Battalion Staff

New associate athletic dire-Charles J. Thornton's asons for coming to Texas &M sound a little like Jackie nerrill's, and his goals for the hool's athletic programs bring mind the familiar "prethe familiar "pre-sought by H.R. ım" Bright.

"In all sports, we want to be tional in scope," the former niversity of Alabama assistant AD says. "We want to be cometitive to where we're a nation-(contender), and we want, for e average year, for our team to e in the top three in the confernce in every sport, and to be in the national picture also.

Texas A&M, he said, perhaps nore than any other school in the country, has that kind of

"When Jackie called, I felt like was probably the best pportunity in America at this e in the area of football and thletic administration," he said. Certainly Thornton, 45,

rings with him the administrave qualifications to make the ggies winners. Since early in is college career he has been tinuously involved in some acet of athletics — as sports edior of the Arkansas State Uniersity newspaper for four ears, as the chairman of the CAA public relations commit-, and as an athletic adminisor for Arkansas State, Tulane University, the Universiof Miami, and, of course, Ala-

row

"I kind

His 18-year affiliation with abama ended Jan. 23, when exas A&M head coach and AD ackie Sherrill announced that Thornton would replace in-terim associate AD Wally Groff, ho now acts as associate AD for

It was during 1964, his first year with Coach Paul "Bear" ryant's Crimson Tide, that he became acquainted with Sher-

"I knew Jackie for two years "I knew Jackie for two years edge there as a player," Thornton to come out Jackie is that he was not a great athlete, but he was a super

"Jackie and I have remained uaintances over the years, close friends particularly, t I think it was a mutual niration thing from a disfavore tance. When this opportunity came along, I knew enough about Jackie Sherrill to know that ne man is a winner and a class toply person, the type of person I would want to be associated

> fter years of hearing Bryan and former Aggie football players talk about the traditions here, Thornton said he felt Texas A&M was a school he would want to be associated

gleam in their eye when they talk out A&M, and it holds a specal place in their heart.



Associate Athletic Director Charles J. Thorton

One unique aspect of Texas A&M, he said, will make his job a lot easier - the role of the Aggie

"Most schools today have a serious financial problem in that they're having to get out and raise two or three million dollars when they haven't been used to doing it," Thornton said. "A&M is used to doing that. They have the Aggie Club.

"It takes it out of Jackie's and my area of responsibility — of having that tremendous load on our shoulders — of having to raise money before we do any-

While the Aggie Club raises funds and Sherrill runs the football program, Thornton will be running the day-to-day operations of the athletic department from former head coach Tom Wilson's old office.

A few of his concerns are assembling the entire department in one set of offices - currently, the football offices are in Rudder Tower and all other orts offices are in G. Rollie White Coliseum — and looking into a special events center for the campus.

Basketball would not be the lone reason, or possibly even the attractions.

In addition, Thorton said his office will re-organize some areas of the department as soon as the evaluation of all coaches and staff has been completed.

All of which is geared to make Texas A&M the nationally feared power that a school like Alabama is. And Thornton adds his name to the list

of qualified personnel who are in some position to see that complacent.

the Aggies do it.

Thornton guarantees it. 'Very few people will ever go through the era that Alabama enjoyed during the 1970s," he said. "I was fortunate enough to ba a part of five national cham-

pionship teams. "Basically, the Alabama fan is very complacent. An 8-3 record

is a disaster for Alabama. "We're going to make y'all TANK MCNAMARA





by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds AND TODAY MARKS THE ARRIVAL OF THE EXPENSIVE FREE AGENT SIGNED DURING THE OFF SEASON...

Nuggets win 129-115

Denver's defense beats San Antonio

United Press International
DENVER — An aggressive defense and accurate shooting from the foul line gave Denver a 129-115 win over San Antonio, narrowing the Spurs' Midwest

Division lead to 3½ games.

Dan Issel and Alex English had 25 points each Wednesday and Glen Gondrezick and Cedrick Hordges combined for 28 more to pace the Nuggets to their eighth straight win and improve Denver's record to 38-30.

The key was our defense, we were really aggressive," said Denver coach Doug Moe. "We did a great job on the defensive boards, especially in the second half. We fought over screens and forced turnovers. It was just extraordinary

Denver trailed 30-21 late in the first quarter. But the Nug-gets closed the gap to five after one period and used a 41-point second quarter to take a 69-60 halftime lead.

