

# THE BATTALION

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## The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High . . . . . 71	High . . . . . 77
Low . . . . . 58	Low . . . . . 63
Rain . . . . . trace	Chance of rain . . 30%

## A&M may get less research money

By JANE G. BRUST  
Battalion Staff

When Texas A&M University researchers ask the state legislature for \$7.2 million for organized research over the next two years, it is unlikely they will receive that amount.

The organized research allocation is used to initiate new research projects. There is no other source of funding for such projects.

Dr. Robert Berg, director of University research, explained that the request comes from a formula based on enrollment, faculty and research projects during the previous year.

Berg said the formula emphasizes the number of graduate students because graduate students are more likely to be part of a research program.

"Our history of this appropriation is that they've never funded 100 percent of formula," he said. "It started out as 70 percent of formula and decreased from there to about 35-30 percent."

Two years ago the legislature allocated \$750,000 for each of the 1979-80 and 1980-81 periods.

Berg said more money will be put into

equipment purchases if the legislature gives an increase over the allocation two years ago.

"If we have an increase in our organized research appropriation, it is true we can put more money into equipment," he said.

Berg pointed out that because the University has grown a tremendous amount in the past 15 years, much of the sophisticated analytical equipment has deteriorated or has become outmoded.

"At this point we are falling somewhat behind in general research equipment," he said.

Berg named the colleges of Science, Geosciences and Medicine as ones which are largely dependent on modern equipment.

Berg said the organized research money is allocated to each college so the deans can develop research programs that they deem important to their particular colleges.

Money is also allocated for faculty use of the data processing center, use of the radiation services at the nuclear reactor and miscellaneous expenses.

All of the money is used for unspen-

sored research, Berg said.

"We're trying to let the faculty get new ideas and new data on new lines of research so that they can turn around and submit a proposal to federal agencies and get outside support — we call this 'seed money.'"

Current research includes work in the College of Science to develop new sources of fuel. Berg explained that researchers are working to get hydrogen out of water and coal.

"Once you get these basic elements out of the raw material, then you can easily combine them with carbon and hydrogen to make methane gas," he said.

"That's basic research, but it has an ultimate application in energy."

The College of Medicine has begun studies into the development of microscopic blood vessels. Sophisticated laboratory equipment for work in this area will be purchased with some of the money allocated this spring.

The legislature requires that the organized research appropriation be used exclusively to support studies that are ultimately beneficial to the state.

## S.G. project may help summer job seekers

By DANA SMELSER  
Battalion Reporter

Some of Texas A&M's undergraduate students may find summer job hunting easier with the help of a new Student Government project.

Summer Jobs for Aggies is designed to encourage Texas A&M's former students to provide or help locate summer jobs for undergraduates. Roger McConnell, student government coordinator for the project, said.

McConnell said Student Government has mailed 150 letters and is in the process of visiting 12 Texas A&M Clubs in 10 cities to explain the project to potential employers.

Student Government has appropriated \$1,000 for the program.

The base of the project is "Aggies helping Aggies," McConnell said.

Anyone having the opportunity of

providing a job for a student can mail in a job placement card describing the location, salary range, preferred major and the type of experience needed for the available job.

After receiving the cards, Student Government will open the files to undergraduates to see what jobs they can find.

McConnell said their goal is to open the files by April 6.

"It will be on a first-come-first-served basis," McConnell said, "because we can't decide which students should get what jobs."

The student then contacts the potential employer to set up an interview.

Although the project is simple, McConnell said, "it requires the use of our most valuable resource — our former students."

Two reasons exist for the project that began this year, McConnell said. First, the state of the economy is making summer jobs harder to find.

Second, the Placement Center only found a little over 100 summer jobs for undergraduates last year. "That's just not enough," McConnell said.

The project is designed to help students in all majors in as many cities and communities as possible. McConnell said jobs for doctors, lawyers, small businesses and large corporations should be available.

"If we can place 100 to 200 people, it will be well worth while," McConnell said.

The project has been well received, McConnell said, and has the support of both the Association of Former Students and the co-op program.



Staff photo by Chuck Chapman

### Somewhere over the Rainbow

A rainbow of balloons arched over the mall in front of Rudder Tower Thursday to promote tonight's annual All Nite Fair.

Sponsored by the MSC Council, the theme for this year's fair is "The Wizard of Oz," and everyone is urged to dress as their favorite Oz character.

The fair will be held in the MSC from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. and admission is 50 cents. About 60 student

service organizations will have game booths throughout the MSC and tickets for these are 10 cents.

Three guest performances will be given in the MSC lounge: Tom Deluca, a hypnotist, will perform at 9 and 11:45 p.m.; and "The Amazing Jonathan," a comedian-magician, will perform at 10:30.

