

# Emphasis on athletics debated at A&M forum

By KATHI COOK  
Reporter

By a vote of 142 to 85, the audience of the 13th Texas A&M Forum Tuesday night rejected a resolution stating that A&M overemphasizes athletics as opposed to academics.

Two students delivered 7-minute speeches for both sides of the resolution before the floor was opened for audience participation.

Mark Yokom, a junior political science major, argued for the resolution. The opposition was led by John Koemel, a senior agronomy major.

Yokom said he felt A&M was sports and athletic-minded while academics were put in the background. He cited the salary of Jackie Sherrill, the head football coach, as being five times as much as a professor with tenure.

Yokom said the distribution of athletic dollars compared to the dis-

tribution of academic dollars supports his argument.

"The 12th Man Club solicits money from students for athletics while no clubs exist to solicit for student money for academics," Yokom said.

Special academic concessions, Wofford Cain Hall and student attitudes also were mentioned as points in support of overemphasis.

"Students just think it is cool to say 'I'm big drinking buddies with Ray Childress' because it makes them look good," Yokom said. "Students get so fired up over sports like the cadet who drew the saber against an SMU cheerleader. I don't see any saber-brandishing cadets in front of the Blocker Building."

Yokom said bonfire, the Twelfth Man and midnight yell practice are sports-type traditions.

"There is no weekend push for a

Monday assignment or the 'second man' standing behind you in a test," Yokom said.

In opposition to the resolution, Koemel said he felt sports were an integral part of everyday life.

"Publicity plays a big part," Koemel said. "People want to read about sports so it is published more."

Koemel said several athletes are physical education majors because it is the appropriate preparation for a coaching career. Athletes are not general studies majors as the general studies program has a 2-year limit.

The average grade-point ratio of student athletes at A&M is 2.5 according to Dr. Don Hunt, the academic counselor for the athletes, Koemel said.

Koemel also said that only \$35,000 is given annually in athletic scholarships. "Fifty \$8,000 academic schol-



Photo by DAVID LEYENDECKER

John Koemel, a senior agronomy major from George West gives his "con" speech on the overemphasis of athletics opposed to academics.

cially self-sufficient, Koemel said.

"The money for athletics is raised in three ways — ticket sales, revenue

from television and gifts from former students," Koemel said. "No money is taken away from academics."

## More road repairs for Texas

United Press International

AUSTIN — The state highway department said Tuesday Texans will soon notice a dramatic increase in road maintenance and construction projects because of a tax bill passed by the Legislature in July.

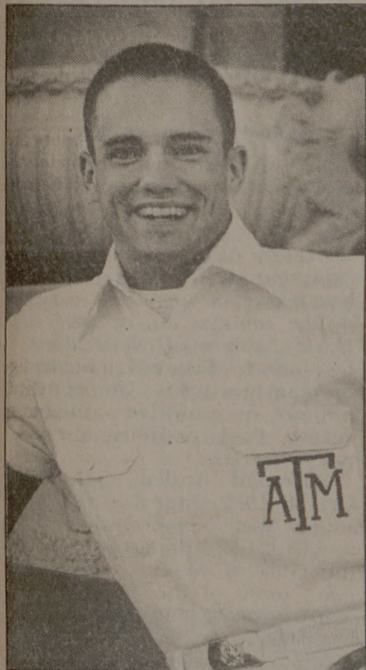
The state Department of Highways and Public Transportation said

it expects to award \$90 million in highway contracts in November, compared to about \$29 million in November 1983.

The Legislature raised the gasoline tax by 5-cents and also hiked motor vehicle registration fees to generate an additional \$400 million in state matching funds for 1985.

# Head yell leader attains his dream

By CATHY SHULER  
Reporter



Kelly Joseph

In O.P. shorts and an Izod shirt, head yell leader Kelly Joseph looks like a typical college student of the 1980s. At the same time, with his clean-scrubbed all-American looks, short hair and traditional white uniform, he could easily pass for a yell leader of the '50s.

This down-to-earth senior usually has a smile and talks easily about himself and his position.

Joseph said he has been coming to yell practices at Texas A&M ever since he can remember. Joseph, an agriculture economics major from Round Rock, said he has watched Aggie yell leaders for years hoping that one day he could be the guy in overalls telling jokes and inspiring the Twelfth Man to yell louder for the Aggie team.

Last year as a junior, Joseph finally got that chance.

"In the fall of 1978, I heard a joke at a yell practice and told myself, 'I'm going to tell that same joke as a yell leader someday,'" Joseph said. "Last year I got to tell the joke, and I even got a response — people actu-

ally laughed!"

Joseph said his father, Don Joseph, influenced him to try out for yell leader more than anyone else.

"Dad was a yell leader in 1951, and I knew it would really please him if I were one too," Joseph said.

"It's great meeting Old Ags who come up and say, 'Hey, are you Donny Joseph's son?' It's nice to know the respect people had for my father when he was in college."

Joseph said many people ask him if Tom Joseph, head yell leader two years ago, is his brother. He is actually his cousin.

Joseph, a member of the Corps of Cadets, describes himself as "easy going, realistic and organized," and talks openly about the ups and downs of being a yell leader.

"Being elected yell leader has given me a lot of confidence and the opportunity to express different aspects of my personality," Joseph said. "I enjoy Bible study, literature and music, but when I put on my overalls and go out in front of all those people, it requires me to be different than I normally am — more outgoing, lively and energetic."

Joseph said the demands of the job are often less than glamorous.

"My junior year was tough — there was and still is a great deal of pressure," he said. "With travel plans and being responsible for getting things done as well as maintaining myself as a student, it can get very tiring."

"As a senior I've grown up a lot — I've learned more about myself and others."

"This year the spirit has been better than it's ever been. It's been frustrating, though, to see the Twelfth Man work so hard and not be able to see the results in the way of Aggie wins."

Joseph said that it's easy to get "the big head" being in the limelight but he tries to keep things in perspective.

"I try to play it down and act like it's not that big of a deal," he said with an enthusiastic grin. "But I guarantee, it's as fun as it looks."

## Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Tuesday.

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
  - A Schwinn 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Langford Architecture Center.
  - A blue Fuji Asprea 12-speed bicycle and a maroon Schwinn Traveler 12-speed bicycle were stolen from the east side of Mosher Hall.
  - A GTE touch-tone telephone was stolen from 310 Bolton Hall.
  - A gray Schwinn World Tour 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Zachry Engineering Center.

- A backpack was stolen from the fourth floor of Sterling C. Evans Library.

- Four wire wheel covers were stolen from a 1980 Chevrolet in Parking Annex 24.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- The driver's side door was damaged on a 1980 Chevrolet in Parking Annex 30.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:

- A General Electric AM/FM radio and cassette player and \$20 in cash were stolen from a student's room in McGinnis Hall.

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