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Aggie Moms vow to keep eye on A&M

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Outgoing Aggie Mothers' Club President Margaret Freeman vowed Saturday to continue to monitor events at Texas A&M and encouraged members to do the same.

Members of the Mothers' Club unanimously passed a motion Friday asking incoming president Shirley Tingley to appoint Freeman to head a committee to monitor and report on various unresolved issues.

Ann Beck, former president of the Austin Mothers' Club who presented the motion, said she proposed forming a committee to make sure issues were addressed.

"I had a feeling when we changed officers this issue might get dropped," Beck said. "Since Margaret had the initiative on many of these issues, she and a committee should see it through. I hope the new president will honor this motion."

Former officers promise to continue active service to Aggies, vote to keep unresolved issues on table

Tingley said she would act on the measure.

"I stand behind the action taken by the previous board and will act on it as soon as possible," Tingley said. "I have always backed Margaret and told her that I would stand behind her and what she has started."

Freeman said she was surprised by the motion but agreed with the idea behind it because she felt it was their duty to look out for the best interest of the students.

"It is the Aggie Mothers' place to make a united effort to take care of the welfare and moral conduct of the students at Texas A&M," Freeman said. "This definitely involves their welfare

and that's why we're involved."

Tingley said the motion would be referred to the group's executive committee.

Freeman's farewell speech Saturday at the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs' spring meeting drew a standing ovation from the 6,000-member organization.

"My term as president has come to an end, but I will still be an Aggie Mom who will speak out when I think the need arises," Freeman said. "Can I ask that you will also raise your voices with me?"

Since September, Freeman and other members of the Mothers' Club have questioned University officials about their at-

tempts to privatize the Department of Food Services and the reassignments of its top three officials.

In addition, the group has questioned Barnes and Noble Bookstore granting discounts to faculty and staff but not to students.

Despite previous meetings and correspondence with University officials, Freeman said she wasn't satisfied with the answers given and felt the need to continue until all questions were answered.

"It all started with a question," Freeman said. "Why was it necessary to consider privatizing Food Services, and why were the three top management personnel

reassigned with no explanation? We asked the simple question 'why.' We have still not received a satisfactory answer."

Bobbie Hardy, former president of the Houston Mothers' Club, said she wouldn't quit either.

"Just because I'm not president of our club doesn't mean I intend to forget about it," she said. "I'm not going to sit around and eat bonbons."

Several members said they would be upset if the issue dropped.

Lylabeth King, former Brazos Valley Mothers' Club president and new third vice president, said members should continue to pursue the issues like Freeman has.

"Just because she's not president doesn't mean it should drop," King said. "She is too valuable to fade off in the sunset. She has instilled in us that we must keep going."

El Paso teens recruited as drug dealers, Customs says

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Some El Pasoans are questioning earlier reports that federal authorities had uncovered a marijuana smuggling ring involving up to 25 current and former students from Coronado High School.

Investigators had said that teens recruited at bars in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, drove marijuana-laden vehicles across the border's port of entry and were told to flee if they feared that they might be inspected.

Customs officials have so far pinned the smuggling scheme on half the people originally believed involved. Twelve individuals, only two graduated students, have been indicted in a conspiracy to possess illegal drugs with intent to distribute and with conspiracy to import marijuana. At least five of the 12 attended Coronado in the past five years.

Several of those charged have entered pleas of innocence. No trial date has been set.

So far, no current students have been identified. The U.S. attorney's office has said that three Coronado students will be adjudicated as juvenile delinquents in the coming weeks.

Principal Burl Whatley would like to know who they are, if they are his students. If not, he would like the U.S. Customs Service to exonerate Coronado High.

"My community is saying, 'OK, are you covering up, or what's going on?'" Whatley said. "If they're not here, then we need to know that."

"If they are, then we need to get them out of the public school setting. Most people would not want their child sitting next to a drug dealer," he said. "If there are current students, they should be arrested now."

