

State and Local

Aggie rings

November 27 is last day to order moments this semester

By PAGE PATTON
Reporter

The deadline for ordering an Aggie class ring this semester is rapidly approaching.

Orders will be taken until Nov. 27, said Carolyn Swanzy, class ring administrator. "After the 27th, orders will not be taken again until after the first of the year," she added.

Swanzy said that this order should be delivered around mid-March.

"The rings are manufactured by the L.G. Balfour Co. in Massachusetts," she said, "so they will not receive the orders until the first of December."

"That means they really only have three months to manufacture the rings."

Swanzy explained that the average delivery time for the rings usually is three to five months. But there are many factors that can affect the delivery time.

"The number of orders placed affects the delivery time," Swanzy said, "because we have anywhere from 400 to 2,000 orders for an ordering period."

Swanzy added that all rings are custom made, not premanufactured.

"The Balfour Co. must fulfill individual orders," she said, "and this adds to the delivery time."

Another factor is that each ring is engraved on the inside with the student's name.

"All the engraving is hand done," Swanzy said. "This is becoming a lost talent, which means one or two people probably do all the engraving."

She added that Texas A&M is one of the few schools that still has hand engraving done.

Swanzy explained that the prices for the rings are established by the Balfour Co.

"We can guarantee a price only up to a certain date," she said. "This

could be anywhere from a four-to-eight-week period."

The price of the rings is what determines the length of an ordering period.

"For this ordering period, a man's ring costs \$226.50 and a woman's



ring costs \$119.75," Swanzy said.

When ordering a ring a few options are available for a student.

One choice is between either a black antique finish or a rose finish.

A black antique finish is a gold ring with black outlining everything on the ring, and a Rose finish is a plain gold ring.

A student also has the choice of ordering a ring with a diamond placed in the top center shield.

The diamonds are available in different sizes and the price for the ring then is determined by the diamond size.

"The size of the diamond also determines what part of the design can be left in the shield," Swanzy said. "If a student has his own diamond that he would like put into his ring, he must take that up with a private jeweler."

Another choice is between buying either a 10 karat ring or a 14 karat ring.

"The 10 karat ring is more popular because it is harder and more durable," Swanzy said.

She added that the 14 karat ring is softer, and the lettering on the ring wears faster.

Swanzy said the ring that is available today has been only slightly altered and is basically the same as the original ring.

"The top circle has been raised to protect the lettering and the shield, the canon has changed shape and direction, and the eagle has evolved a bit," she said. "But the design is basically the same."

The design of the ladies rings came from the old sweetheart rings, she said. The sweetheart ring origi-

"The top circle has been raised, the canon has changed shape and direction, and the eagle has evolved a bit. But the design is basically the same."

— Carolyn Swanzy, class ring administrator.

nated before women were allowed on campus.

"The sweetheart rings were for the male students to give to their girlfriends, wives or family members," Swanzy said.

The Class of '72 was the last group of male students who were able to buy the sweetheart ring.

A new program the office has started is the Lipscomb Anderson Perpetual Ring Program.

"An individual with an Aggie ring can donate it to a qualified, currently enrolled student to be remade for that designated person," Swanzy said.

The program was named in honor of Lipscomb Anderson, Class of '27, who encouraged the Board of Directors of the Association of Former Students to initiate such a program.

To qualify for the program, the class year on the ring must date back 25 years. The only exception is if the original owner is deceased.

The ring must also be intact and the name of the original owner should be legible on the inside.

A signed and notarized application from the owner should be submitted with the ring.

"The current graduation year is put on the top of the ring," Swanzy said, "and both names are engraved on the inside."

To order a class ring, students must have completed 92 class hours. At least 30 of those 92 hours must have been taken at A&M.

Before students can order their rings, they must stop by the Ring Office in 119 Pavilion.

"The student will need to leave us some information so that we can check his transcript," Swanzy said. "This usually takes three to five working days."

Or a student may bring in a copy of his transcript, she said.

The Ring Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Perot negotiating for museum pieces

Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas billionaire H. Ross Perot is negotiating with Harvard University's Peabody Museum about moving part of its collection to Texas under a long-term loan arrangement.

Over tens of thousands of artifacts in the three-million item Peabody inventory would be rotated through a museum to be built by Perot in Texas, probably in the Dallas area, the Dallas Times Herald reported Monday.

The agreement between Perot and the museum would last at least 10 years, the newspaper said.

Small, short-term loans between museums — traveling exhibits of a few hundred pieces — are extremely common.

But museum experts said no institution has ever allowed the loan of so many items for so long a period of time.

"There's never been anything like that at all," said an anthropologist connected with another museum.

"Texas could end up with a better Peabody museum than what Harvard has."

Perot, chairman of Dallas-based Electronic Data Systems Inc., a subsidiary of General Motors Corp., said he was enthusiastic about the idea and hoped to meet with Harvard officials in Massachusetts before Christmas.

"I think it would be great to have a piece of Harvard in Texas," he said.

Peabody director C.C. Lamberg-Karlovsky said he recently sent Perot a three-page document outlining his approach to the project and has had follow-up discussions with Perot's staff.

"We are very serious," he said.

Perot's contacts with the Peabody, which have intensified in the past month, are his second involving an anthropological museum in the Northeast.

He has offered \$70 million to move New York's Museum of the American Indian to Texas, spurring intense opposition from New York elected officials who are trying to force the museum to merge with the American Museum of Natural History and stay in New York.


The financially struggling Indian museum recently filed a lawsuit seeking court permission to move to Texas. The suit is still pending.

The 119-year-old Peabody Museum — formally named the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology — has a significant American Indian collection but is better known for its collection of items gathered by Lewis and Clark, the American explorers, and by Captain James Cook.

Perot said he is interested in obtaining both the Indian museum and Peabody items and putting the collections in one building, but that he would pursue the Peabody proposal even if the other deal fell through.

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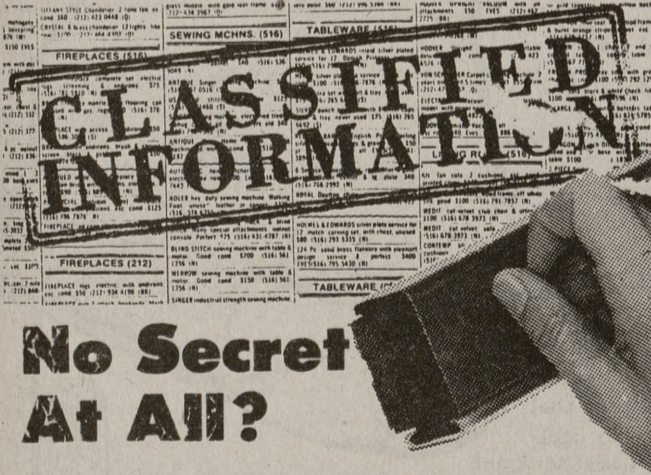
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