

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

These Aggie rings are on display in the Association of Former Students lobby in the Memorial Student Center. The rings show changes made from 1934 to 1935.

Style virtually same since '35

## Aggie ring tradition

By JUNE PANG  
Staff Writer

The Aggie ring is a steadfast Texas A&M tradition. But can you imagine Aggies wearing different styles of class rings?

That was the situation before the Class of '35 — students could get class rings from any jewelry store, and numerous styles were available. The Class of '35 was the first class that received rings from a single company. This makes the Class of '85 the 50th class to wear a uniform Aggie ring.

According to "We are the Aggies," (a book by John Adams Jr.), in 1933 A&M President T.O. Walton appointed an official senior ring committee to oversee the handling of the rings and any design modification that seemed agreeable with students. The consensus was that if the design of the ring wasn't controlled, the ring and its heritage would prove meaningless.

Since the Class of '35, two changes have been made in the design of the ring. In 1943 the ring was enlarged and the seal raised. In 1963, when Texas A&M College became Texas A&M University the ring under-

went a corresponding change.

After working for four years for the rings, students become sentimentally attached to their rings.

"Whenever I have some problem," said Patrice Koranek, a senior agricultural journalism major, "I just look at my ring and think, I've done so much, I can stand a little more."

Bruce Todd, an accounting and finance major, said: "It helps me identify people. Wherever I go, I kind of look at people's fingers from even 10 or 15 feet away to see if there is an Aggie ring." And if he finds one, he said, the bond immediately starts.

Another Aggie, William G. Breazeale, Class of '35, reminisced about how he spotted an Aggie in late 1942 when he was on the Pacific island Guadalcanal. "I was stuck in a muddy hole in a jeep, and so was the other man in another jeep," said Breazeale. "We waited until a truck pulled us out."

When the two jeeps were pulled out, "We both cleaned our hands with banana leaves," Breazeale said. "Then I spotted his

ring. We had a union right at that time."

Breazeale, a lieutenant colonel during World War II, was pleased to know that his class set the standard for the present-day Aggie ring.

"You recognize a lot of people world-wide," he said. "It's just like having a stamp on your forehead."

An estimated 75,000 people wore Aggie rings in 1979. If the number of students who have graduated from A&M since May 1980 are added to that figure, about 110,000 people now wear the symbol of Aggie heritage.

The L.G. Balfour Company has been producing Aggie rings since 1948.

"They are pretty good at service," said Randy Matson, Class of '67 and chairman of the Senior Ring Committee. "Unless we're unhappy about it, we are reluctant to change the contract."

Matson said he wants to stay with the same company to maintain the quality of the rings.

## Bryan student suspended for distributing satirical work

Associated Press

BRYAN — A 17-year-old Bryan High School junior was suspended for two days because he wrote and distributed a satirical newspaper called "The Twisted Times" on campus without permission, school officials said.

Karl Evans, a straight "A" student tapped as next year's editor of the official school newspaper, was suspended March 4-5 for violating a school rule that requires students to submit materials for prior approval, Principal Jerry Kirby said.

"What if students could pass out anything they wanted without any kind of control," Kirby said. "Can you imagine what would happen?"

The teen-ager's parents, Rand and Mary Evans, claim the rule is unconstitutional and should be repealed.

"Karl didn't violate a legitimate rule," the elder Evans said. "We don't think it's a just punishment. Or a legitimate punishment."

Evans, a psychology professor at Texas A&M, said he plans to plead the case at the May 13 school board meeting.

Karl told the Houston Chronicle on Monday that he got the idea for

"The Twisted Times" last summer after seeing some issues of "Texas Ranger," a University of Texas student humor magazine in the 1960s.

He typed the stories and pasted them on a sheet of paper. His mother read the paper for mistakes, then took it to a local printing company.

The first issue was stuffed in random lockers at the high school in September, Karl said.

It contained an article about a fictitious Riot Club at the school, a satirical piece on Dallas computer magnate H. Ross Perot and a cartoon about coffee called "Java Man."

A notice on the back of the issue explained his intentions, Karl said.

The notice read: "This material is parodied. This means that you are not supposed to consider any view valid in any way. If you do take us seriously, get therapy. Quick. Please."

The paper got little reactions from fellow students. Karl published a second issue.

Karl and another student who helped distribute the newspaper were suspended after the sixth issue.

Karl's parents said the contents of the articles were tame.

"I don't agree with some of the

terminology he used, but I'm from a different generation," Mrs. Evans said.

Wendy Costa, a Bryan school trustee, also said she thought the material was inoffensive, even funny.

"There's nothing in it that can be construed as obscene or as trash," Costa said.

But Kirby said the students were punished because the material was distributed without permission, not because of the contents.

The rule requiring prior approval is printed in a student handbook given to each student at the beginning of the school year, Kirby said. The rule also is standard policy used by many school districts across Texas, he said.

But Gara LaMarche, director of the state American Civil Liberties Union, said the school's policy "has constitutional problems."

LaMarche said the U.S. Supreme Court previously ruled that a school must show a publication "forecasts substantial disruption" or interferes with school activities before it can be censored.

"Clearly, this newspaper is not disruptive," he said.

## Interested in Photography? How about leadership?

MSC Camera Committee is now accepting applications for officers for the 1985-86 school year. Even if you are not presently a member of Camera Committee, if you are interested in applying come by the Camera Committee Cubicle in room 216 of the MSC.

Questions? Call Tracy Wells 260-8318/845-1515

Applications are due Tuesday, April 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Interviews will be Wednesday afternoon, May 1

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Graduating seniors are encouraged to become a charter member of the Texas Aggie Credit Union before they leave the Texas A&M University campus. The Texas Aggie Credit Union will be in a positive position to offer support to full time students through the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, small loans for their short term needs, and longer term loans for those seniors preparing to begin their careers. Loan applications will be available May 1, 1985.

### APPLICATION FOR CHARTER MEMBERSHIP IN THE TEXAS AGGIE CREDIT UNION

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Employer or Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone A/C \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone A/C \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application for membership in the Texas Aggie Credit Union and agree to conform to its rules, regulations, by-laws and policies as amended or adopted hereafter and subscribe for one membership share for \$20.00 which will receive no dividends and will not be insured under Share Guaranty Insurance. Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 which includes the membership share and the membership fee of \$5.00.

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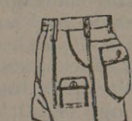
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