

local

# Traditions Council promotes Ag spirit

By JED T. YOUNG  
Campus Reporter

At what other university in the nation will you see the entire student body standing during a football game? Or where else will you see 30,000 fans "humping it"? Does anyone else have a midnight yell practice? Have you ever heard the Rice Owls' war hymn? Or an SMU mustang joke?

Texas A&M University is known nationally for its traditions. Whether it's the Aggie Bonfire, Silver Taps, or even saying "howdy" to others when you walk across campus, traditions play an important part in Texas A&M's heritage.

The Traditions Council has been reorganized to help make students more aware of the traditions at Texas A&M.

"Our overall goal is to make tradi-

tions, and especially the reasoning behind these traditions more visible to the students," said Brad Smith, student government vice president for student services.

There were 15 people at the council's first meeting and there is a lot of enthusiasm, he said.

John Hardin, howdy chairman of the council, says there is a vital need to make the Traditions Council something that will prevail at Texas A&M. His job as howdy chairman is to promote the tradition of saying "howdy" on campus.

The howdy promotion will be emphasized during a special howdy week, with a barrage of signs, buttons and even contests. The council will encourage students to greet others as they walk across campus.

There are other, more meaningful reasons to be concerned about tradi-

tions other than than saying "howdy," Smith said. There is a definite pride among Aggies not found anywhere else, he said, and this is only one of the reasons to be sure that traditions are continued.

"I'd rather be known for our Bonfire and Silver Taps than for Greeks and freaks like t.u. is known for," Smith said.

Smith also said that of the pride and traditions of Texas A&M give it an

air of conservatism which attracts more would-be employers. Also, he said, former students are more eager to contribute to the University since they are giving to something they are really proud of, which is not as common at other universities.

"Muster, for instance, I think is one of the strongest contributions to gaining support from alumni and in keeping classes together, rather than reunions," Smith said. Muster is the

ceremony performed each year on San Jacinto Day to honor Aggies who have died during the year.

The traditions at Texas A&M also give the University a sense of character. For instance, there is no other university that displays as much reverence for the students who have passed away as does Texas A&M through Silver Taps.

"You can really grow personally through Silver Taps," Hardin said.

Although Silver Taps is always announced, there are people who aren't aware of it and when it is taking place, Smith said, and this leads to lights being left on and interruptions.

Dr. Roger Feldman, associate professor of veterinary pathology, and advisor for the Traditions Council, said that the council's objective is to "perpetuate the (traditions) that we have."

Feldman said that the group will identify traditions through descriptions of their history and meaning, because people need to know why traditions are here.

Members of the council feel that in the past few years, due to the massive increase in the number of students, the traditions have not been passed on like they should have been, and they try to will aid in this effort.

## Knipsels art being revived

By SHERRI DICKEY  
City Reporter

With a tiny, sharp-pointed pair of scissors, a playing card and her knowledge of knipsels, Charlotte Jordan can make an intricately hand-cut Valentine, a portrait or a nature scene — in minutes.

The Polish use colored paper and glue the designs on walls and furniture, while the Chinese make paper cuttings in red and white and hang them in windows for a stained glass effect. In Holland, paper cuttings are mostly black and white, silhouette style, Jordan said.

Her knipsels collection is on display from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Feb. 28 at the Brazos Center conference.

Jordan, wife of Texas A&M University English professor Tom Jordan, will teach a class in April that will be sponsored by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley. Her mother recently took a class in Holland and sent her the teaching materials, she said.

saw a knipsel framed at an antique show, priced at \$30.

She began researching the folk art, and learned that it seemed to have died in Europe with the invention of the camera, but it is now being revived.

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## Casino '80 girls sought by RHA

By MERIL EDWARDS  
Campus Staff

Casino '80, sponsored by the Residence Hall Association, is looking for casino girls to assist the dealers and to help with the auction, concessions and advertising.

RHA's annual Casino gives Aggies the chance to feel like they're gambling in Las Vegas. Gamblers will play with "Aggie" money to try their luck at blackjack, craps, chuck-a-luck, beat the dealer and horse races.

Casino girls are selected by lottery from women in the residence halls at Texas A&M University.

Casino girl chairman Ramona Ground said there are no special qualifications necessary to be a casino girl.

"We direct our publicity toward dorm residents since Casino is sponsored by the RHA," Ground said. "But if an off-campus student calls or applies, that's fine, she can be in the lottery too."

Women interested in being a casino girl must turn in an application to 216 Memorial Student Center by 5 p.m. Monday.

Ground said she had received ab-

out 100 applications by the end of the day Wednesday, and expects another hundred before Monday. Only 150 names will be drawn from Monday's lottery.

