TEAC) at A&M is currently developing a plan to start recycling blue Dasani water bottles at football games.

"Sporting events, especially at Kyle Field, generate tens of thousands of bottles

Backpacks FROM Bottles

Next fall, UT and A&M will have a bottle collecting competition to see who can collect the most plastic bottles that will be turned into backpacks.

THE PROCESS:

- **SHRED:** Two-liter plastic bottles are shredded into small pellets
- **FIBER:** Pellets are processed into a fine fiber and then spun into yarn
- **SHRED:** Yarn is woven into fabric which is dyed and made into bags



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE : SCOTT FIGUEIREDO, OWNER OF EARTHPAK

that are just thrown away," said Brian Keaveny, a junior marketing major and public relations officer for TEAC. "With continued cooperation from the university I think we could start getting this program implemented soon. The game day recycling program should be easier to implement (than other recycling programs)."

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'A bright idea'

Students create energy-saving logo, slogan

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Brady Creel, an information representative for the Texas A&M geology department, said he often enters graphics contests because he enjoys the personal challenge.

"When there is an ad in The Battalion for a logo contest or something, I usually send something in, just because I like the challenge of trying to come up with an idea," he said.

His efforts paid off April 12 when the A&M Energy

Conservation Committee selected the logo he designed to use in its campaign.

In addition to the logo, the ECC chose a mascot, designed by Norma Morales, a freshman environmental design major, and a slogan created by Francisco Bolado, a freshman chemical engineering major.

The logo, mascot and slogan, which were selected from 65 entries, will be used in energy conservation marketing and outreach programs, said Jim Riley, director for utilities and ECC chairman.

Riley said the campus communi-

ty can help conserve energy by turning off lights and equipment when possible and by setting thermostats on comfortable temperatures.

If people feel cold, they should call the utilities office to request a temperature adjustment instead of using space heaters under their desks, Riley said.

"Let's not try to compensate for overly cool space by running a space heater," Riley said. "That's kind of like paying double for utilities."

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Houston's air pollution above standard

By Amelia Williamson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M associate professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M University found that air pollution in Houston is 67 percent to 150 percent above the government's National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and could cause serious health problems for the millions of people who live in Houston and the surrounding areas.

In his study funded by the Texas Air Research Center and NASA, Renyi Zhang used a chemical transport model to examine Houston's air quality. The chemical transport model evaluated emissions from different sources and examined how the air

chemistry and meteorological transport in Houston affects the air quality, Zhang said.

Large amounts of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides are emitted into the air every day from cars and petrochemical plants and refineries in the Houston area. The air quality is the worst during the day because the sun causes these volatile organic compounds to react with the nitrogen oxides to produce high levels of ozone in the air, Zhang said.

John Nielsen-Gammon, A&M professor of atmospheric sciences, said the pattern of air currents in Houston adds to the problem of concentrated

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