But Assistant U.S. Attorney Ken Barnes asks for patience.

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Just dropping in



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Ernie Kirkham, a member of the TAMU Skydiving Club, lands on Simpson Field Sunday on afternoon. Kirkham was giving a skydiving demonstration to a group of students and parents.

Muslim-held city lost to Serb forces, U.N. tensions rise

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Serb tanks lumbered into the long-suffering Muslim enclave of Gorazde on Sunday, U.N. workers said, even as other officials spoke of reaching an agreement for the Serbs to pull back.

Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, told reporters in Sarajevo that a UNHCR staffer in Gorazde had called to report Serb tanks within the city and residents in panic.

Maj. Dacre Holloway, a spokesman for U.N. peacekeepers, spoke of Bosnian Serb movement either toward or into Gorazde.

A few minutes earlier, he had told reporters that talks between the United Nations and Bosnian Serb officials had brought an agreement for the Serbs to withdraw from a 1.8-mile zone around the southeastern city.

The Bosnian army high command also said tanks were moving into Gorazde. An official in the high command said talks in between the U.N.-Serb talks had been a "trick" to win time for the Serb advance.

The fall of Gorazde would permit the Serbs, who already hold more than 70 percent of Bosnian territory, to link eastern and southwestern holdings. And it would be more salt in the wounds for the United States and other Western countries whose efforts to end the war have been criticized as weak and unfocused.

Gorazde, which has been under siege for most of the two-year war,

has been an especially potent symbol for critics.

The United Nations declared it a protected "safe area" for Muslims last year, but the siege continued without foreign retaliation, until last week, when the Serbs advanced to the edge of the city.

Earlier Sunday, Holloway had said that the talks held at Bosnian Serb headquarters had yielded agreement on suspension of the Serb siege of Gorazde, permitting hundreds of U.N. peacekeepers access to the area.

Holloway said that under the accord, a 350-person U.N. force would gain access to Gorazde, a town of 65,000 residents and refugees.

The Serbs agreed to pull out their heavy weapons from a 1.8-mile zone around the city, and talk about a more permanent exclusion zone later, said Holloway.

It was unclear how the international community would react to a fall of Gorazde.

The Serb siege of Gorazde provoked two NATO air attacks over the past two weeks and raised Serb-U.N. tensions to their highest in two years of war in Bosnia. Sunday's developments came a day after a British jet was shot down over Gorazde while moving against a Bosnian Serb tank shelling the town.

Bosnian Serbs on Sunday released 19 of the more than 150 U.N. peacekeepers being kept under virtual house arrest.

Holloway said the 19, including 16 Canadians, were returned to

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Confessed murderer linked to threat letters

Apartment contained girls' addresses

The Associated Press

WACO — When police arrested Michael Patrick Moore earlier this year, they thought they had caught a murder suspect.

After chasing Moore's car from the scene of a brutal murder in the small central Texas town of Copperas Cove, police caught him with a knife sheath in his bloody hands, according to reports.

But authorities later found evidence that may also link Moore to a series of threatening letters sent to several young cheerleaders and drill team members months before the murder. In Moore's apartment was a detailed list of about 200 women and girls' names, addresses and phone numbers.

One of the cheerleaders who received a letter was the daughter of Christa Ellinger Bentley, the woman Moore confessed to killing.

Police say Moore, an unemployed painter from Syracuse, N.Y., crept into Bentley's house as she slept just before 2:30 a.m. Feb. 26.

She was shot once in the side with a .22-caliber pistol and stabbed several times. Police say a 6-inch hunting knife was found at the scene.

Minutes later, Copperas Cove police spotted a car driven by Moore speeding along U.S. Highway 190 with its lights off.

Police then chased Moore, who bailed out of the moving car and started running. Sgt. Danny Austin said. Police stopped Moore, who had a knife sheath with him and blood on his hands, Austin said.

