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# Equity

Continued from Page 1

men's interest" John Thorn- on, assistant athletic director, said. "I don't think 40 percent would be satisfactory, but it would be something to shoot for. We can go higher than that to reach those participation levels, when we'll do that."

In order to raise the percent- ages of women athletes, universi- ties have several options. Athletic programs can add new women's sports, which is expensive, or they can add more women's scholar- ships to existing programs, which is a less expensive alternative. The NCAA, however, has limits on the number of scholarships uni- versities can offer. Some athletic officials would like to see those upper limits raised.

"One way to make the per- centage more equitable without having to cut men's programs is to get the NCAA to increase the maximum allowable scholar- ships in certain women's sports or maybe all women's sports," Bill Smith, chairman of the A&M athletic council, said. "That would be the least expensive way to get the scholarships more evenly."

Coaches of women's teams, however, think that adding more scholarships to existing programs would give them more women than they need.

"It would be cheaper to add scholarships to women's teams, but my thinking is 'What do I do with 17 or 18 basketball players?'" Hickey said. "It's hard enough to find time for 15 players."

If any reductions are made in the numbers of male scholarships, they will most likely come from the football program, Smith said.

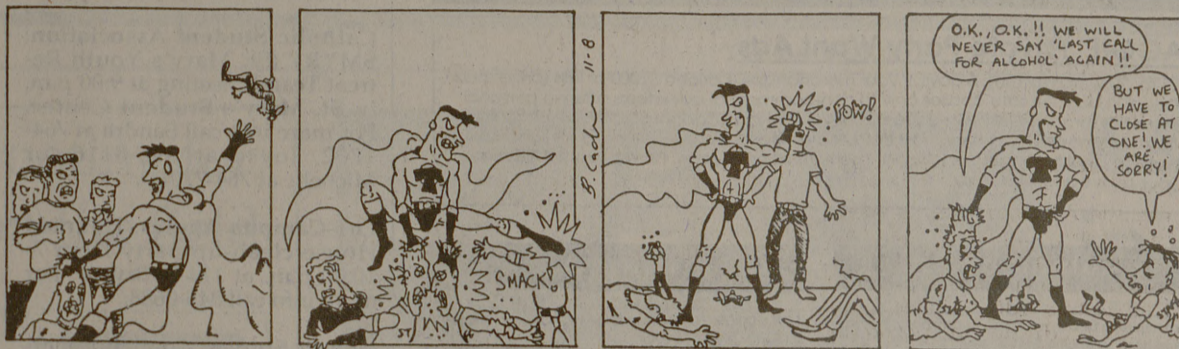
However, A&M officials feel that no cuts will be necessary or desirable in the football program because of the amount of revenue it generates.

"The national pressure is to reduce the number of football scholarships," he said. "You hear that all the time, but there's the down side. Can you reduce the number of scholarships and still have football played at the level you need it to be played at in order to generate the amount of funds for all the sports? We can't have many sports that make enough money to pay for themselves."

But A&M officials said they are not worried only about the number of scholarships awarded, but

# Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



# Fritch

By Critch



also with the way the athletes are treated. Officials said they feel all athletes, regardless of sex, should be granted equal treatment with respect to access to facilities and modes of travel.

"The most important thing with gender equity to me is that all teams are treated equally, whether it's access to facilities or travel or whatever," Hickey said.

Smith agreed with Hickey's statement and praised the athletic department for its treatment of female athletes.

"I think Mr. Groff and Mrs. Hickey have done a real good job of trying to make the women athletes feel like they are part of the overall team," Smith said.

Hickey said it's ironic that A&M has such a strong commit- ment to treating men's and women's teams equally because it was an all-male school for many years.

"We've had progressive lead- ers with our athletic directors and presidents who have worked to- wards making the athletic depart- ment more equitable," she said.

"Every time I come home from a Southwest Conference meeting, I come home with a smile on my face because we don't have nearly as bad as problems as other schools."

# JUST THE BEGINNING

Seatbelt Check



By Jason Brown

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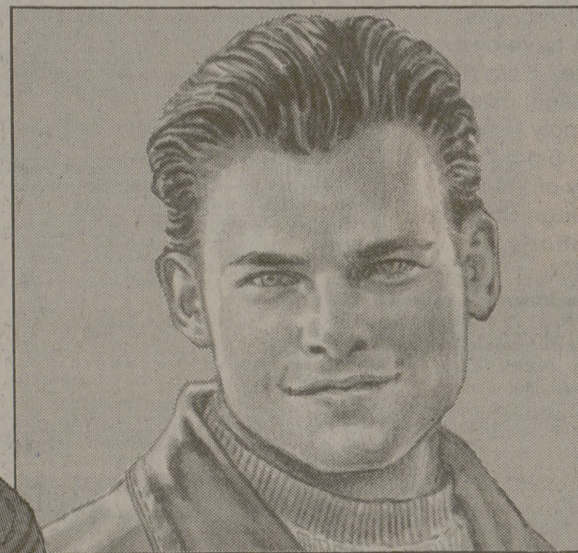
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