

# Girl Gymnasts Enter Meet

By Cindy Burleson  
Battalion Women's Editor  
"Throw your hips up . . . those shoulders dropped . . . go in and warm up . . . start working on the balance beam."

Every evening at 6:00, part of G. Rollie White's gymnasium is transformed into a circus of girls hand springing, cartwheeling and somersaulting under the guide of graduate student and coach, Mickey Stratton.

"Can I do one more?" they ask, coming off the vaulting horse. "You're supposed to be saying,

"Please don't make me do any more!" Stratton answers.

The girls gymnastics team began three years ago when one girl came up to work out and went, unofficially, to meet with the boy's team. Now that more girls are participating, they have a separate group and will be competing this weekend in San Marcos at the Texas Collegiate meet, against 11 other schools.

This is the first meet the team has entered. The four girls competing are Muriel McDermott, Kathy Hooper, Reenie Turk, and

Vikki Casarez.

"They work really hard . . . five nights a week for two to three hours," Stratton says.

Kathy, sophomore geology major, took up gymnastics for the first time in November.

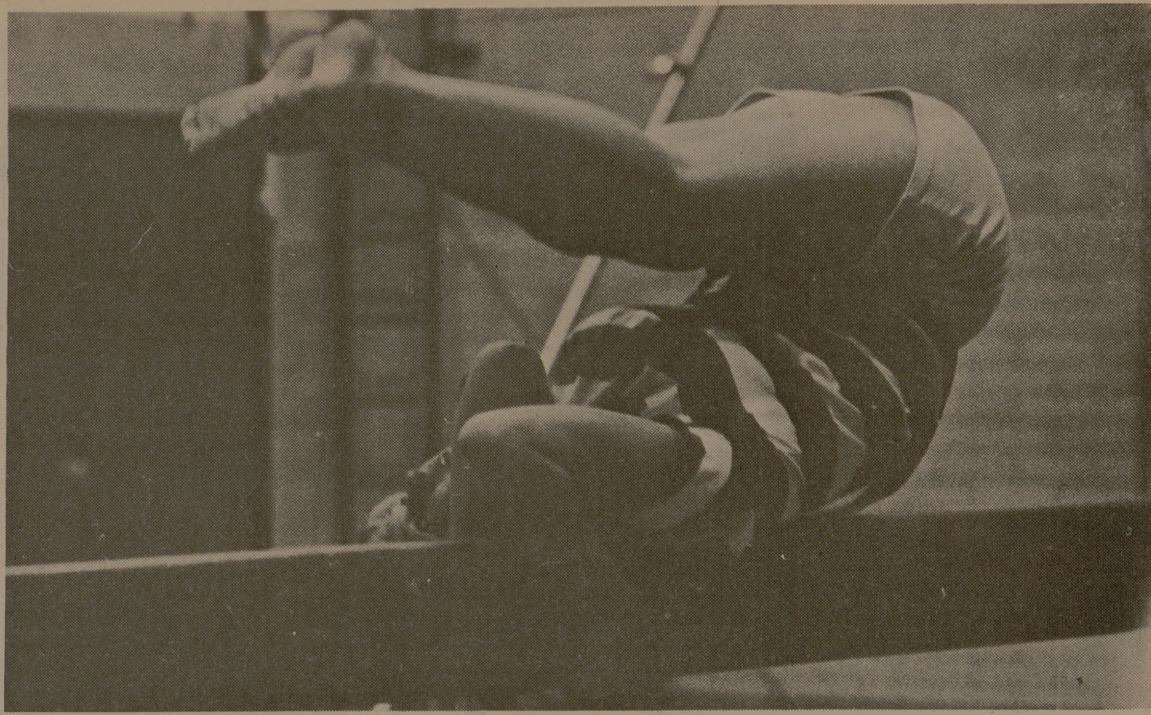
"I didn't think I had the strength for it, but I've been hooked ever since," she said, adding that she's "scared stiff" about the meet.

