



The Texas A&M Aquatics, a synchronized swimming team, practice their routine in Downs Natatorium. The Aquatics will perform a public recital with a Walt Disney theme early April.

Battalion photo by Susan Webb

## Aggie Aquatics dance in the water

By MARILYN BROWN  
The art of Esther Williams is alive and well in College Station — at least for the Texas A&M Aquatics. If you don't remember Esther, she was the prima donna of water ballet and was Johnny Weissmuller's leading lady in the '40s. Water ballet is now called synchronized swimming, and the Aquatics became A&M's synchronized swimming club in 1975.

Synchronized swimming is an aquatic art; much like dance, it expresses a mood or an idea through movement. It is unique in that it combines the skills and grace of dance with those of swimming into choreographies done in the water and accompanied by music. A choreography in synchronized swimming usually consists of a pool-side routine and stunts done in the water, along with adapted swimming strokes.

Competition in synchronized swimming exists on a national level, and it is the only internationally recognized water sport not included

in the Olympics. Competition is divided into free routines, which emphasize choreography, and into stunts, which emphasize exact execution of the skills. The competition is much like that of figure skating.

The University's P.E. department offers synchronized swimming, and the Aquatics were formed from that class in the spring of 1975. Many of the members are or were competitive swimmers and some have dance training as well. Health and P.E. instructor Pam Morton, who sponsors the club and teaches the class, said synchronized swimming offers a good alternative to competitive swimming.

"The conditioning and training are still there," Morton said. "It gives the swimmers a chance to see how creative they can be in aquatics."

The club formed a team last fall which made its first public performance at Memphis State University. The team also performed before a panel of critics who gave them very high rating. The team will compete on the intercollegiate level in the free routine category. Morton said the competition is tougher in the stunt category, but free routines have more room for creativity.

The Memphis symposium was open to all club members and those who went said they learned more in the two days spent there than they had in their last two years of practice. They watched the performances of some of synchronized swimming's greats, such as Beulah Gundling, who at age 74 still does splits in the water as well as more complicated stunts.

The club has had trouble gaining membership in both sexes, but especially with males. The club presently has two male members and 23 females. Morton, who specialized in dance and aquatics at Middle Tennessee State University, said she feels that synchronized swimming is crossing the same barriers that dance did when the field was broadening. She said it would take a while for the guys to catch on.

Males in synchronized swimming play the masculine role in duets and in group choreographies, just as in other stage dances. They are also needed to do lifts. Paul Linck, who performed with the team in Memphis and who swims for the A&M swim team said he thinks "most guys attach a stigma to 'synchro.' They don't really know what's going on."

The Aquatics performed last fall to the theme songs from popular movies. The show had its rough spots, but it pleased the crowds and was a success for the Aquatics. The club plans another performance during the first week of April.

ALL NIGHT FAIR

THURSDAY JAN. 26

## LITTLE PIECES OF EARTH FOR SALE...



### BY THE CARAT

Diamonds - Rubies  
Sapphires - Emeralds

Nature's Own Wonders

Carl Bussell's  
**DIAMOND ROOM** MEMBER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY  
3731 E. 29th 846-4708  
Town & Country Center

## ATTENTION STUDENTS:

A hearing will be held on Thursday, Jan. 26, 1978, in room 139 of the MSC at 7:30 p.m., to allow interested students to speak on student programming at Texas A&M. The Student Service Fee Allocation Committee is seeking student input on levels of funding to be provided next year in such areas as intramurals, extramurals, MSC programming, shuttle busing, student publications and athletics.

## WE'VE ADDED A DAY SHIFT!

Pizza Express is now open for lunch to give you more of a good thing.

... GREAT PIZZA — With ingredients made fresh daily and piled high enough to please any pizza lover.

... FREE DELIVERY — We'll deliver a piping hot pizza to your door within 30 minutes.



EVERY DAY  
11 a.m. to  
2 p.m.

