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Seniors in Corps collect donations for Sul Ross freshman scholarship

By STACY E. ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

As the Class of '90 prepares to say goodbye to Texas A&M, seniors in the Corps of Cadets want to show their gratitude to A&M by leaving a scholarship to help future Corps members.

Matt Poling, a senior biomedical science major at A&M and Corps commander, said the Class of '90 is soliciting donations from every senior Corps member in an effort to fund a Lawrence Sullivan Ross scholarship.

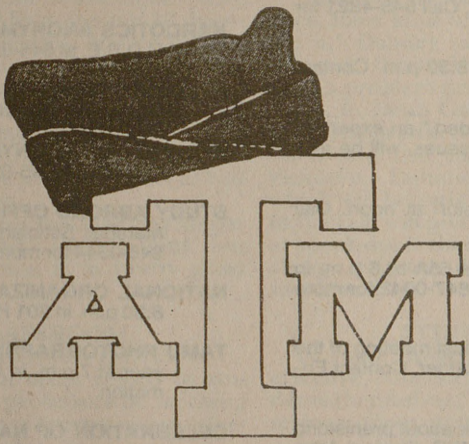
Poling said the class hopes to raise \$15,000 in a year to fund a scholarship for a Class of '95 incoming Corps freshman.

Sul Ross scholarships are given to freshman and sophomore Corps members, and recipients will get between \$500 and \$600 per semester.

Poling said there are about 240 Sul Ross scholarships presently at A&M but one hasn't been completed in 20 years.

"The Class of '90 is trying to set the precedent of every senior class endowing a Sul Ross scholarship," Poling said. "If we can do this right, I think it's going to set the stage for every senior class to do it and that means potentially a lot of scholarships down the road."

In the past, many classes have tried to fund scholarships but have been unsuccessful. Poling



said he wants to prove to future classes that it can be done.

There are about 400 seniors in the Corps and although a \$90 pledge is being solicited, any amount pledged is welcomed. He said pledges have ranged from \$5 to \$300.

"The important thing to remember is that everyone give what they can so it is the Class of '90 scholarship," Poling said.

The scholarship recipients will be chosen by

the commandant's office and are given based on academic performance in high school and financial need.

Clay Whitaker, a senior marketing major at A&M and Corps staff public relations officer, said a long-term goal of the commandant and the Corps Development Council is for all incoming freshman corps members to automatically receive a Sul Ross scholarship.

He said a Class of '90 scholarship will help them achieve their goal.

"There has been some concern about Corps numbers in the future and the part the Corps will play at A&M," Whitaker said. "Scholarships will encourage enrollment by making more benefits available to Corps members."

About 300 seniors have not completed their pledges and with graduation approaching quickly, the class is pressed for time to raise the money. Poling said he hopes to receive the rest of the pledges this week.

If enough money is collected to fulfill the scholarship, a presentation will be made at Final Review.

"I encourage everyone to pledge what they can so that this is a team effort and everyone feels they had a part to play in it," Poling said. "It's important to the future of the corps that we fund this scholarship and we want to be the first to do it in 20 years."

Williams asks to put past behind him, plans to concentrate on issues in campaign

Republican gubernatorial nominee Clayton Williams, who admitted during the weekend that he frequented prostitutes as a youth, said Monday it's time to put the past behind him and concentrate on the issues in the campaign.

"I'm saying that I've not been a perfect man in my early days, but I'm honest, I've admitted that and I'm willing to talk about the issues now," Williams told reporters in Midland during an appearance with his wife, Modesta.

It was Williams' first public statement on a Sunday Houston Post story in which Williams admitted that he frequented prostitutes in Mexico as a youth and later as a student at Texas A&M University.

Mrs. Williams said Monday that the youthful escapades did not bother her.

"That was so long ago, that was 35 or 40 years ago," she said. "That was not part of our marriage. We've had a very strong, wonderful marriage. What he did in his past, it doesn't matter to me."

Williams said he paid for sex in his youth because brothels "were the only place you got serviced then."

He also has said he'd be uncomfortable running against a woman because he grew up in a "man's

world." And, during gloomy weather on a cattle roundup with reporters present, Williams compared rape to bad weather, saying if it's inevitable, "just relax and enjoy it."

Williams' gaffes may be widening the gender gap in the Texas governor's race, but political analysts say they won't necessarily hurt the West Texas oilman's chances against

"I'm saying that I've not been a perfect man in my early days, but I'm honest, I've admitted that and I'm willing to talk about the issues now."

Democrat Ann Richards in November. "It's definitely going to be a gender race and he's chiseling away at the women's vote," said Karen Ashmore, a spokeswoman for the Dallas chapters of the National Organization for Women. "And I think it'll be down to nothing by November."

But George Christian, an Austin political consultant, doesn't think it's that clear.

"It's hard to say whether one or

two incidents have a devastating effect or not," said Christian, who was Lyndon Johnson's White House press secretary. "It's so far from the general election — God knows what's going to come out (by then), at the rate it's going."

"I don't know who gets hurt and who gets helped ... I've never seen politics this way. I don't know how to

judge it," he said. "I've never seen a man confess to what (Williams) confessed to the other day."

Christian said Williams could undermine himself.

"He's accessible and he's honest, and we're going find out whether that's refreshing or that's dangerous," he said.

"It may well be that people will act pretty positively to someone who is naive and is totally open," said Max Sherman, dean of the Lyndon B.

Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

"It seems to me that (Williams) probably is just a totally open person ... He says what's on his mind, and he's continuing to do that as a candidate," Sherman said. "He doesn't try to hide the ball."

