

## Aggie ring order policy unfair, transfer students say

By Melissa Jacobs

THE BATTALION

Students should have been notified before changes were made in the Aggie ring ordering policy, members of a new transfer student organization said during a meeting Tuesday with members of the Association of Former Students.

The policy change was that the Association of Former Students wanted the Aggie ring to represent more than 30 hours at A&M, Porter Garner, associate executive director for alumni programs, told Transfer Aggies Making A Commitment, a new organization for transfer students.

The Association of Former Students, which handles the ordering of the Aggie ring, is a private, non-profit corporation.

On January 1, 1994, the number of hours required for transfer students to get their ring changed from 30 to 60.

Michael Jasek, president of TAMAC said he was shocked when he first heard about the change.

"I think transfer students were surprised to one day open the Battalion and read that the ring requirement had been changed from 30 to 60 hours—that's double. We weren't notified beforehand and all of a sudden we're looking at another whole year," he said.

The grandfather clause, recently added to the requirements, protects students who are currently enrolled from any changes in the ordering policy.

That means students transferring to A&M this semester will have to wait longer, Garner said.

Chris Oddo, TAMAC associate director of external affairs correspondence, said students should have been notified of the change.

"I don't think it's right that students

were not informed of the fact that they would be affected beforehand," he said.

Garner, an A&M graduate who was also a transfer student, said he has seen what makes A&M so special.

The change in policy will hamper the participation of some students in the Boot Line at football games and the Ring Dance.

"Just because you don't have your ring doesn't mean you can't go to the Ring Dance," Garner said.

However, some students feel that not having their ring at Ring Dance will lessen the experience. Officials are trying to solve the problem but have not yet reached an answer.

Garner said the changes were not made to punish transfer students.

"Some of the best Aggies we have are transfer Aggies," he said.

"When you graduate you are automat-

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— Chris Oddo, TAMAC  
associate director of external  
affairs correspondence

ically a member of the Association of Former Students. Students are not good constituents if they have a bad experience at Texas A&M."

Jasek said he is more understanding about the policy change now that he knows it is not concrete.



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

## SWC's future looms in doom with Big Eight expansion bid

The Associated Press

The Southwest Conference, a tradition in college athletics that has dominated the southwestern landscape since 1915, moved a step closer to extinction Tuesday, an apparent victim of changing times.

Texas, Texas A&M, and Baylor — original members of the SWC — along with Texas Tech have received informal offers to join the Big Eight Conference's expansion plans. The proposal leaves Rice, Houston, Texas Christian and Southern Methodist to fend for themselves.

It also leaves in doubt the future of the Cotton Bowl, long associated with the SWC.

"All I can say is, we have an informal invitation," Texas-Austin President Robert Berdahl said. "No decision has been reached. That would have to be made by the board (of regents)."

The four SWC schools would join the Big Eight in a made-for-television 12-team conference that would be in a better position to bargain for television contracts when

the current television deal ends in 1996.

"It could happen today (Tuesday)," Texas-Austin regent Lowell Lebermann Jr. said. "It could certainly be that quick, but we also thought that last week. We're all being kept informed. The Southwest Conference is moribund, that's pretty clear."

Texas A&M regents chairman Ross Margraves said the board would consider the issue at its Thursday meeting.

"My concern is that Texas A&M makes the best decision for it and will most favorably affect the other members of the Southwest Conference," Margraves said. "We have some responsibility and obligation to them, but our first obligation is to our own program."

There has been speculation about a conference break-up or realignment since Arkansas left the SWC in 1990 to join the Southeastern Conference.

The four uninvited schools would be left with weakened bargaining power on television contracts that could

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## Students maintain innocence in assault

By Angela Neaves

THE BATTALION

Two Texas A&M students testified they were not involved in the assault of a former student in a civil case in which the victim is seeking punitive damages of more than a million dollars.

The assault occurred April 9, 1992, after former student John Walker, who is currently a student at Sam Houston State University, left Zephyr night club, was followed and assaulted.