846-7785

# Tower Dining Room



Serving Luncheon Buffet  
Sunday through Friday  
11:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.  
\$3.25

Top Floor of Tower Dining Room  
Sandwich & Soup Mon. thru Fri.  
\$1.50 plus drink extra

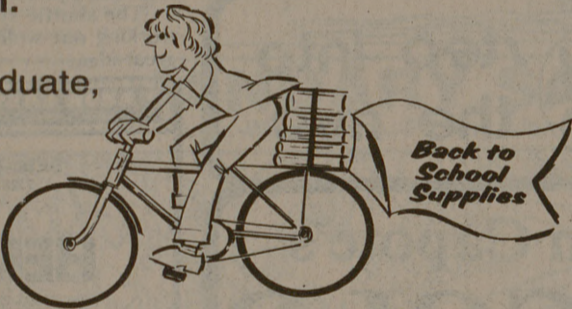
Open to the Public

"QUALITY FIRST"

## We've Got Your Books!

We stock every book required at Texas A&M for every course, degree plan & program.

Undergraduate,  
Graduate  
Medicine  
Vet  
Medicine



## University Bookstore

"At the North Gate"  
OPEN LATE THROUGH JAN. 20

## AM AGGIES! Douglas Jewelry

offers

Student ID Discounts!

15% off of \$50<sup>00</sup> or more  
10% off of under \$50<sup>00</sup>

CASH PURCHASE ONLY

We reserve the right to regulate the use of this privilege.

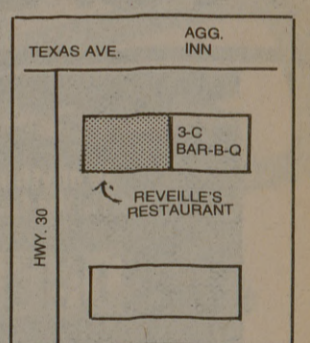
212 N. MAIN

822-3119

DOWNTOWN BRYAN

## REVEILLE'S RESTAURANT

Welcome Back Aggies!



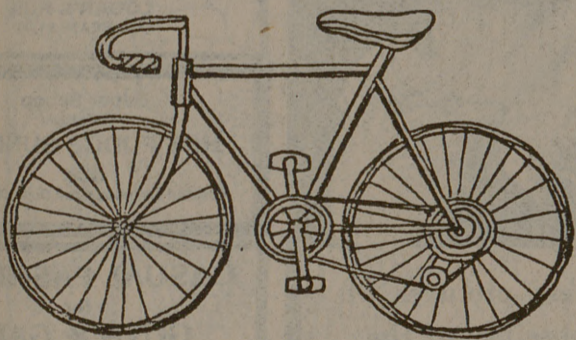
1731 S. Texas Ave.

Expires Jan. 31, 1978

Located in Culpepper Plaza

(Next to 3-C Bar-B-Q in College Station)

## BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP OPEN HOUSE



THURSDAY, JANUARY 26  
7:00-9:00 P.M.

IN THE BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP  
(ROOM ADJACENT TO BASEMENT COFFEE HOUSE)

"COME GET ACQUAINTED"

FREE ADVICE CLINIC  
COFFEE & DONUTS

PRESENTED BY THE MSC CRAFT SHOP  
& THE A&M WHEELMEN

## GREAT ISSUES PRESENTS

## Tom McCall

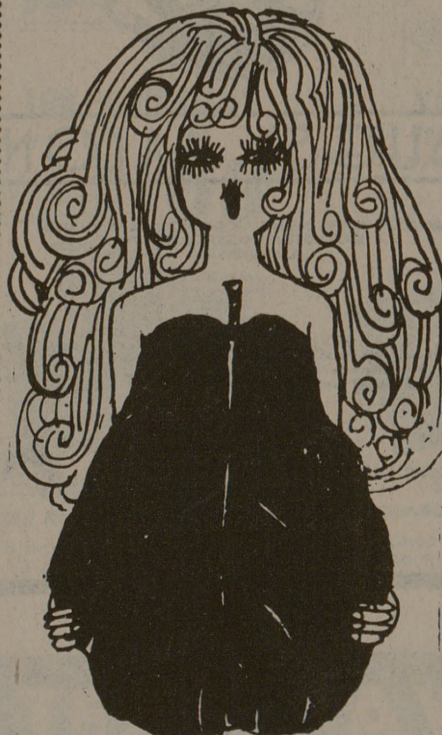
former governor of Oregon  
environmentalist  
speaking on:

THE FUTURE OF  
MAN'S ENVIRONMENT  
Rudder Theater - Jan. 26

8:00 p.m.

Students 50c

Others \$1.00



## FALL CLEARANCE SALE

Better make  
haste where great  
fashions are  
1/3 to 1/2 off.

## CARNABY SQUARE LTD.

Culpepper Plaza  
Open 10-6 Mon.-Sat.