

Deaf student serves as panelist at convention for hearing-impaired

By **ROBIN GOODPASTER**

Reporter of THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student helped offer insight to the educational needs of deaf students at an international convention concerning the hearing-impaired and higher education this summer.

Julie Grisham, a sophomore general studies major at Texas A&M, was a guest panelist at the International Convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf.

"After the panel, parents came up to me and said that they felt like they would try and get their kids more involved instead of putting them in special classes," Grisham said. "I definitely think that it is better for kids to be in mainstream classes."

Grisham attended regular classes in school even though doctors recommended that she attend special classes. Grisham only attended one special class for hearing-impaired children.

When Grisham began having hearing problems at age three, she had already been talking for quite awhile. As a result, she is able to communicate with others through speech and reading lips.

"When my mom came into the special class early to pick me up, she noticed that I was the only one talking, and everyone else was signing. From then on, I was in regular classes," Grisham said.

Grisham went to speech therapy once a week for 13 years, and she is not hard to understand when she speaks.

"A lot of people don't even



ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

know I am hearing-impaired when they meet me until they see the captioner on my television in my room or the teletypewriter on my phone," she said.

Grisham said that when she

was growing up, she was the only hearing impaired person in any of her classes.

She attended public schools until high school. At that point, she applied for a scholarship at a

private school through the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf.

It has been harder for her at A&M than in high school, she said.

"Until I came to A&M, I never had to have note takers. I can take most of the notes, but some of the professors are hard to understand.

"The professors that are espe-

"A lot of people don't even know I am hearing-impaired when they meet me until they see the captioner on my television in my room or the teletypewriter on my phone."

-Julie Grisham

cially hard to understand are the ones with moustaches or beards, but they have been very nice when I told them I was hearing impaired. One professor did not shave off his beard, but he shaved around his mouth so that it would be easier for me to read his lips," Grisham said.

Besides the captioner and the teletypewriter, Grisham has a strobe alarm for the fire alarm. An FM system allows her to hear only the professor in classes by blocking outside noises. The professor wears a microphone connected to the system so that they are easier for Grisham to understand.

Students give views, concerns on possible presidential item veto

By **JULIE CHELKOWSKI**

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Editor's note: "Student Political Issues Forum" is a non-scientific poll of A&M students and does not reflect the editorial opinion of The Battalion Editorial Board, Battalion staff members, or the faculty and staff of Texas A&M University. It is intended solely for the purposes of disseminating differing views held by students of Texas A&M University.

The students in this week's "Student Political Issues Forum" were asked to respond to the possibility of a line-item veto for the president of the United States.

Texas A&M students have a variety of opinions on whether the United States president should be given a line-item veto on bills proposed by Congress. Most students who agreed with the veto said the president should be given the power to strike certain lines of a bill to allow the proposals to pass easier and to avoid problems with riders, unrelated clauses sometimes added to bills.

Reagon Grimes, a freshman Agriculture economics major, agreed with a line-item veto, but with some restrictions.

"I think we should have it, but there should be some restrictions - the bill can't be completely rewritten. Things can be struck, but things can't be changed to have a completely different meaning than it

started out as," he said. "Big bills that we need are failing because of riders that are attached and can't be struck out."

Jimmy Jones, a junior political science major from Marlin said he believed the president should have more power and a line-item veto would provide that.

"I think it would be very positive. If that would facilitate bills to become a law, then I'm all for it," he said. "I don't think it would give the president too much power because presently I don't think the president has enough power."

Steven Goff, a computer engineering major from San Angelo, agreed.

"I think he should have more control - he is the head of our country," Goff said.

But not everyone thought a line-item veto would be appropriate. Kathryn Knowles, an education major from College Station, said it would be a mistake to give a president, democrat or republican, the ability to pick and choose certain areas of a bill to delete.

"That basically says that if he doesn't like something he can get rid of it - it doesn't matter if it's a rider or not," she said. "It may make bills pass easier, but that's not always a good thing. It would give him too much power."

Line-item vetoes would add more headaches to an already bad situation, said Tracie Mar-

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