But Ashmore said Williams' comments about prostitution were his "third strike."

"It has clearly shown an underlying chauvinistic attitude toward women. It shows insensitivity to women and to issues that are of concern for women," she said.

"I think he's lost all the feminist vote, and a feminist is anyone who believes in equality for women," Ashmore said. "I also think he's losing more of the mainstream Republican women who were willing to give him a chance."

Christian said a gender gap existed in Texas politics before the 1990 gubernatorial election.

"We've got a situation in Texas where white males are not voting Democratic, so there's already a problem for the Democratic Party," Christian said.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ann Richards "creates a gender problem for any male candidate," Christian said.

But Parker said he doesn't see the need for that measure.

"We've had enough smoke and mirrors and gimmicks and tricks," Parker said.

San Antonio police arrest band members during Fiesta concert

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police disgusted with vulgar language used by the California rock band Faster Pussycat arrested two band members Monday after a riot erupted during a Fiesta concert.

One musician was accused of damaging \$1,360 worth of stage equipment at HemisFair Park, where the Sunday night concert was held as part of the city's 10-day Fiesta celebration.

Police officers at the concert had warned members of Faster Pussycat to tone down their profane language. One band member reportedly responded by leading the crowd in an obscene chant directed at the officers.

"Let them do their job and I'll do mine," the band member yelled to the crowd, police reports said.

Staff members of Fiesta's La Semana Alegre cut off power to the stage about 30 minutes before the Faster Pussycat concert was scheduled to end. Workers said they took the action because of the band's vulgar language and a total disregard for public safety.

As the music stopped abruptly, the chanting crowd surged toward the stage and broke several barricades. No injuries were reported, police said.

One Faster Pussycat musician, after being told the concert was over, damaged a speaker, three microphones, a boom stand and three pieces of amplifying equipment, police said.

San Antonio police Capt. Gilbert Sandoval, who was working security at the concert, then ordered the musician arrested. Another band member who tried to intercede and cursed police also was arrested.

Gustave Ronald Molvik, 25, and Brenton Preston Muscat, 22, both of Los Angeles, were charged with criminal mischief and disorderly conduct language.

Bail was set at \$5,000 each on the criminal mischief counts, but both men were released Monday after pleading guilty to the disorderly conduct charges and paying \$117 fines.

In an unrelated incident, two men leaving the concert were stabbed in a parking lot. Authorities said a juvenile was arrested in the attack.

Police look for robbers of laundromat machines

A laundromat in the 1800 block of Deacon Street has been burglarized for the fourth time in four months, according to a Crime Stoppers Report.

Police believe thieves used a hack saw and pry tools during each robbery in attempts to open money compartments of coin-operated washers, dryers, video games and game machines.

On three occasions thieves also attempted to forcibly enter the laundry's locked storage room.

Even though the value of stolen items has not been great, the damage done to the machines and the building has been extensive, causing great frustration for the owners, the report says.

The similarities of the method of operation and the time the burglar-

ies took place lead College Station detectives to believe the same suspects are involved with all these burglaries, and that the suspects are very familiar with the operation of the business.

This week the College Station Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the

person(s) responsible for this burglary. If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.



Lawmakers may override Clements' threatened veto

AUSTIN (AP) — A key senator predicted Monday that lawmakers may be able to override Gov. Bill Clements' threatened veto of a half-cent sales tax increase to pay for the court-ordered school finance reform.

"I think we will have the votes to override the veto, without question" in the 31-member Senate, said Kent Caperton, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

In the 150-member House, said Caperton, D-Bryan, "I think it's very close."

But another influential legislator — Rep. Jim Rudd, chairman of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee — said he doesn't think there are the needed 100 House votes to enact the bill over a gubernatorial veto.

A two-thirds vote would be required in each chamber.

There is "too much party pride" among the 60 Republicans in the House to override the Republican governor, Rudd, D-Brownfield, said. Of the 60, 48 voted against the sales tax bill last week.

Clements said he would veto the tax increase in time to give lawmakers a chance to override the action before this 30-day special session comes to an end at midnight May 1.

The House bill to raise \$443 million for next school year by increasing the state sales tax from 6 cents to 6.5 cents on the dollar was endorsed Monday by the Senate Finance Committee. The panel also approved House measures cutting \$114.4 million from other budget areas for public education.

The legislation, which now goes to the full Senate, would be enough to fund a leg-

islative conference committee proposal to pump \$555 million more into public education next school year.

The conference committee planned to formally vote Tuesday on the proposal, which is a compromise between a \$450 million House bill and a \$1.2 billion Senate measure.

But Clements, promising to veto any tax increase, has said \$270 million could be trimmed from the state budget. That would be more than enough to fund the school reform plan he supports for 1990-91.

Lawmakers are working under a May 1 deadline set by the Texas Supreme Court to change the \$13.5 billion-a-year school finance system, which relies on a combination of state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

The court found unconstitutional dispar-

ities in funding available to property-rich and property-poor school districts.

To keep schools from closing if the finance system hasn't been overhauled and state funding is halted May 1 — as ordered by the Supreme Court — Clements backs a bill to give schools their nearly \$500 million May payment from the state at the end of this month.

The bill was endorsed Monday by the Appropriations Committee, sending the measure to the full House. The Association of Texas Professional Educators is among supporters of the bill.

But Parker said he doesn't see the need for that measure.

"We've had enough smoke and mirrors and gimmicks and tricks," Parker said.

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