



At the big top

Circus sweeps into College Station

By Brian Cain and Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

"The Greatest Show on Earth" swept into College Station much to the delight of children young and old. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus performed the first of three shows Tuesday night at Reed Arena.

Despite protests last week from people associated with the animal rights organization PETA, the circus entertained an estimated crowd of 4,000 to 5,000 guests.

"My girlfriend dragged me along (to the circus), but I like it," said Joey Dellingen, a senior biomedical engineering major. "I've never been before; I'm surprised to see it's more of a musical."

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus is a traveling company of approximately 1,200 workers and performers. The company and animals travel 11 months out of the year on a two-mile-long train. The train has bedrooms, restaurants and amenities for the animals, said Crystal Kiggans, a concession worker from Salt Lake City.

"We are like a big family," said Kiggans, whose mother worked for the circus as well. "We see each other (at the circus) and live together on the train. Even when we go out we're all together."

Jonathan Iverson, Ringmaster of Ringling

See Circus on page 2



Cherie Gregg feeds the elephants pancakes and fruit on the morning of the circus' first show. The elephants will be performing at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. today. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office or through Ticketmaster starting at \$15.

BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Audience gets up-close look at elephants

By Andrew Burleson
THE BATTALION

When John Standard's family members flew in from California to visit him in Bryan, they had no idea they'd run into a group of elephants being fed pancakes by clowns. But that's just what they found.

On Tuesday morning the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Circus invited everyone to come see the elephants have breakfast. The meal was served at 11:30 a.m. in front of an excited crowd of parents and children.

Standard said his two grandsons were buying tickets for the main event when they saw a sign advertising the morning event.

"I think it's great for the children to get up close and personal with the elephants," Standard said.

Nine-year-old Lezlie Ayn Ramsey agrees with him. She said she had been to the circus at Reed Arena before but had never had seen the elephants so close.

Her mother, Lezlie Ramsey, Class of 1981, said "We had to buy tickets (for the circus); we weren't given a choice."

The Ramsey children made it clear that they wanted to see the circus a second time, largely due to their previous experience, Ramsey said.

"It's a quality circus; we see it every time it's here," Ramsey said. "It's a great experience for the children, and we do everything we can to bring the kids to A&M so that hopefully they'll

attend someday."

"We've been fortunate that every time (the circus) has come to A&M we've had something free in the morning," said Mary Hellen Bowers, associate director of Special Event Facilities and 1977 graduate.

Bowers said this is the fourth time "The Greatest Show on Earth" has come to Reed Arena. Since it opened it has stopped here every other year. In Texas this year the circus stopped at San Antonio and Austin before arriving in College Station and will head to Houston and Dallas next.

"We think we have the best facility in Texas for the show," Bowers said.