Gregory Pappas, one of four defendants and a 24-year-old graduate

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— Gregory Pappas, one of  
four defendants

student in agricultural economics, testified that although he accompanied the other three defendants to Redstone Apartments, he had no idea a fight would break out between Walker and another defen-

dant, 23-year-old Kevin Ormston of College Station.

"I knew he was going to confront the individual," Pappas said. "I didn't know what he was planning on doing. I was stunned as to what happened."

Ormston has admitted to assaulting Walker, who attended A&M at the time of the assault, but the other three defendants claim they only observed the fight.

However all four defendants previously have pleaded guilty or no contest to criminal charges of misdemeanor assault on Walker.

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## Council to examine international requirements

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University College of Liberal Arts Council will meet in a special session today to discuss the future of its proposed U.S. and International Cultures requirements.

Dr. Paul Parrish, an associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, said the meeting will give the council an opportunity to respond to Interim President E. Dean Gage's decision last week to postpone a resolution on the proposed requirement.

"The council will want to talk about the implications of the President's decision," Parrish said. "The council members will have to decide what is the next best step."

In a memo to Dr. Woodrow Jones, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts, last week, Gage said he is not approving the implementation of the proposed requirement.

The council's proposal includes six hours of U.S., gen-

der, racial, and ethnic cultures and three hours of international cultures studies.

Gage said in his memo he will approve a three hour requirement in international studies if the Liberal Arts Council makes that request.

Parrish said it is important that the council act at one of their next two meetings.

"The council will have to act relatively quickly on the question of whether to implement the international requirement," he said.

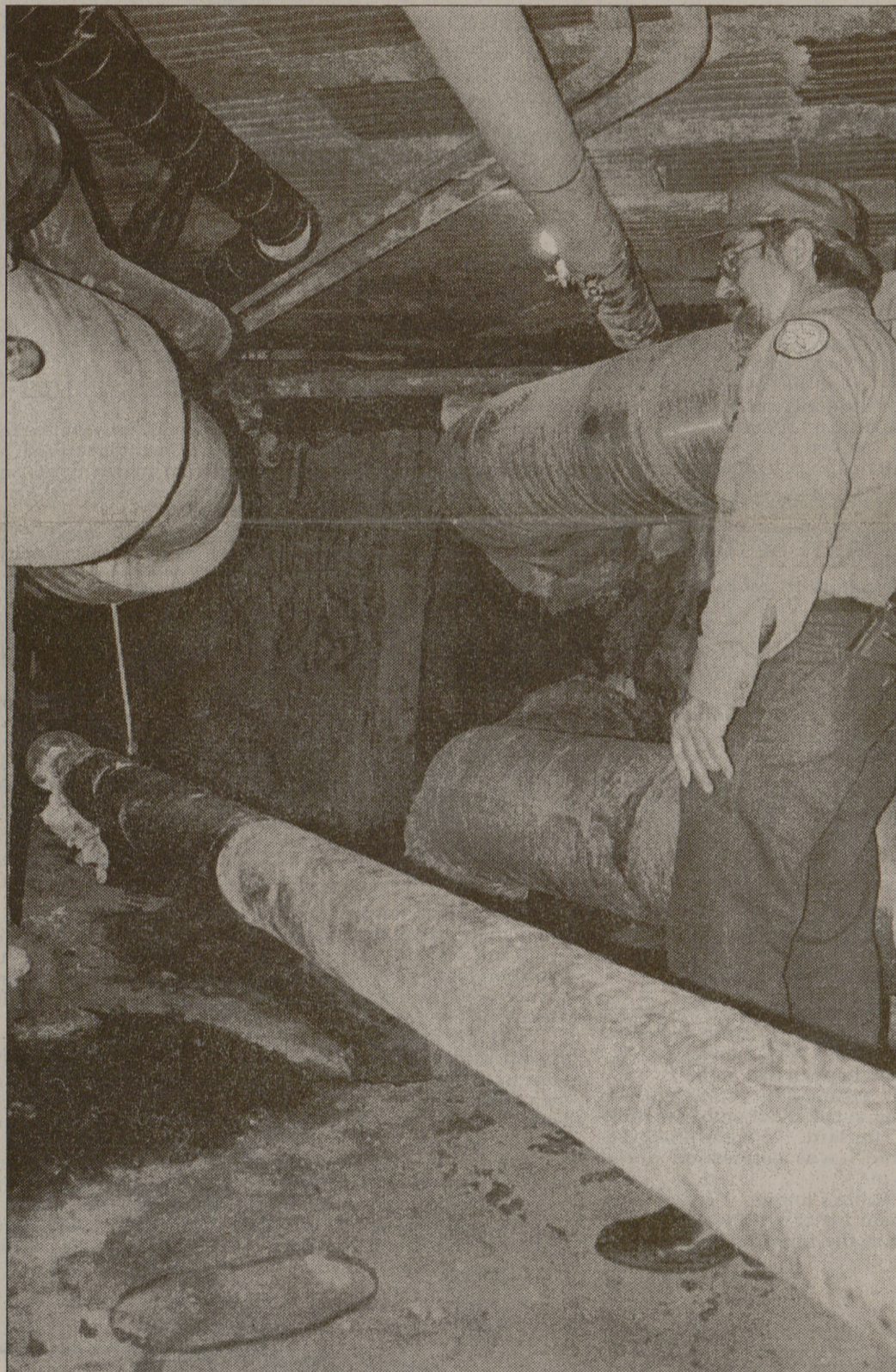
Richard Stadelmann, an associate professor of philosophy and humanities, said he was delighted with Gage's decision last week.

