

A pilgrimage: In search of the Holy Cap

I am not exactly known as a fashion authority. In fact, my style of dress often has been described as a "pseudo-grunge." At any rate, recently I had an experience that changed my life-o-fashion forever - I got a new baseball hat. Although this may seem quite simple to some, it was much more to me. It was a learning experience.

The story begins in a place far, far away - the couch at my parent's house. My father found me watching "Welcome Back Kotter" reruns, and not wanting me to waste away, he quickly put me to work in the yard where I could best utilize my full potential. After a hard hour's work, my clothes were filthy and my lucky hat was covered in two-cycle oil. It was ruined.

Though it was obvious I needed a new hat, I did not want to give up my good ol' cap. After all, it was one of those hats that fit your head so well, you would forget it was there. In fact, that hat was a Keith Richards Special. You could pass out anywhere, for any period of time, and when woke up it would still be on your head.

Anyhow, at this point I was feeling a little lost. So I turned to guidance to the fashion high priestess, my sister. Surely her her S.B. days at Baylor could benefit me now.

She informed me that the old-style caps were really cool. She said I should get a hat like the cute guy wore in "The Natural."

With that in mind, I decided, be-



KYLE BURNETT
Sports editor

See Burnett/Page 4

Lady Aggie basketball camp underway

By MARK SMITH

G. Rollie White was once again filled with the sound of bouncing basketballs as the Texas Lady Aggie Basketball Camp got underway Sunday. Scores of young athletes from across Texas and Louisiana have come to Texas A&M to not only learn from Lady Aggie head coach Lynn Hickey but from the University itself.

"A lot of these kids haven't even been on a college campus before," Hickey said. "During the camp, they live in the dorms.



Hickey

Learning not restricted to court, Hickey says

It gives them some idea of what life is like on a college campus."

The camp, being conducted through Thursday afternoon, is for high school girls with at least one year of varsity experience or a coach's recommendation.

Hickey said since the University Inter-scholastic-League (UIL) changed its rules three years ago and allowed camps for varsity teams, the camps have become more of a factor in recruiting. The players come into contact early with colleges that might have an interest in them.

"It's a situation where it's legal for players to be on campus for a whole week, for the coaches to work with them and for them to meet the players that are already here," Hickey said.

This week's camp has 120 players in

attendance. That is 40 more players than last year.

The other two camps that Hickey runs normally have attendance near 190 players. Due to a lack of facilities there is a limit of 190 players.

"You cannot make a young person a basketball player in one week," Hickey said. "What we try to do is give them as many fundamental skills and new ideas as possible."

Hickey is being helped by Lady Aggie assistant coaches Eileen Feeney and Cathy McDonald. A number of high school coaches from around the state are also assisting with the camp.

"This is a time for us to bring in the high school coaches, so they can see how we operate," Hickey said.

"We bring some of the best high school coaches here," said Lisa Jordan, restricted earnings coach for the Lady Aggies. "It's a good opportunity for the girls to work with coaches from all over, coaches that have different philosophies."

Hickey said even though she and her assistants had different styles at one time, they have blended their techniques into one system.

"We show them (the players) the A&M system," Hickey said. "We tell them this is the A&M philosophy. It might not be the right philosophy, but for a week we'd like them to try it our way."

Jordan said, "We tell the kids that their goal is to learn something new every day. We want to expose them to as many things as possible so that they can choose what is best for their game."

See Camp/Page 4

Drivers' Education

Team Texas takes to Texas World Speedway to teach stock car racing tactics to enthusiasts

By KYLE BURNETT

Stock car racing had a surge in popularity in 1991 thanks to the Tom Cruise movie "Days of Thunder."

Well, if you ever wanted to drive one of the stock cars from that movie, the chance is available, and as Robert Duval's character said, "Son, there is nothing stock about these cars."

A group named Team Texas High Performance Driving School operates out of Houston during the week, but spends the weekend at Texas World Speedway, where they offer classes in stock car driving.

Team Texas owner Mike Starr, who has spent his racing career mostly on dirt, made the move to asphalt last December when he opened the school.

The cars used by the school are Chevrolet Lumina and Oldsmobile Cutlasses that use V8s and have more than 500 horsepower.

