

THE AGGIE ROLL 'N' SQUIRT

Engineering students design water nozzle

By Billy Moran
The Battalion

A new fire hose nozzle designed by 16 mechanical engineering students sprayed its way out of the computer and into real life Thursday afternoon at the Brayton Fireman Training Field.

The "Aggie Roll 'n' Squirt," as it is known by the students, is a movable water nozzle mounted on top of a fire truck and controlled from the inside of the cab.

The design and manufacturing of the prototype was the semester project for Dr. Peter Gien's section of Mechanical Engineering II last fall.

The device was demonstrated for the first time on Thursday for the media and members of the Austin Fire Department. Also on hand were 10 members of the design class, who saw their invention at work for the first time.

The idea for the project came from Charles Page, head of the Fire Protection Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX). He wanted an inexpensive device to fight grass fires that could be operated from inside the truck.

Page took his idea to Gien, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Gien took the idea and gave it to his class along with a budget and a deadline. The students came up with conceptual designs, and then broke up into design, manufacturing, and research groups.

The designs came together, and the project was manufactured and installed on a Brayton Field truck.

Project Manager Laurisa Watkins said the deadline put pressure on the project.

"Getting people to get stuff done on time - it's a challenge," Watkins said.

The project will not only benefit the students and University officials, but firefighters as well. Second to heart attacks, the leading cause of death for firefighters is responding and returning from alarms. Many firefighters fall to their deaths from fire trucks. With the new invention, they will not even have to get out of the truck to fight grass fires.

In the future, the Texas Forest Service may make a kit that would allow fire departments to install the device themselves. The company that donated the



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

The Texas Fireman Training School tests a fire hose nozzle invented by A&M mechanical engineering students.

nozzle may market it on a national basis.

Gien said there is the possibility of a patent crediting the students as the inventors. If a patent is granted, the design group will receive a share of the profits - and a noteworthy addition to their resumes.

Group member Laura Churchill said she was excited

about the possibility of patenting the device.

"People go through life without ever approaching a patent," she said, "We got a shot at one on our first try."

Page said the cooperation between TEEX and the University is also important.

"It's a two-way street," he said, "I think we've opened that direction."

Students to visit look at A&M life

Program invites minority high schoolers

By Tanya Williams
The Battalion

Black and Hispanic high school seniors undecided about attending Texas A&M will be given the opportunity to visit and learn more about the campus at a conference in Rudder Tower this Saturday.

The Office of Admissions Counseling is sponsoring the second annual "Admit One" conference, which welcomes minority high school seniors who have been admitted to the University, along with their parents.

The "Admit One" conference is designed to show the various opportunities Texas A&M has to offer through presentations by student organizations and academic programs.

"The program is used to increase the matriculation of black and Hispanic students," said Chris Brown, Associate Director of the Office of Admissions. "Admit One sells Texas A&M to a population that might not have the opportunity to see the campus."

The program was begun two years ago because the office felt there was a need to have minority students visit the campus.

"We felt that the admitted black and Hispanic students did not have the chance to visit the campus," Brown said. "Admit One offers the peek at Texas A&M University that is needed."

To begin the day, Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. E. Dean

Gage will welcome the minority students and Vice President Student Services Dr. John K... will speak to the group.

Then students will have an opportunity to learn more about the eight colleges at A&M. The individual colleges will hold sessions requirements and opportunities available at each school.

In the afternoon, students will be treated to a complimentary lunch at Sbis, then they will enjoy performances by Fade to Dance Ensemble and the Time Posse, a dramatic performance group affiliated with the Department of Multicultural Services.

Students will also have a chance to get an inside look at college life from a student point of view.

An A&M student panel will be available to answer the school students' questions.

To end their day, students will hear about student organizations, college life, and various other aspects of A&M such as the Corps of Cadets, Residence Hall Association and the Department of Multicultural Services.

The Office of Admissions Counseling expects to have about 1,000 parents and students attend. Current A&M students are welcome to assist with the conference.

If students would like to be with the conference, they should show up at Rudder Foyer 8:30 Saturday, or call Chris Brown at 845-3741 for more information.

Coordinator stresses class agents' roles

By Robin Roach
The Battalion

What is a class agent? Class agents serve as a liaison between their graduating class, the Association of Former Students and Texas A&M.

Class agents are elected during the spring senior induction banquet held each year for students who will graduate in May and August. The Class of '92 will be asked to vote on their class agent team April 7 and 8 during this year's banquet. The candidates will be introduced at the banquet but will not speak.

Jean Herbert-Wiesenburg, class programs coordinator for the Association of Former Students at

A&M, could not express how important the class agents are in keeping former students involved and aware of what is going on with the university and their classmates.

"Class agents are very, very important to the association, to the university, and to the class," Herbert-Wiesenburg said. "I can not understate their importance in what they do."

The class agent candidates run in teams of three. The teams, which are chosen by the candidates themselves, represent their graduating class up until the first formal five-year reunion.

At the five-year reunion, the former students are asked to vote for the next team of class agents.

The class agents are required

to attend two meetings a year to remain up to date on events at A&M. Currently, agents from the Class of '21 all the way through to the Class of '91 meet each year.

Each team of class agents assembles a newsletter three to four times a year and is responsible for distributing them to their classmates. Included in the newsletter is information about the administration, sports, clubs and financial updates at A&M.

Through correspondence with former students, the newsletter also announces new jobs, promotions, awards, births and deaths that occur in each class.

Prior to the election, class agent candidates were counseled on what their responsibilities would involve. The candidates

were required to complete an intent-to-serve letter.

"All the people that decide to run have all received information from our class agent manual about the duties and responsibilities of class agents," Herbert-Wiesenburg said.

The class agent candidates for the Class of '92 are, by team:

- Mark Miller, Christy Ramirez and Elizabeth Torres;
- Jennifer Darr, Drew Miller and Danny West;
- Kristi Lorson, Vanessa Matthews and Stephen Ruth;
- Kerry Cox, Mike Davidson and Lesli DeBord;
- Steve Beller, Heather Casteel and Jennifer Collins.

Winners will be announced Thursday, April 9.

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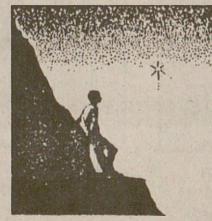
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