In addition to the first 150 names drawn, another 20 will be selected and added to an overflow list. Both lists will be posted outside 216 MSC Tuesday morning.

Casino girls will have to make their own costumes, Ground said.

"The costume is a skirt and blouse," she said. "It's a three-quarter length straight, black skirt that ties at the waist and is slit open on one side. They'll wear tights underneath. The blouse is red with spaghetti straps and a V-neck. Both will be made of shimmering-looking material."

Besides making the costume, the casino girls will be required to participate in pre-casino promotional activities.

"They'll help with PR and wear T-shirts, things like that," she said.

Casino girls also must agree to participate fully in Casino '80 and conform to the standards set for the outfit and accessories plus attend several meetings, Ground said.



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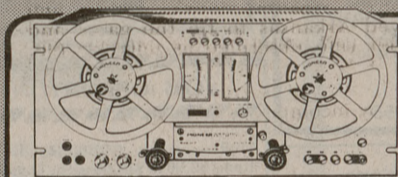
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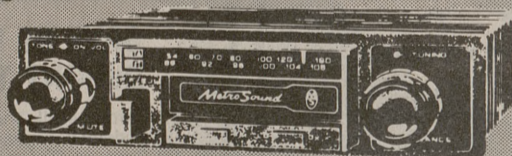
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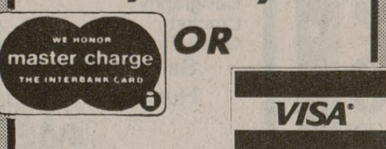
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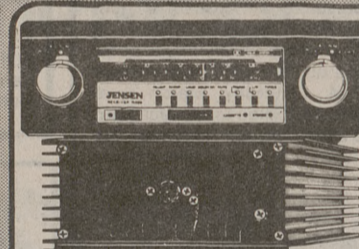
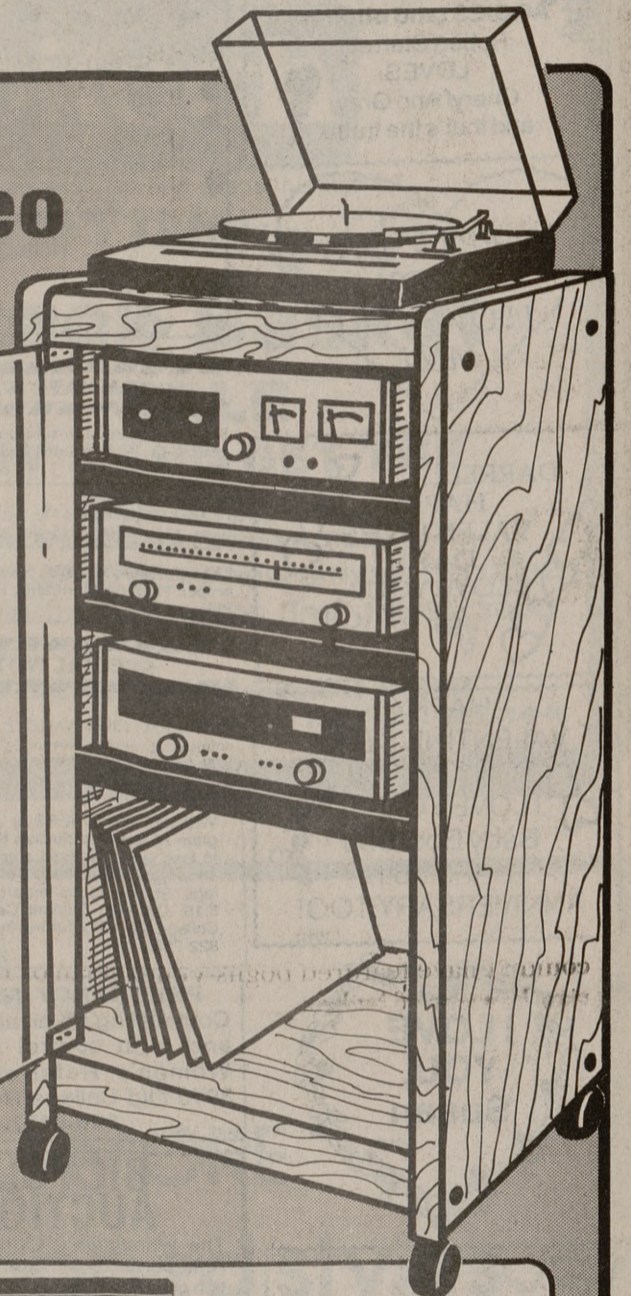
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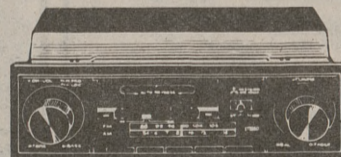
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