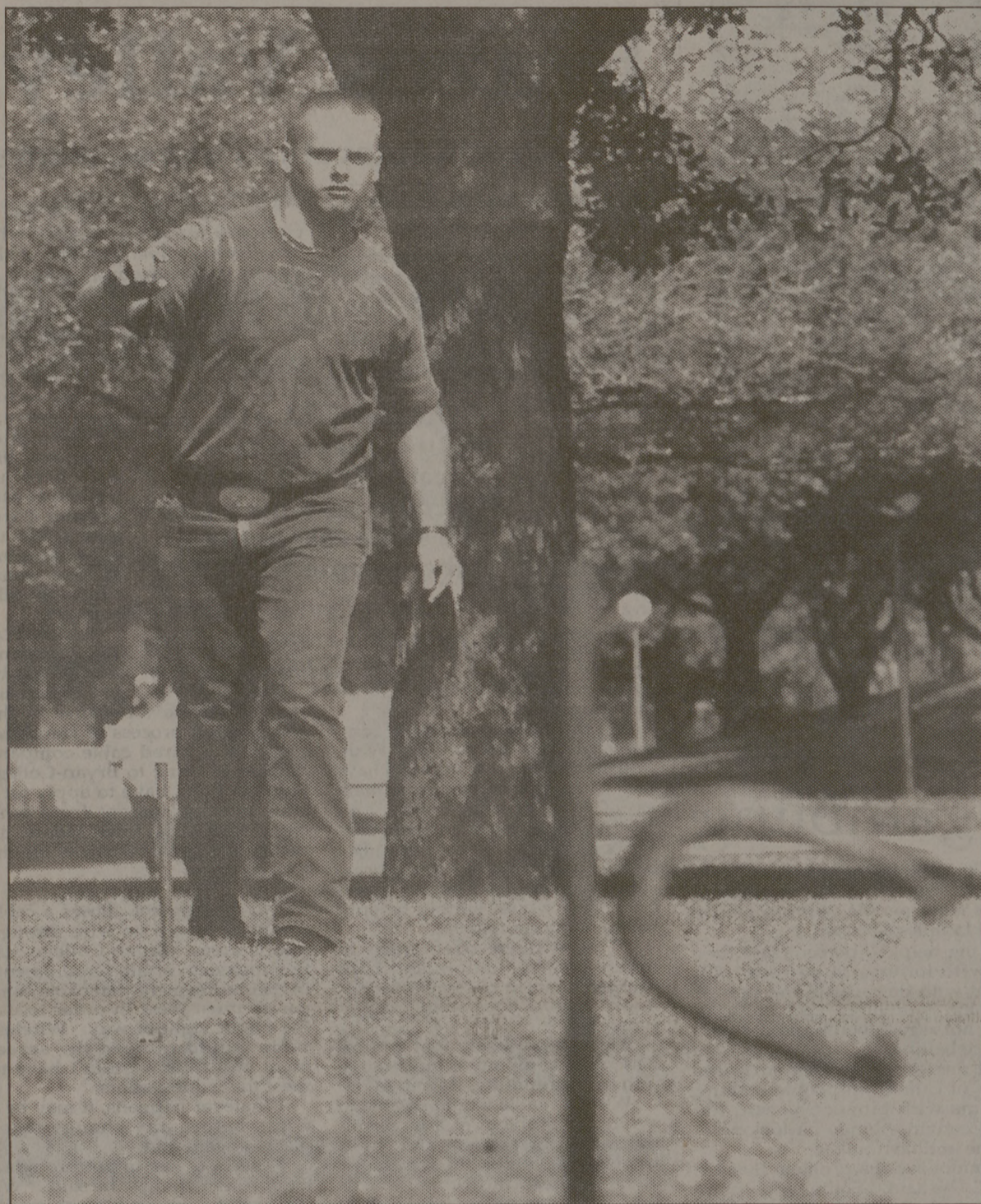


CLOSE ONLY COUNTS IN . . .



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Mike Yelington, a sophomore general studies major from Sugarland, plays horseshoes with friends outside of Moore hall on Thursday. Yelington plays horseshoes because it

"encourages freshmen to quit studying" and join the game. "It also requires no physical effort whatsoever, and you don't break a sweat." Yelington plays intramural horseshoes.

Texas Army National Guard fails fitness test, expert says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORPUS CHRISTI — The number of soldiers who have failed fitness or drug tests raises serious questions about the combat readiness of the Texas Army National Guard, a military policy expert says.

