

AGGIE BRIGADE

A&M seizes second straight victory in Ranger Challenge Championship

By Douglas Pils
The Battalion

FORT RILEY, KANSAS - Tension mounted as the Texas A&M Aggie Brigade prepared for its second run at constructing a one-rope bridge over a 40-foot wide ravine. The team of nine had just completed the task in 1:40 and needed only to duplicate this run within seconds of that time to win the first event of the U.S. Army Third Region Ranger Challenge Championship.

A cool, crisp wind was kicking up as the Kansas afternoon crept toward evening when the starter's gun set the four teams in motion for a race against the clock. Rick Taylor, the Aggie Brigade team leader, charges through the ravine and up the opposite side in first place, seemingly seconds away from winning the event, one in which the Aggies are expected to win.

Suddenly, the unexpected jerks the team out of sync. As Taylor reaches the crest of the

ravine, the slack runs out and pulls him back into the middle. The excess rope had tangled, forcing Taylor to unravel the mess and make the best of what seemed like a lost cause.

Within seconds the rope is unraveled and Taylor is up the other side tying an end-of-the-line bowline knot to the post that anchors the line. The rest of the team quickly traverses its way across the ravine to finish second in the heat and third overall in the eight-team competition.

For the moment the team is noticeably shaken. It was supposed to win the event going away, but their year-round training taught them to put any disappointment behind them and focus their attention on the remaining eight events.

The training paid off as the Aggie Brigade never fell below third place and in the next to last event the team moved into first place. The Aggies pulled away from the eight-team field in the 10-kilometer road march, the last event, which included a 25-



Phot courtesy of U.S. Army ROTC

John Donley, right, and Sean Simms secure a line during the one-rope bridge competition at the U.S. Army Third Region Ranger Challenge Championship held in Fort Riley, Kansas March 20-22.

ound rucksack on their backs.

"That's one good thing about our team," said Guy Jones, the team's Executive Officer (XO). "Once we finish an event, it doesn't matter where we fin-

ished, we just drive on, looking ahead. Part of our training includes thinking about what happens next, not what happened before. Come Saturday (the day

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A&M Board of Regents approves dean of College of Architecture

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Integrating faculty research into the classroom and providing a sound university education for students are two of the goals of Texas A&M's new Dean of the College of Architecture.

The appointment of Dr. Walter Wendler was approved by the Texas A&M University Board of Regents on Thursday and takes effect March 28.

Wendler has been at A&M since 1981, first as an associate professor of architecture. Wendler said although he will probably not have much time for teaching, he hopes to stay involved at some level, most likely in a seminar setting.

"My primary interest is in the process of teaching architecture, especially design," he said.

"Teaching is extremely important, and this job is extremely important."

Wendler is also involved in research, particularly during the last five years, about teaching and learning strategies in architectural design studios.

"We want to have a better understanding of the special nature of that environment, and hope to improve the quality of it," he said.

His present research concerns analyzing conversations between faculty and students in the design studio, and better understanding what is talked about, how and when it is talked about.

"It's a situation where you're actively involved in problem solving with students," Wendler said. "There's not that much research in this area at a university level."

He said, however, research in this area is growing, because professors are trying to understand the method of teaching in design studios from an educational perspective in order to improve it.

Wendler said that when the

College of Architecture began in the late 1960s, it had some that was unique for most architectural colleges — a research center and a lot of research activity. Since then, there has been a steady growth in research in the college. Wendler wants to increase research for students.

"It's a problem that faces all colleges," he said. "You have many faculty that are involved in scholarly research, and you want to bring that into the classroom."

Wendler also wants to ensure students — especially at the undergraduate level — have a sound, general university education that will prepare them for either graduate studies or work.

"We want them to get an education, expertise and skills," he said.

Wendler said the curriculum meets University requirements, but other courses could give students a broader scope of knowledge, such as the over international issues.

In addition to his teaching and research expertise, Wendler holds the William M. Pena Endowed Professorship in Information Management, which involves

information that architects use before they begin to design projects, such as costs and needs of clients.

Wendler graduated from A&M in 1972 with a B.E.D. degree, received his master's degree in architecture in 1975 from the University of California at Berkeley. He also holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1991.

Before returning to A&M in 1981, Wendler also worked in New York, and in Louisiana where he had an architectural practice and taught.

But Wendler wanted to return to A&M.

"I just like the place so much," he said. "It's a great university and this is a great state."

City submits plan to develop Northgate

Proposal entails closing Patricia Street in evening to serve as pedestrian mall

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

The City of College Station presented a plan for developing the Northgate area by making it more accessible to traffic to the Texas A&M University Board of Regents Thursday.

The development involves changing the main entrance of businesses in the area from University Drive to Patricia Street.

Eley Ash, director of development services for the city, said the Northgate area changes would enable Patricia Street to be closed to traffic in the evenings.

"It could possibly be closed off, like a pedestrian mall," Ash said. "The city owns a lot back there for parking. If you did that sort of thing, they (businesses) could utilize that space as a place for clientele."

Another plan involves a "streetscape" project designed to beautify the community along Texas Avenue and major entrances to the city.

The consultants who designed the project were given two goals: improve the community's appearance and bring unity to city thoroughfares, Ash said. "We want to create an identity for the city through landscaping," he said. "It will bring some aesthetic improvement to the community."

Ash said the project will create identity at major entry points to the city, such as near the overpass on Highway 6 from Navasota. Some kind of sign and landscaping could be used to mark the entrance to the city, he said.

The proposal also includes possibly creating an area on Texas A&M property for a bicycle and jogging path along Texas Avenue, between University Drive and George Bush Drive. On the opposite side of Texas Avenue, there would be a sidewalk, and possibly a bikeway.

College Station Mayor Larry Ringer said the

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Friday, March 27, 1992

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city council noticed th
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wanted to be a part of
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Ron Ragland, Coll
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Aggie

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After an initial cut,
Brigade takes two t
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Scott Houston State U
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juniors: Taylor from D
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from Boling and Ran
from Carmine. Sopho
bers are Will Comptor
Heights, John Donley
Prairie, Blake Hamm
Scott Stewart of Staffo
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alternates are Will F
Harlington and Micha
Allen.

The team coaches a
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