Team Texas is one of only four stock car schools in the country, the other three being in North Carolina.

"I'm trying to take advantage of the

lack of racing in Texas," Starr said. "We have a great track here that sits unused some of the time."

When used by the team however, Texas World Speedway sees a collection of all types of people with a variety of interests.

John Moon is from Longview and is in the oil and gas business. He is not a race car driver; he said he came to the school to have fun and to see what the sport is about.

"It's given me a lot more respect for the race car driver," he said. "It helps you understand what you see on TV and it helps your enthusiasm."

Another student, Carl Benton, is from Houston and is the sponsor of one of the cars used by the school.

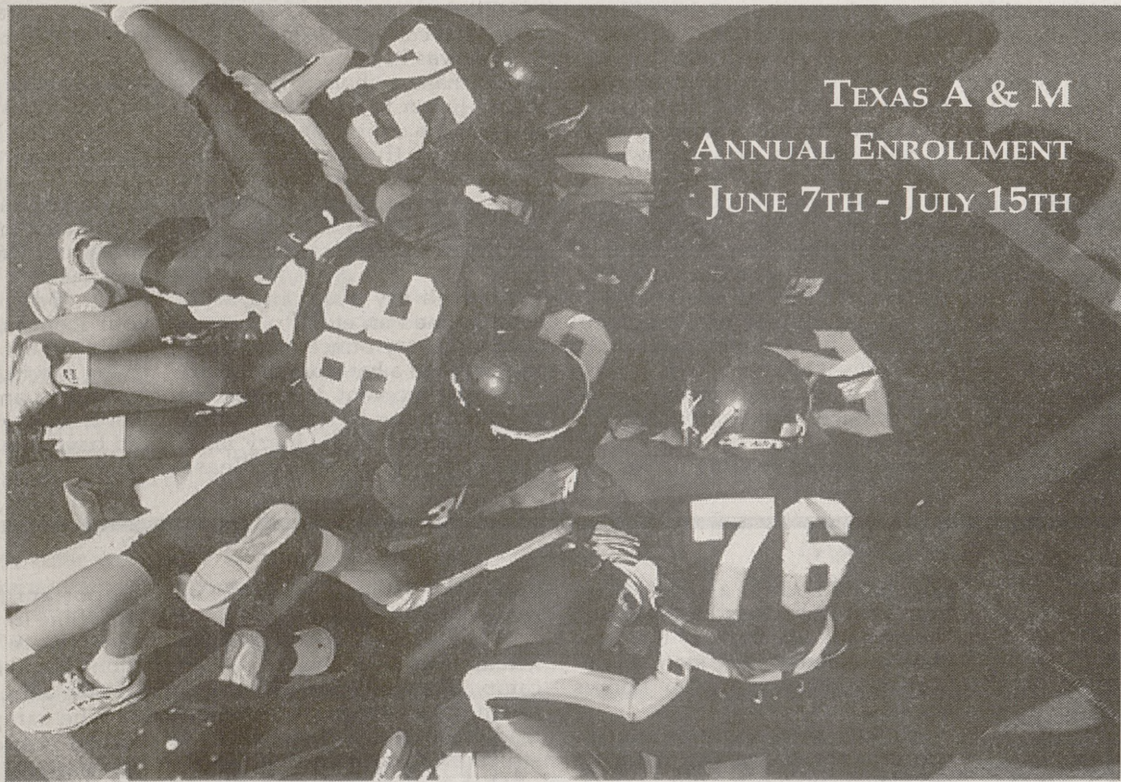
Benton said he races go carts with his son and though he is not a driver, he has been involved with racing for about 20 years. Benton now sells a high-performance oil additive and came to the school for a business reasons.

"I came here to learn more about what my products do - I get first hand experience and help promote the sport," he said.

See Drivers' Ed /Page 4



Carl Benton, from Houston, is a sponsor of the car he sits in and came to the racing school to learn more about the sport and how his products affect it.



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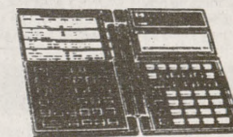
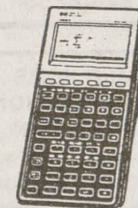
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