

# A&M's other band plays for fun; concert April 17

By GAIL WEATHERLY  
Campus Reporter

Like a magician, he has their complete attention without saying a word. With one rap of his small white baton on the podium and a quick upswing of the arm, he creates unity from what was discord the moment before.

Maj. Joe McMullen, a soft-spoken, dark-haired man directs the University Symphonic Band with feeling.

A variety of music-loving Aggies makes up the band. Students, staff members and faculty are eligible for membership, but the competition is tough.

The 65-70 members make the Aggie Band Hall come to life at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays with trombones, clarinets, flutes, bassoons and other instruments. Corps boots, cowboy boots, tennis shoes and high heels start tapping to the music, and it is plain to see that no one feels he is wasting his lunch hour.

Most of the band members come from top high school bands, McMullen said, and have to audition each fall even if they have been in the band before. It is not unusual, he said, for 20 people to audition for only eight places.

The band was formed in 1974 for people not in the Texas Aggie Band. It is under the supervision of McMullen, who is also associate director of the marching and concert bands.

Jim Metcalf, an English professor at Texas A&M, plays a B flat clarinet in the band "just for pleasure." Members receive no special recognition, he said, but "this year we got a deal to go on our shirt."

John O'Keefe plays trombone and is a full-time Marine attending Texas A&M through the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program. Previously he was in the Marine Corps Field Band at Quantico, Va., and he said he wanted to be in the Aggie Band.

"But there was a conflict about my being in the Marines," he said. So he auditioned for the University Symphonic Band.

Doug Rogerson, president and three-year band member, said it is amazing to have such a quality band since Texas A&M has no music program.

"A large number of these players were all-region and all-state players in high school," he said.

It is nerve-racking, O'Keefe and Rogerson said, to have to audition every year to get in the band. It makes them practice during the summer, they said, to have a fighting chance of competing against incom-

ing freshmen. The high point during his three years in the band, Rogerson said, was the last year's trip to New Orleans to play in the Superdome.

The band's final spring performances will be a concert near the MSC fountain at 12:30 p.m. April 17.



Staff photo by Ed Cunniss

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McMullen, who is also associate director of the marching and concert bands. The band has 65-70 members.

## Election

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Robert C. Rummels and J.P. Watson.

Rummels, a meteorology professor at Texas A&M University, said he is running because he feels it is every citizen's duty to take part in his community. He said he is concerned with continuing the high quality of life and sound planning of industrial growth to provide an economic tax base.

Watson is a local businessman and was not available for comment.

In a change of pace, incumbent Pat Boughton is being challenged by Texas A&M student Mary Elizabeth Herring.

Boughton has spent two years on city council, she said, learning the ropes. "I need more than one term," she said. Originally zoning and the

liveability of neighborhoods were her main concern, she said, because commercial areas and apartments were encroaching on single-family living.

"But now my main goal is to bring in more good, clean industries to increase the economic base and decrease the tax load to citizens," Boughton said.

Herring, a junior agriculture economics major, has served as the Texas A&M student senate liaison on the council since October and said earlier she is running because of her interest in the issues, especially zoning.

"But as the liaison I felt limited to student affairs," she said, "and it would be nice to have a voice and be able to vote."

Incumbent Jim Dozier is unopposed for place six and could not

be reached for comment.

Halter has been a councilman for five years and said being mayor is not very different from being on the council since any additional powers are only informal. He said he has the experience and background (as an associate professor of political science at Texas A&M), and wants to continue the same policies the city is following.

He said these policies include efforts to attract industrial growth, especially companies involved in furthering University research efforts or computer manufacturers; also, railroad track relocation which could include becoming a part of a rapid transit system. Such a system would run through the major cities of Austin, Dallas, San Antonio and Houston, and Halter said he wants College Station to be included.

## Orchestra, band to have concert

The Texas Aggie Concert Band and the Aggeland Orchestra will present an evening of musical entertainment April 10, with proceeds from the concert benefiting the scholarship fund of the Brazos County Texas A&M University Mothers' Club.

The 8 p.m. performance in the Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M campus will also feature Rich Matteson, an internationally recog-

nized jazz soloist on a variety of instruments including the valve trombone, bass trumpet, euphonium, tuba and piano.

Tickets, which can be purchased at the Rudder Box Office or from any member of the Mothers' Club, are \$1 for students and \$2 for adults, or \$3 per family.

All proceeds go to the Mothers' Club's scholarship fund.



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