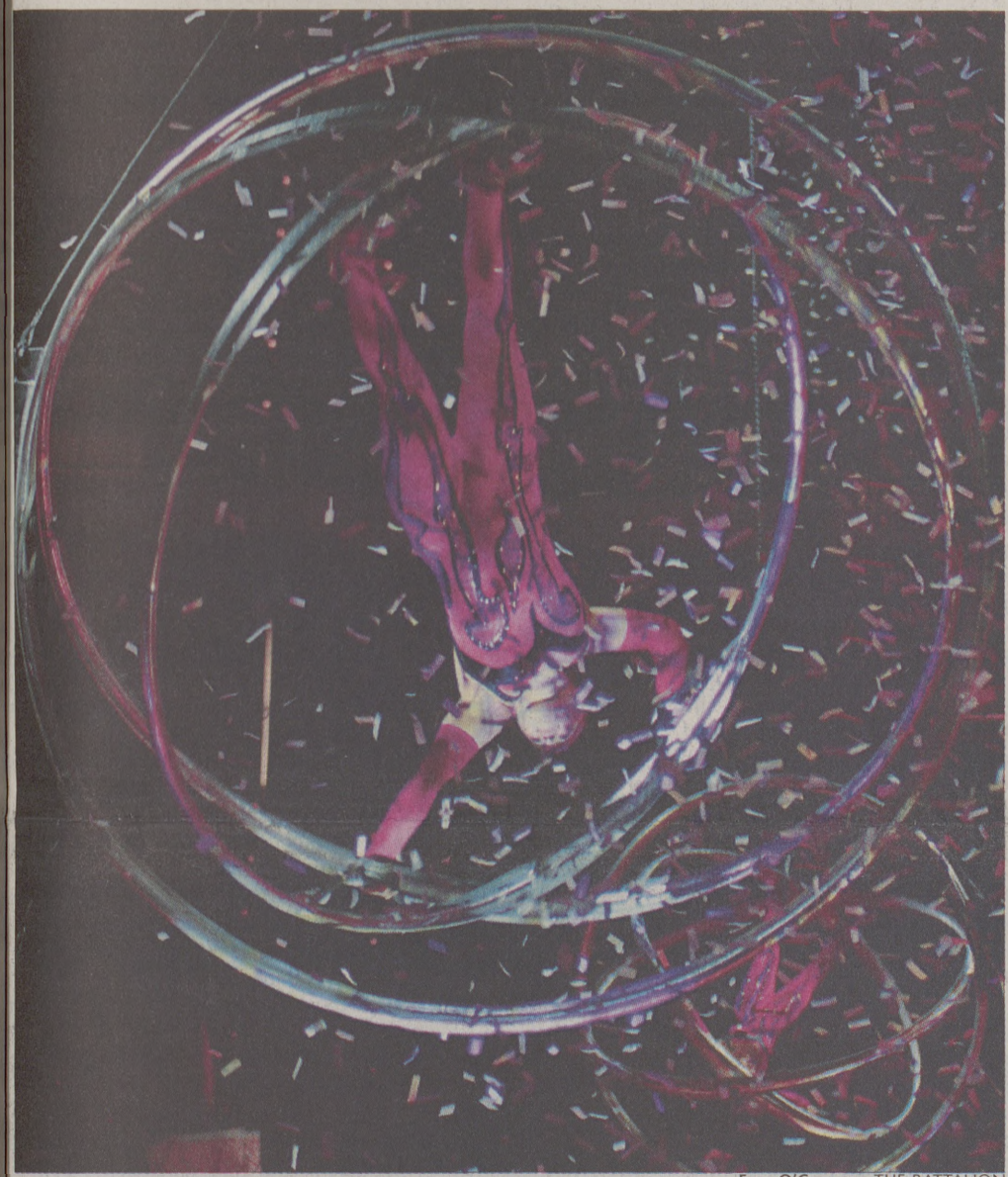
Molley Pelley, production assistant for "The Greatest Show on Earth," said the show staff has been very happy with the College Station venue over the years.

"The facilities are great, there's lots of space for the animals and it is a great arena, plus the staff is so great," Pelley said.

Pelley said she has been with the circus for seven years, and that this is her third stop in College Station.

"Reed Arena is such a great central location (in Texas), where people don't have to drive very far to see the show. That and the people here are so friendly. This is one of my favorite cities," Pelley said.

When asked if the circus was likely to continue visiting College Station, Pelley said, "We're definitely likely to keep coming. I see no reason why we wouldn't come back."



Members of the China Acrobatic Troupe spin high over the canopy in a dazzling three-ring display at Tuesday night's performance in Reed Arena. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will perform two more shows on Wednesday.

EVAN O'CONNELL • THE BATTALION

Members of the China Acrobatic Troupe spin high over the canopy in a dazzling three-ring display at Tuesday night's performance in Reed Arena. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will perform two more shows on Wednesday.

New parking policy enacted at Wehner

By Erin Price
THE BATTALION

Last Thursday, Casey Brown's finance class ran late, and she had to run to the parking lot before her time ran out on the new prepay parking meters. The outburst caused a classroom disruption, she said.

Many students are divided on whether they like the new prepay parking policy on West Campus. Brown, a senior finance major, said the new method is hard to get used to.