Reenie, sophomore nuclear engineering major, was in a gym class with boys when she decided to join the girls' team.

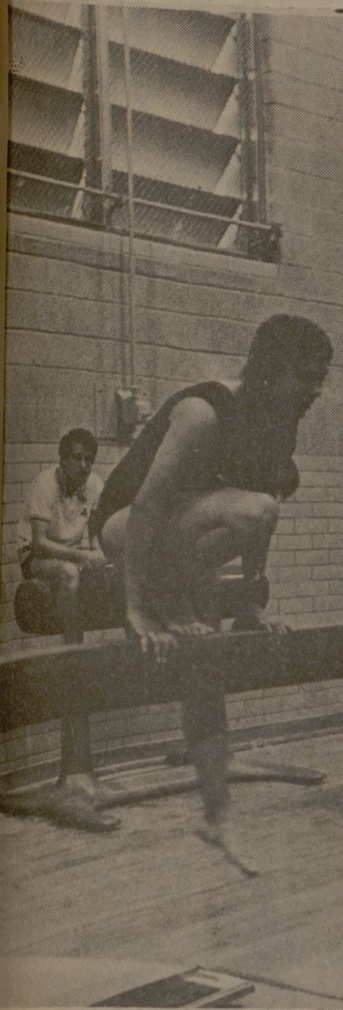
Muriel is a senior animal science major, but may go to graduate school in physical education.

"It's too late to change majors, but I've always enjoyed athletics," she explains.

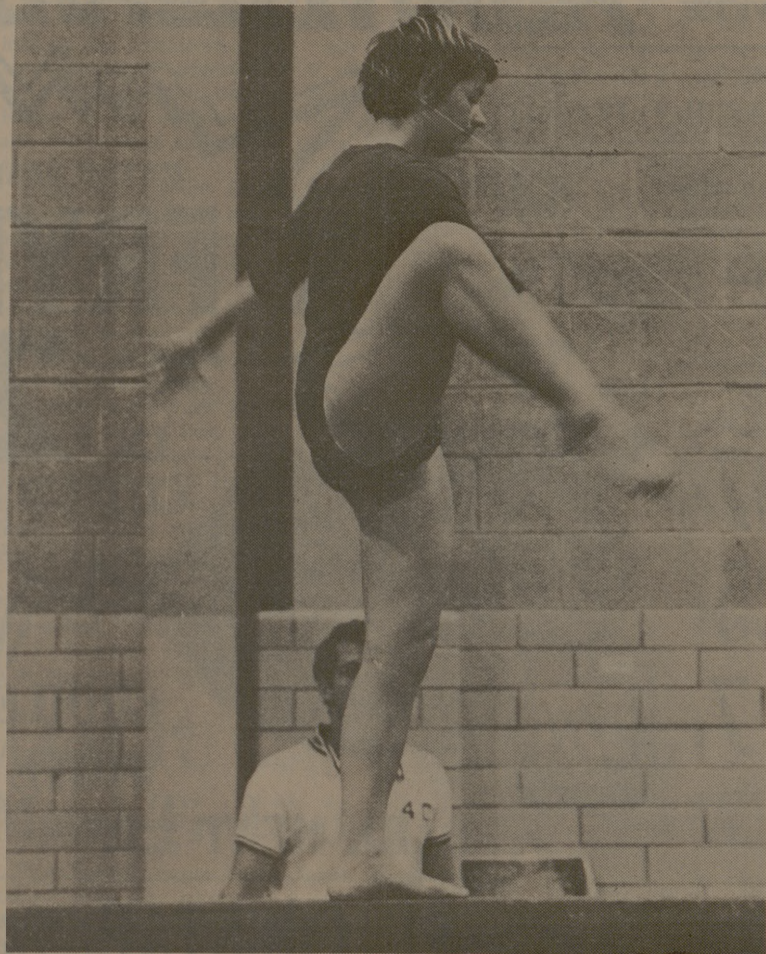
Freshman Vikki is the only physical education major on the team.



