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A&M to unveil Rudder statue Saturday morning

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

It will be an Aggie homecoming to remember.

One famous Aggie who has touched the lives of all who followed him will be returning to Texas A&M Saturday to stay.

A life-sized bronze statue of Gen. James Earl Rudder, Class of '32, will stand proudly over the campus he loved as the statue is unveiled Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Margaret Rudder, widow of Gen. Rudder, the former president of A&M, said she is excited that her husband will be returning to A&M.

"This is where he wanted to be," Mrs. Rudder



Rudder

said. "He loved it here."

Gen. Rudder is credited with the growth of Texas A&M throughout the last 30 years.

"The changes he made is what allowed A&M to grow," Mrs. Rudder said. "Letting girls in was one of the things he did."

A&M students were opposed to the idea of admitting women to the University, she said.

"The student body was against it," Mrs. Rudder said. "They booed when he made the announcement. They burned an effigy in our front yard."

See Rudder Page 2

Seventy-two junior cadets chosen as Ross Volunteers

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

Seventy-two juniors in the Corps of Cadets joined the ranks of the Ross Volunteers Thursday night, becoming a part of the top military honor drill team on campus and the oldest student organization in Texas.

The juniors, who were named Monday morning, were selected by the 72 current senior members.

To be eligible for membership, a junior must have a 2.3 cumulative grade point ratio and be in good discipline standing with the Corps and the University.

Brian Taylor, commanding officer of the Ross Volunteers, said that during the selection process, the seniors consider how well the juniors represent the qualities of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the group's namesake.

"We're concerned with the values that Lawrence Sullivan Ross stood for," Taylor said, "soldier, statesman, knightly gentle-

man. I believe that the honor and prestige of the company take precedence over any friends or bias. We'd rather choose the best to represent our company than to choose our friends."

Russ Campbell, executive officer of the Ross Volunteers, said the seniors do not talk about the selection process because they wish it to remain as anonymous as possible.

"We don't want nosy people kissing up so they can slide in," Campbell said. "That's why we don't talk about it. We take the process very seriously."

"There's never any slandering or negative remarks. We always bring the positive side out. We want the best people representing A&M and the Corps."

Tony DiCuffa, a senior member of the Ross Volunteers, said he believes the basis of selection is essentially the same as it was in 1887, the first year the Ross Volunteers were formed.

"When the company started,

selection was based on military proficiency," DiCuffa said. "It was the early part of this century, it was like a fraternity. Who could pay their dues?"

"After about World War II, it went back to being the honor of a soldier, statesman, knightly gentleman. The company is chosen now to what it was intended to be, but it has never been."

Brian Beckcom, a junior who was named to the Ross Volunteers, said he considers being selected a great honor.

"The Class of 1996 is such a strong class," Beckcom said. "I wouldn't have wanted to be involved in choosing the 72 members."

The Ross Volunteers perform Silver Taps and Muster on campus and serve as the official color guard for the governor of Texas. They are scheduled to perform this year in the Bryan College Station Christmas Parade and the Conroe Go-Texas Parade.

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