"I thought we might blow them out a couple of times, but we couldn't make a couple of shots," Moe said. "We had a good game and they didn't. And

we've become a little more physcores 25. I just tried to overplay sical recently and that's helped against teams like San Antonio. Earlier this season we let Denver also hit 37 of 46 free

George Gervin paced San Wasn't happy with the 37 fouls whistled on his team.

T.R. Duwe T. R. Duwe

job of guarding Gervin, said it was impossible to keep him from

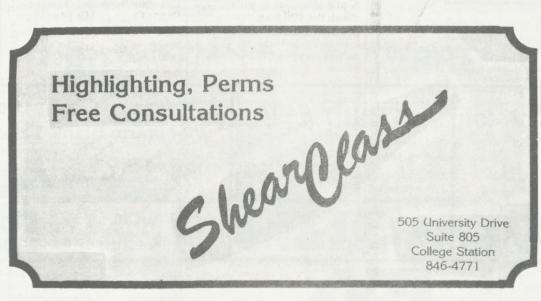
"George is such an outstanding player, he's unbelievable," said Dunn. "You can put two or three guys on him and he still

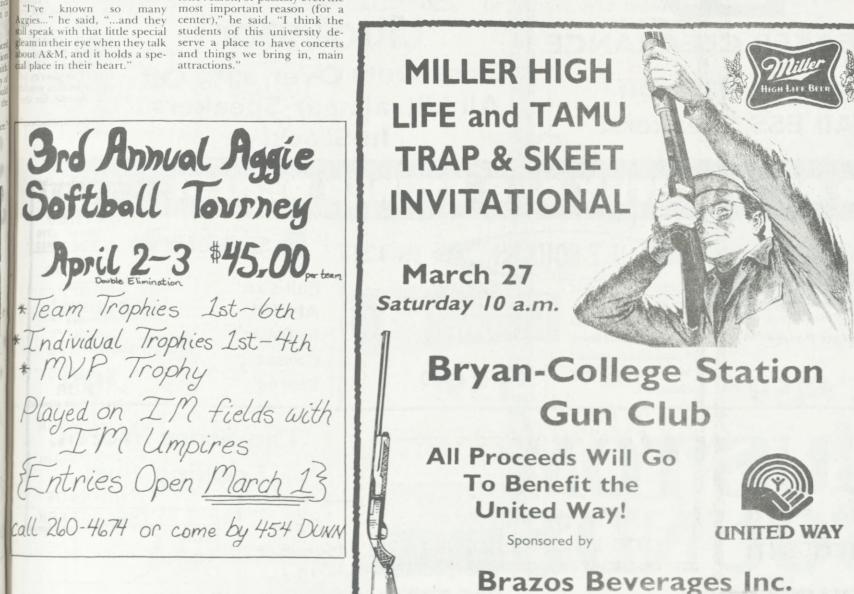
him, and fortunately the guys on the weak side helped out a lot.'

ourselves get pushed around. throw attempts, with Issel drop-But we're holding our ground ping 13 of 14.

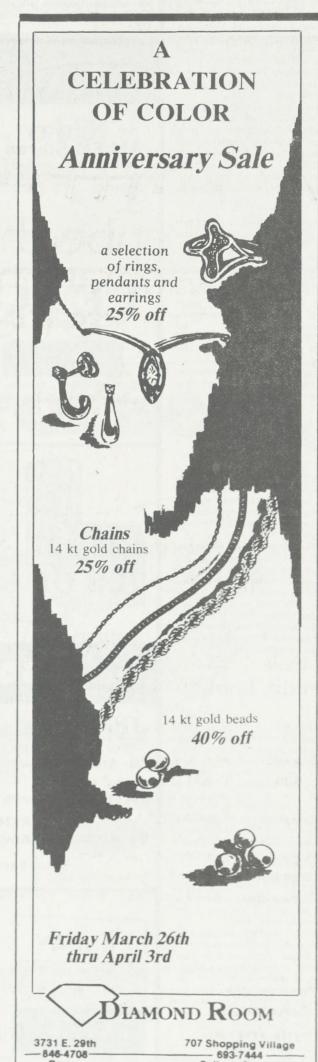
T.R. Dunn, saddled with the league for the Nuggets to get, fouled when they go to the hoop," Albeck said. "You have to keep them off the foul line to win. If you don't do that, you don't have a chance.

But he said he still felt "Denver can't catch us.





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