Statistics show 8,430 of the 19,000 enlisted Texas National Guard soldiers have had their records flagged for failing physical fitness, weight or drug tests. About 200 of those failed the drug test.

"The average national guardsman should be able to pass the tests," said John Macartney, a military policy expert at The American University in Washington. "The fact that they are not as ready as they would have been if they were active duty is something to worry about in case of

war.

"If they were called into combat, they have to be physically fit."

The Texas Guard is the organized state militia during peacetime and can be ordered into active federal service by the president to provide units for war or national emergencies.

Lt. Col. Edmond Komandosky, the Guard's spokesman in Austin, said Wednesday that fitness and drug tests are given to keep soldiers combat ready.

He said soldiers who don't shape up and pass the next test, which will be administered within six months, are supposed to be discharged.

That could cause the Guard to lose millions of dollars in federal funding for payroll, training and schooling, Komandosky told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

"It would devastate us if we

had to discharge 8,000 people," Komandosky said. "That would mean that the Texas National Guard would drop to a very low level of manning. The amount of money we get is based on our strength."

He predicted many soldiers won't be discharged because they will meet the standards when the tests are administered again. Although he couldn't estimate how many would pass, he said it's unlikely all would flunk.

The Guard's management of the physical fitness and weight tests is the focus of ongoing state and federal investigations into alleged racial discrimination.

Some soldiers are allowed to remain in the service after repeatedly failing the tests, while others are removed or prohibited from retaking the test, according to several complaints.

Texas court to decide home schooling case

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court has decided it will consider a battle between state education officials and parents who teach their children at home.

The court will hear arguments on the case Jan. 26. The dispute dates back to the early 1980s when the state tried to prosecute home school parents for violating Texas' compulsory school attendance law.

That law requires school-age children to attend either public, private or parochial school. Parents who violate the law face hefty fines.

Home school advocates say they are essentially private schools and therefore comply with the compulsory attendance law. They also say the state has no right to regulate them.

The state says there is a difference between home schools and private schools.

Since the parents are the teachers in home schools, the state argues that state education officials should be allowed to require independent minimum stan-

dards.

In fighting prosecution, numerous home schools and home school providers — companies that supply instruction material for home schooling — sued the state and won.

During the 1985 trial, there were an estimated 15,000 families who taught their children at home, many of them were conservative Christians.

The home schooler's victory was later upheld by the 4th Court of Appeals in Fort Worth.

The courts said the home schools should be considered private schools, and prohibited state officials from charging the parents for trying to thwart the compulsory attendance law. The courts also ordered the state to pay the home schoolers' attorney fees of \$360,000.

The decisions essentially struck down State Board of Education guidelines that would allow home schools if the schools followed local safety and fire codes, had a written regular plan of instruction, and students submitted to annual standardized achievement tests.

In Advance

Gay and lesbian services to sponsor 'Coming Out Week'

Gay and Lesbian Student Services is sponsoring "Coming Out Week" from Oct. 12 to Oct. 16.

On Monday, John Corvino will speak on "What's morally wrong with homosexuality" at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

Wednesday the group Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (P/FLAG) will hold a panel discussion in 401 Rudder at 7 p.m.

Thursday the group is sponsoring a lecture on the U.S. history of lesbians and

gays in 308 Rudder at 7 p.m.

On Friday the group will hold a "So Much to Celebrate" dance at 8 p.m. at the Unitarian Fellowship at 305 Wellborn Road in College Station.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega

Free babysitting for the students and staff of A&M

Oct 9th 6:30 - 10 p.m.

Room 301 Rudder

Questions? Call Wendell 846-7356 or Adrienne 846-9171

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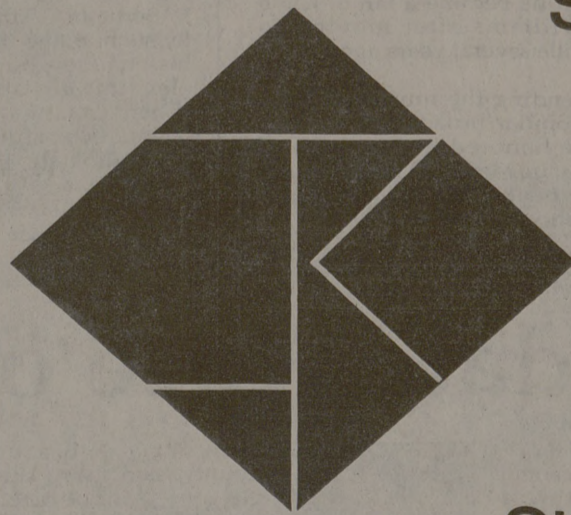
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