"I have consistently opposed the multicultural requirement," he said.

"The international requirement is a step forward. We will have to decide if we should proceed with that proposal."

The Liberal Arts Council will meet today at 3:00 in the Academic Building. The meeting will be open to the public.

## A&M underworld exposed



Tim Moog/THE BATTALION

Pete Roberts, an employee with the A&M Physical Plant's electrical department, travels through 7.1 miles of tunnels Tuesday afternoon that carry an average of 7 million gallons of water a day to hundreds of buildings on campus. The tunnels also house hundreds of miles of electric wire that deliver 58 million watts throughout the campus.

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## Former CIA officer, wife arrested for espionage

### Couple charged with selling national security information to Kremlin

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a case with Cold War echoes and implications for future U.S.-Russia relations, a former top CIA counterintelligence officer and his wife were arrested and charged with selling national security secrets to the Kremlin.

The case, as described in the federal affidavit for the arrest of Aldrich Hazen Ames and his wife, has many of the elements of a spy thriller novel: hand-offs of secret CIA documents at "dead drops;" \$1.5 million in al-

leged Russian payoffs and FBI agents sifting trash cans for clues.

President Clinton called the matter "very serious," and Secretary of State Warren Christopher summoned Russian diplomat Vladimir Chkhikvishvili for a formal protest.

The White House was reviewing how the case might affect relations with Russia at a time when the United States is strongly supporting President Boris Yeltsin and providing millions of dollars in aid.

The affidavit accuses Ames and his wife of conspiring to deliver information about secret CIA operations and of revealing the identity of a Russian counterintelligence officer who was spying for the United States.

Ames is accused of being an agent for the Russian foreign intelligence service, known as the SVRR, which is the direct successor to the KGB of the former Soviet Union.

Ames, 52, and his wife, Maria Del Rosario Casas Ames, 41, of Arlington, Va., appeared before a federal magistrate in Alexandria, Va., on Tuesday on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage.

The couple, who had been arrested Monday, were ordered held without bail until a hearing scheduled for Friday.

The CIA had suspected since 1985 that there was a "mole" spying for the Russians inside the agency, and Ames had been under investigation for two years, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Clinton said little about the matter except to declare it "a very serious case" and to praise for the FBI and CIA "for the work they did in cracking" it.

He turned away reporters' questions about possible effects on U.S.-Russian relations.