Reenie Turk does a backwards roll, trying to maintain form that will win her points, while Kathy Hooper with seeming grace and ease performs the splits. Both girls are facing their first meet with the new A&M team. Coach Mickey Stratton says he's optimistic about the meet. (Photo by Patricia Bath)



Vikki Casarez, above, mounts the balance bar, preparing her routine for the weekend's meet in San Marcos. Muriel McDermott, right, walks through her routine on the 10-centimeter wide balance bar and practices a pose. The girls will be competing with gymnastics teams from 11 other colleges for places in four events, including balance bar, vaulting horse, uneven parallel bars and free exercise. (Photos by Patricia Bath)



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# WOMEN NOW

## Former Nun Remembers Experiences in a Convent

By Cindy Burleson  
Battalion Women's Editor

"I left the Order because everyone sat around talking about what they were going to do to make the world better, but no one ever did anything," Christine explains.

"We were called the Daughters of Mary, Health of the Sick, Inc. "When I started telling the new girls they should demand to be sent to school instead of washing dishes like I did for five years, they put me on a bus and sent me to Marquette University without a dime. I got three jobs, went to school and wrote them a letter asking for a dispensation."

Thus the wife of a graduate student at A&M explains the end of her personal experience as a member of a religious order, in a decade of religious upheaval for the Catholic church.

She left for the same reason she had entered . . . a basic feeling of altruism, that she eventually decided she could express better outside the order.

"An education in parochial schools forces you to consider a religious vocation and to sometimes feel guilty if you're too selfish to accept the religious life," her husband, former Jesuit added.

The mystery of nuns and the fact that they were treated with esteem were also attractive to the 17-year-old girl.

Looking back, approximately eight years later, she says, "I'm glad I did it . . . I loved it while I was there. But I also don't know why I did it, or why I didn't leave sooner."

Oversimplifying somewhat, a woman wishing to become a nun enters an order as a postulant (one who asks), and serves there for six months, taking no vows and in effect, asking to be accepted by the members.

She then becomes a novice, living as though under vows, learning about the work of the order, and becoming spiritually prepared. This is a time of transition from worldly-life to personal isolation, filled only with physical labor and prayer.

Temporary vows are taken each year for a trial period of five

## AWS Presents 2nd Art Fair This Weekend

The second annual Art Fair, sponsored by the Architectural Wives Society, will be held Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The group promises to "supply the setting for the exhibit and draw the public to buy the masterpieces." Entry forms are available in the architecture building, at Mink Art Supply and at the Bank of A&M.

A&M students will be given first choice of exhibit space at the fair, which will be held in the architecture building lobby. Advance notice is preferred but art works will be accepted the morning of the showing.

Entry fees are \$1.00 and 15 percent commission on works sold. The medias are unlimited. Oils, water colors, ink drawings, photographs, sculptures, mobiles, tie-dyes, and furniture are equally welcomed.

There will be a children's fair, where they can paint as long as they like for a quarter and a caricature artist, Mrs. Evelyn Schultz.

A&M professors will be selecting "Best of Show" in each category from student entries. Some faculty work will be presented, as well as work from Huntsville and Bryan-College Station.

The show will be set up at 8 a.m. Saturday. People with entries that require extra attention should call Mrs. Nick Maselli evenings at 846-8048.

Mary, she was sent to seven different colleges and majored in theology, sociology and pre-med at different times. The apostolate or work of the order was in social work, medicine, and teaching religion.

Cardinal Spellman in New York City finally disbanded the order when it began losing effectiveness.

Speaking of her social work, Christine tells of the time six sisters shared a one-room apartment in Newburg, N.Y. while working with Negroes. She also lived in Harlem and worked with Puerto Ricans in Manhattan.

Through her association with the order, she met Bill Cosby, Buddy Hackett and Pete Seeger.

When Cosby found out she was going to Marquette without any money, he took up a collection on the set of "I Spy" and gave her \$200 for expenses.

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