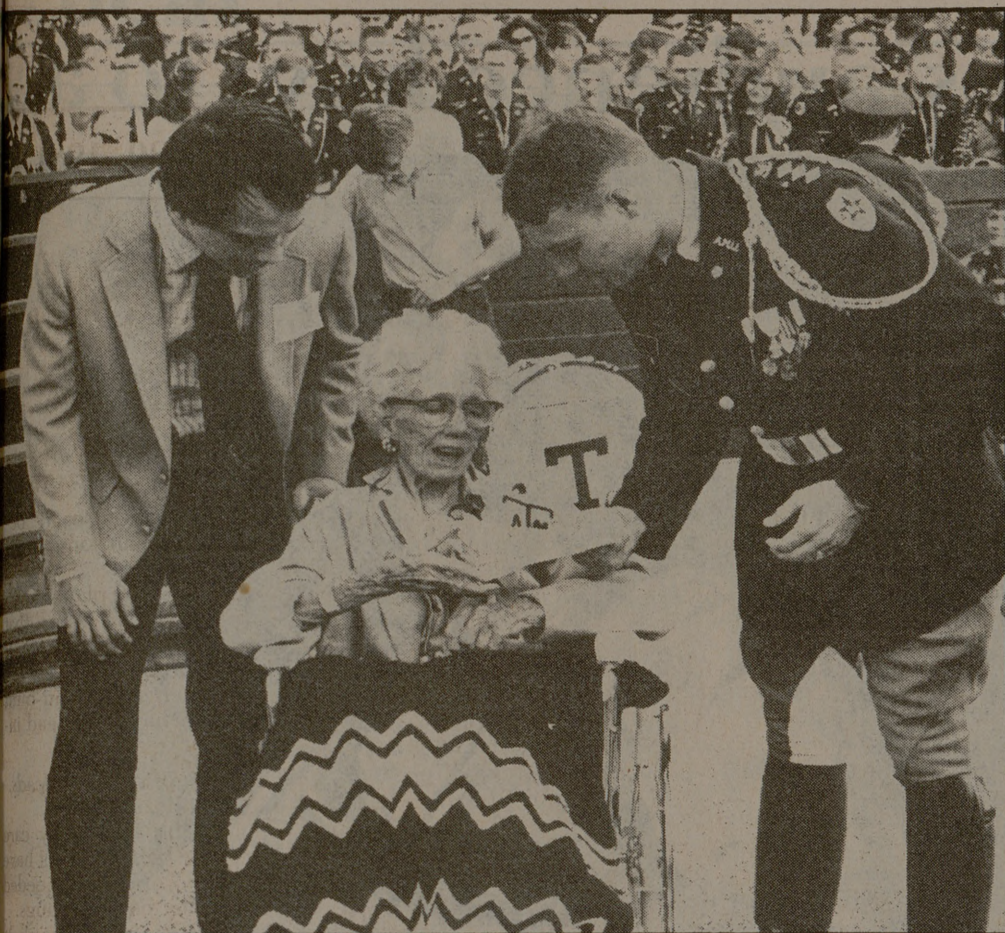


Local



Getting organ-ized

Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Richard J. Dunn accepts Aggie pledges for the Living Bank from Commander James Hughes, right, and Ken Johnson, student body president. Dunn, wife of the "Spirit of Aggieland" composer, accepted 171 pledges on behalf of the organ bank at halftime of Thursday's football game.

# A&M club helps local writers

By JENNIFER CARR  
Battalion Reporter  
If you have a creative fancy with pen and paper, or if you're known to spend hours at the typewriter pecking out poetry or prose, there's a campus group for you. Local writers now have opportunity to meet with other writers

jects that members are currently working on.

The 12-member club is involved in various projects including novels, poetry, songs and a stage play.

Alyson Williams, the economics department secretary, said the group meets to read each other's work and to help with anything from spelling to story ideas. Although members are kept informed of outside contests and are encouraged to enter them, the group members do not compete among themselves.

The only contest members conduct is to see who can collect the most individual rejection slips. However, not all the members are writing for publication.

"Most of us are at the transition stage — the point where you're writing for yourself and your friends," Williams said. "It's the step towards submitting things regularly for publication. Most of us haven't made that step yet, and that's what I want the group to help with."

Williams, who calls herself chairman by default, said the club's purpose is to give writers an opportunity to meet each other, which she said is rare at Texas A&M University.

Williams said she and two other student writers met in Janet McCann's creative writing class

(English 325). The three students got together with another writer and decided to form a club this semester to see who else was writing at Texas A&M.

The club has received help and

advice from McCann, an English professor and published poet. She is able to advise the poets in the group on how and where to submit their poetry, and to a certain extent, whether it will sell, she said.

"Most of us are at the transition stage — the point where you're writing for yourself and your friends. It's the step towards submitting things regularly for publication. Most of us haven't made that step yet, and that's what I want the group to help with." — Alyson Williams, Writers Club chairman.

to exchange ideas and criticism in the Writers Club.

The group was created by a secretary in the economics department, a general studies student and three other writers. It meets Sunday nights at 6 in the Sterling C. Evans Library to discuss pro-

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## VD experiment on blacks to be discussed by author

By BARBIE WOELFEL  
Battalion Staff  
The withholding of syphilis treatment from uneducated black men by government and military agencies between 1932 and 1972 will be the topic of a program Tuesday.

James Jones, associate professor at the University of Houston and author of the book "Bad Blood" will make speak at 7:30 p.m. in the 207 Harrington Classroom. The program is being sponsored by the Texas A&M Historical Society, the Women's Student Organization, the MSC Black Business Committee, the history department and Phi Alpha, a history honor society. "Bad Blood" covers the period from 1932 to 1972 the U.S.

Public Health Service, the Alabama State Department of Health, the Macon County health department, the Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee, Al., the Tuskegee Institute and several private physicians purposefully withheld treatment from more than 400 illiterate, unskilled black men who suffered from syphilis.

"Bad Blood," published in September 1981, deals with Jones' research into the government-supported experiment. The book also discusses the medical ethics involved that allowed the doctors to decide the fate of the men in the experiment.

Jones' book focuses on how this research happened and continued to happen for 40 years without public attention.

During one period while the research was underway, a treatment for syphilis using penicillin did exist, but it was purposefully withheld from these men by the doctors in order to study how syphilis develops and how it affects the body.

"In other words, these men were used as guinea pigs without their consent," explained Linda Ann Sawyer, a senior history major and member of the Texas A&M Historical Society.

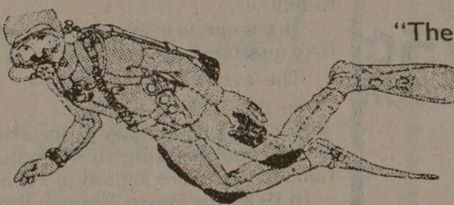
"Doctors knew in the beginning that some of the men would die from the disease."

When the story broke in 1972, the Tuskegee Institute was accused of racism against blacks during the 40 years the secret experiment survived.

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