"It is hard to judge how long you need to be at school or at the library," Brown said. "Things pop up."

Rodney Weis, director of Transportation Services said students must prepay for their parking through new machines in the parking lot next to the Wehner building. Students must type the space number in the machines, predict the amount of time needed and then make the payment, he said.

"We received a number of complaints from students who wanted a refund because of the long waiting time," Weis said. "Long lines also create congestion and safety hazards in the entire area."

The decision for the change was also influenced by the need to replace the old machines, Weis said. The new prepay machines were four times less expensive than replacing the old ones, he said.

"The machines are very simple to use and the process is very straightforward," Weis said. "Most people will quickly adapt to the new system and will like it once they get used to it."

Danny Maher, a senior finance major, said he was running late to class, parked in the Wehner lot and came back with a \$40 ticket on his car. If the old system was in place, he said he could deal with payment after class.

"It's just ridiculous to have to predict how much time you need," Maher said. "The operators just sit there, waiting for your time to be up so they can give you a \$40 ticket."

Maher also said that removing the free parking at night hinders many students from studying at the West Campus Library.

"Some students stay up there all night studying," Maher said. "Studying a lot shouldn't burn a hole in your pocket."

Other students, like Natalie Franz, a senior construction science major,

See Parking on page 2

Student teacher wins annual award

By Suzy Green
THE BATTALION

Mindi Tipps, Class of 2003, received the Texas Directors of Field Experience's "Student Teacher of the Year" award for her work in Spring ISD during spring 2004.

This is the third consecutive year that a Texas A&M student teacher has received the award, which has two statewide recipients each year.

Tipps attributes her success to her experiences at A&M.

"One of the outstanding things about the Texas A&M College of Education and Human Development is that by my second year, I was in an elementary school gaining practical experiences," Tipps said.

See Award on page 2

Water outages continue throughout campus

By Shawn C. Millender
THE BATTALION

Water outages will continue throughout campus until July 24, according to a release from the Texas A&M Physical Plant.

Area Maintenance Foreman Paul Watson said the outages were scheduled to inconvenience students as little as possible.

A domestic hot water outage is scheduled for the Computer Science/Aerospace Engineering Lab and Classroom Building on Wednesday, July 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Rudder Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 17; and Langford Architecture Center on Saturday, July 24 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Junior environmental design major Josh Cogburn said water outages may affect architecture students.

"I'm in (an art) class right now where we have to use charcoal, and we wouldn't be able to clean up very well without hot water," Cogburn said.

However, due to the timing of the outage, he said he probably won't be affected by it.

Watson said domestic hot water outages are the least invasive to students because water fountains and sinks will not be affected.

"This shouldn't impact students," Watson said. "We do the majority of hot water outages in the hot months. All of these were approved by our contacts in the individual facilities."

Watson said the outages will allow the physical plant to install usage meters and replace worn-out valves and pipes. The meters will be used to measure water usage in all the buildings for a variety of purposes.

"This is routine maintenance," Watson said. Physical Plant Director for Utilities Jim Ri-

ley said the effort to install usage meters in all the facilities on campus has been going on for some time.

Riley explained that buildings on campus are put into one of two categories: E&G (education and general) or auxiliary. Auxiliary buildings are those designated for things such as athletics, residence life and food services.

"These will calculate utility bills for auxiliary buildings, since the tenants have to pay their own bills," Riley said. "E&G buildings aren't billed per se, but this will give us a better picture of where our costs are."

Riley said the Texas A&M Physical Plant has been trying to find ways to cut wasteful air conditioning and water usage.

"The bottom line here is we're trying to keep our costs low and figure out where we can best conserve energy," Riley said.

COLD SHOWERS

The Texas A&M Physical Plant announced there will be scheduled hot water outages throughout July.

Science/Aerospace Engineering Lab and Classroom Building

Will have a hot water outage from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14

Rudder Center

Will be without hot water from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 17

Langford Architecture Center

Will be without hot water on Saturday, July 24, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: PAUL WATSON, AREA MAINTENANCE FOREMAN