

Friday, January 25, 1991

The Battalion

## Making waves

### Team sails to victory, receives magazine top-twenty ranking

By JOHN LOSE  
Of The Battalion Staff

This top 20 Texas A&M sports team doesn't need a court, goalposts or even a coach — just a little wind, a boat and a lot of water.

The A&M sailing team finished 13th out of 20 competitors at last year's national championships, giving it a top 20 ranking from Sailing World magazine.

Team members hope to improve upon that finish this year.

"This year will probably be our last big shot at nationals for a while," senior team member David Hiebert of Fort Worth says.

A&M has had a sailing team as part of the A&M Sailing Club for about 20 years.

"They had some good teams back in the '70s, and then they kind of dropped off in the early '80s, but we've really picked up in the last few years," Hiebert says.

The A&M sailing team is concerned only with racing, team captain Ron Rogers says.

The team separated from the A&M Sailing Club to devote more time to racing and to compete with regional powerhouses like Tulane University in New Orleans and Spring Hill University in Mobile, Ala.

"There are no pleasure outings,"

Rogers says. "Most of our time is spent in either racing or fundraisers."

The A&M sailing team is composed of about 30 team members, divided into A and B divisions. Less-experienced sailors make up B division.

Rogers says new team members usually have some sailing experience, but the team does accept people without experience.

"We can teach someone to sail in about a year, and in about four years they could sail nationwide," Rogers says. "How well they do really depends upon their personality."

Rogers, who grew up sailing, says racing is based on teamwork and camaraderie.

Rogers sailed at the University of North Texas, but returned to College Station and joined the A&M sailing team.

Hiebert, however, was a nationally ranked sailor when he was in high school.

"I could have gone to any of the big sailing schools on the East Coast, but I decided to come to A&M because my brother went to school here and I like it here," Hiebert says.

Freshman team member Bryan Calk, who has been racing since he was 12, also competed nationally while in high school.

"I thought about t.u. and Baylor," Calk says. "I didn't like Baylor's cam-



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Mark Zuteck and Jon Crucian sail at Bryan Utilities Lake Wednesday despite the cold weather.

pus, and t.u. didn't have much of a team."

Calk, who also skips boats in the A&M team's A division, says collegiate racing is different from regular sailboat racing.

"The courses are shorter and there's like 20 races a day, where with other regular races there's three Saturday and two Sunday,"

Calk says.

The A&M sailing team competes in SEISA, the Southeastern Intercollegiate Sailing Association, along with 25 other sailing teams. The top two teams in each regional division advance to the national contest.

Rogers points out traditional school rivalries associated with "big sports" don't apply in collegiate rac-

ing. Teams from small, private schools usually field excellent teams, he says.

"We typically do team racing which matches two teams of six people and three boats," Rogers says. "The races are more tactically oriented, and you're able to make

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## Protesters keep vigil at Capitol until war ends

AUSTIN (AP) — A group of anti-war protesters who began a round-the-clock vigil at the state Capitol on Jan. 16, the day the Persian Gulf war began, say they expect to remain there as long as fighting continues.

Bill Basinger, 21, and Michael Porterfield, 24, both of Austin, said that about a dozen people make up the core group maintaining the vigil. Others help by providing supplies.

"We know there's a lot of hurt right now," Basinger said. "People say that we don't support the troops; it's absolutely not true. We support them 100 percent. In fact, I think we've been doing more than our share to support them, writing them letters 24 hours a day."

There are no formal shifts on the vigil, but Porterfield said, "People come and go — there's always someone here ... We don't leave unless we're sure someone is here."

Capt. Sid Barton, acting chief of the Capitol police, said the vigil had caused no problems.

## Correction

The phone number for information and reservations at Festival Hill was incorrect in Thursday's Life Style magazine. The correct phone number is (409) 249-3129.

The Battalion regrets the error.

# Aggies celebrate Indian cultures, traditions

By BRIDGET HARROW  
Of The Battalion Staff

A celebration of Indian cultures and traditions begins Saturday at Texas A&M with the observance of India's independence day.

Saturday's Republic Day celebration marks the 41st anniversary of India's birth as a sovereign republic, says Vikramsimha Torpunuri, an organizer of the event.

"We will have a flag-hoisting ceremony, singing of our national an-

them and presentations by both an Indian and American student," Torpunuri says.

Saturday's celebration is a prelude to Monday's day-long activities. A cultural and art exhibition will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first floor of the MSC.

The exhibition will have many booths, each displaying a different aspect of India, from artifacts to emblems.

"We collected a lot of information from the library," Torpunuri says. "Some of it will be displayed in the

form of posters, as a sort of all you wanted to know, but were afraid to ask about India."

Fifteen-minute cultural programs will be performed every hour during the exhibition.

Torpunuri says classical south Indian dance forms such as the "kuchipudi," and the "bhratanatyam" will be depicted, and classical music will be played on Indian instruments such as the sitar and mridangam. Exotic Indian tea also will be served.

Evening highlights of India Day include a dinner for 300 people and

an instrumental performance of Indian classical music by distinguished sitarist Allyn Miner.

Miner has a master's degree in sitar performance and a doctorate in musicology from Banaras Hindu University.

She presently is a lecturer on Indian music at the University of Pennsylvania.

Admission for the dinner is \$7, but all other India Day programs, including the sitar concert, are free.

"People who do not know about India think it is a strange and an-

ing land," Torpunuri says. "What we want to project is the India we know. It is rich in culture, traditions and heritage, but it also doing well in science and technology and other aspects."

India Day is jointly sponsored by the India Association, the Hindu Society, the Indian Ladies Club and the Society to Promote Indian Classical Music and Culture Among Youth (SPIC-MACAY).

"What we hope is anyone that participates in India Day, at least once, will leave with a better understand-

ing of India," Torpunuri says. "We hope it changes perceptions of India."

India Day programs are as follows:

- Republic Day celebration, 5 p.m. Saturday in 201 MSC
- Cultural and art exhibition, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday on first floor of MSC
- Exotic Indian dinner, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday in 212 MSC
- Allyn Miner, sitar concert, 8 p.m. Monday in 201 MSC

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