Moore confessed to killing Bentley, 35, said Russ Hunt, Moore's Waco attorney. Hunt didn't return calls placed by The Associated Press Sunday.

Moore, 30, is in Coryell County Jail on a capital murder charge in the slaying of Bentley. He's awaiting trial, and is being held in lieu of

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1994-95 Parents of the Year chosen

By James Bernsen
The Battalion

John and Donna Van Duyn thought they were only spectators at the All-University Awards ceremony Sunday morning. Their children, however, knew differently.

The Bryan couple was stunned when they found out they had been selected as the 1994-1995 Parents of the Year. They didn't even know they had been nominated.

"I've never been surprised like that in my life," John, a retired Air Force colonel, said. "I wish the Pentagon could keep secrets like that."

Donna, an assistant manager at Cain Hall, said she had no inkling of the coming award.

"Total disbelief," she said. "That's about all I can say."

The couple was nominated by their daughters Renee, Class of '95 and Michelle Van Duyn Brechbuhl, Class of '90. When the two daughters recommended their parents, they had to write a one sentence description of them. They wrote: "Mom and Dad have always given unselfishly of their time and energy, and through their unconditional love for others, exemplify the meaning of dedicated parents, active leaders and involved citizens."

Donna said it is such an honor to even be nominated.

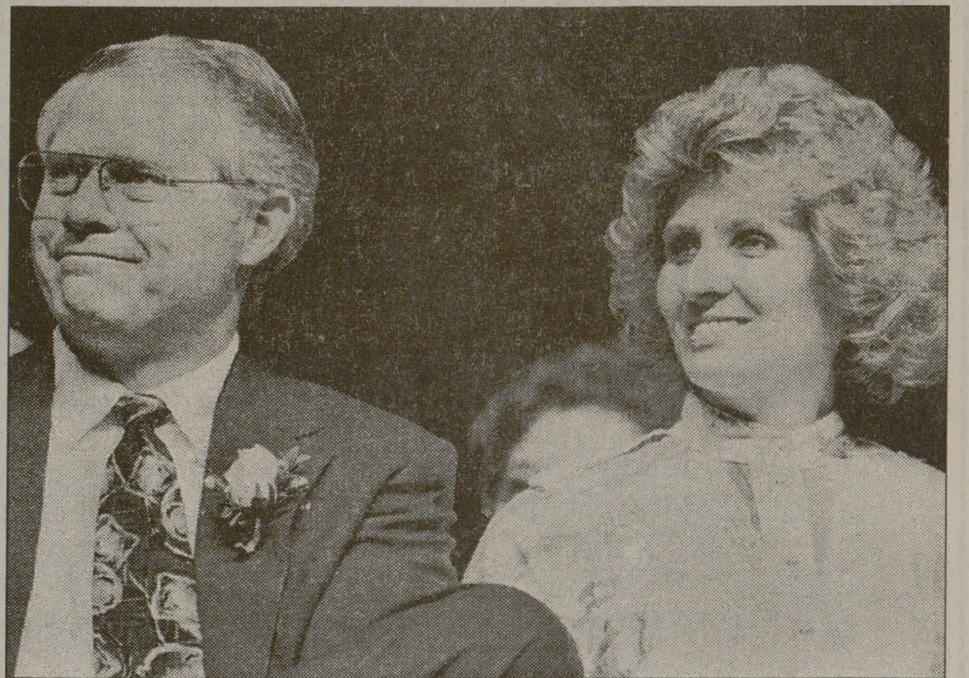
"It rates pretty much at the top," she said.

Neither John nor Donna attended Texas A&M, although Donna's father did.

When the couple helped their children decide on a university, they considered most of the large Texas universities.

"When we were looking, we had visited several schools in Texas," Donna said. "We asked a friend, and without hes-

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Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

John and Donna Van Duyn were selected the 1994-95 Parents of the Year at the All-University Awards ceremony on Sunday morning.