## Quartet adds humor, harmony to Singing Cadets

By DENISE RICHTER  
Battalion Reporter

They step out of the ranks of the 60 Singing Cadets — four men dressed in the group's standard military tuxedos. They begin to sing and suddenly, the auditorium and tuxedos no longer seem appropriate. They ought to be in a barbershop, razors in hand, dressed in striped coats and sporting handlebar mustaches.

They are the Aggjenizers, four Texas A&M University students who are the official barbershop quartet of the Singing Cadets. The current Aggjenizers are Jeff Melson, a senior chemical engineering major from Abilene who sings baritone; his brother, lead singer John Melson, a sophomore industrial engineering major, from Abilene; Scott Sullivan, a senior mathematics major from Big Spring who sings bass; and Dwight Webb, a sophomore agricultural economics major from Perryton ("that's P-e-double r-y-t-o-n spells Perryton," sang Webb, the group's tenor).

"The Aggjenizers are a legitimate barbershop group but we also use them for comic relief because they're such hams," Robert L. Boone, director of the Singing Cadets, said.

Group members agree. "I guess we are comic relief," Jeff Melson said. "Coach (Boone) introduces us as the Aggjenizers and everyone gets a big laugh just from hearing the name of the group. We go up there and tell jokes and try to sing well, too. But, if the music isn't good, the humor isn't going to salvage it."

The original Aggjenizers began apart from the Singing Cadets.

"They were just four guys who wanted to get together and sing barbershop," Jeff Melson said. "Somewhere along the way they told Coach that they had a barbershop quartet worked up and asked if they could sing in a show."

Sullivan said the original group sang together for two full years, but groups to follow haven't been so lucky.

"Ever since then, we've had a problem with turnovers; we lose at least one guy each semester," said Sullivan.

"Since you always have to start over when you get a new person in the group, it got to where they were relying more

and more on humor during the shows. Now we'd like to go back to a little less humor and a little more barbershop."

Turnovers are still a problem. The current group has only been singing together since the beginning of the semester. "We had a 75 percent turnover (since last semester)," Sullivan, the only holdover, said. "We got together the second week of school and had two weeks to prepare for a 30-minute performance."

"When even one person drops out and you have to replace him, you have to work for an entirely new blend. Half of barbershop is getting used to singing together."

Melson said, "One reason the four of us got together is because, as brothers,

**"Since you always have to start over when you get a new person in the group, it got to where they were relying more and more on humor during the shows. Now we'd like to go back to a little less humor and a little more barbershop."**

John and I just have a natural blend. Dwight and Scott had sung together quite a bit also, so it all worked out."

In addition to performing at all Singing Cadet performances, the Aggjenizers emceed the 1980 MSC Talent Show, provided the luncheon entertainment for the 1981 Conference of Student Government Associations convention at Texas A&M, and performed at the Miss Texas A&M University Pageant Saturday.

After all of these performances, is stage fright a problem for any of the Aggjenizers?

"I only relax after we've finished the tuning chord (the standard four-note chord sung at the beginning of each song)," John Melson said. "That's where we're most likely to make a mistake. We can sing the songs, we just seem to have some sort of mental block against that

tuning chord."

Sullivan also said he relaxes more once he is on stage.

"Usually I get really tense right before we go out, then after we start, I relax," Sullivan said. "One thing that helps me is the fact that I move around a lot while we sing, tapping my feet and snapping my fingers. It's my tap and dance routine. I call it disco barbershop."

The Aggjenizers are a self-governed group. "We audition to fill our own vacancies and choose our own music," Sullivan said. However, Boone has the power to veto any selection that he feels is not appropriate for a Singing Cadets' performance.

"In many ways, you might consider Coach our agent," Jeff Melson said. "He books all of our performances outside the Singing Cadets. He's also our number one critic."

Boone said, "They'll work up a number and I'll listen and try to help them, but they do all the work. I just try to give them ideas on themes and on particular songs that they might want to try."

The group's unofficial adviser is Dr. Dennis M. Driscoll, an assistant professor of meteorology.

Driscoll is internationally known in barbershop circles as an arranger of music for barbershop quartets, Boone said.

"He deserves a lot of the credit for the Aggjenizers' success," Boone said.

The Aggjenizers' success can also be attributed partially to the many hours devoted to practice. The group practices at least six hours per week in addition to the daily hour-long Singing Cadet rehearsals and weekend tours.

But, long hours of practice are nothing new to the group's members since all of the Aggjenizers were involved with vocal music in high school.

The foursome didn't give up their music when they came to college and each plans to continue singing as a hobby. "None of us plan to make music our vocation, that's why we're here at A&M studying math or engineering or agriculture," Jeff Melson said. "We do this simply for the fun of it and if we are this involved with music while in college, I'm sure we'll all keep it up forever."



Photo by T. Garrett

The four Aggjenizers, Jeff and John Melson (standing left to right), Dwight Webb and piano player Scott

Sullivan, practice sight reading a new tune for their barbershop quartet.