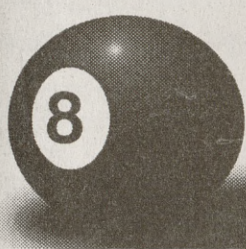


CALLING THE SHOTS

FAULKNER'S FIGHT

TAKING AIM



Students have six pool halls to choose from in College Station.

Aggielife, Page 3

Hill: Shannon Faulkner should be ashamed of her decision.

Opinion, Page 15



The Aggie Soccer team has title hopes in mind for the 1995 season.

Sports, Page 11



# THE BATTALION

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## Former A&M student released from captivity

Friends and relatives of Thomas Hargrove, who was held captive by Colombian guerrillas, comment on the excitement of his return.

By James Bernsen  
THE BATTALION

After nearly a year as a captive of Colombian guerrillas, a former Texas A&M student, was unex-

pectedly released Aug. 22 and walked out of the jungle and into his house in Cali, Columbia.

Dr. Thomas Hargrove, Class of '66, was on his way to work at an agricultural research station when he was kidnapped Sept. 23, 1994 at a roadblock near Cali.

Hargrove's brother, Rafor, Class of '70, said he was talking via telephone with Thomas' wife, Susan, who lives in Cali, about plans to get his brother out when he simply walked in the door.

"All of a sudden, dogs started barking and she started screaming," Rafor Hargrove

said. "I thought they had thrown Tom's body on the sidewalk or something, or that Susan was being kidnapped."

"Then [Tom] picked up the phone and said hello. We were flabbergasted."

Rafor Hargrove said it was an incredible feeling for him to hear the excitement of the reunion on the speaker phone.

Thomas could not be reached for comment, and shortly after his release was ordered by the Colombian police not to speak any further with the media.

Thomas told his brother via

electronic mail that his captivity was worse than anything he experienced in Vietnam.

"Just got back after two days

hard march through the Central Cordilleros, Columbia's most rugged mountains," Thomas wrote.

"Also walked alone, physically at least, through that proverbial Valley of the Shadow of Death — but I'm alive."

Rafor Hargrove said his

brother was released last Aug. 21 and was escorted out of the mountains by five or six guerrillas. Late Tuesday morning, the guerrillas

**"It was a long year (for Thomas), and the worst of all was the boredom."**

— Rafor Hargrove  
Thomas Hargrove's brother

pointed him to the nearest village and abandoned him.

He arrived there on foot and was immediately recognized by the villagers, who had seen news

reports with his picture. They insisted on driving him to his home in Cali, a three-hour drive.

Thomas' release let his family breathe easy for the first time in a year.

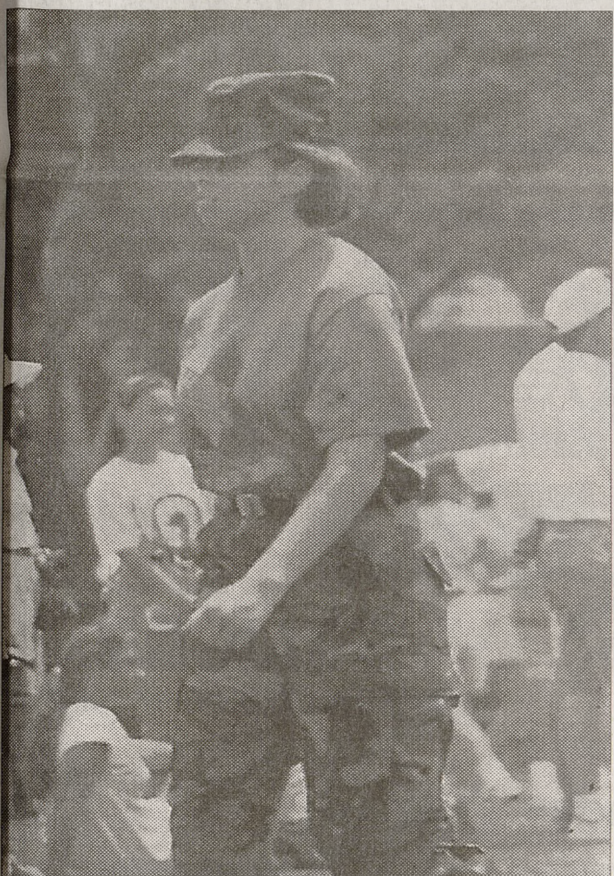
Rafor Hargrove said it is "an immense relief" to know that his brother is safe.

"I've spent a year tied up in knots over this," he said. "We (he and Susan) were talking every day. We were going to get him out, unless some s.o.b. got him killed."

See RELEASE, Page 16

### AGAINST THE ODDS

## Corps offers women chance for physical, mental growth



Louis Craig, THE BATTALION

A female cadet participates in the first Corps march of the year.

Women leaders in the Corps continue to succeed despite barriers at other military institutions.

By Maria Jimena Albarracin  
THE BATTALION

Even though Shannon Faulkner retreated from her two-year battle with the Citadel last week, she and women like her are winning the war to integrate the male-dominated service academies and college military programs like Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets.

After fighting to become the first female in the South Carolina military academy's 152-year history, Faulkner dropped out when she ended up in the infirmary for heat exhaustion during her first week.

Cadet Capt. Amy Rimmer, a junior industrial distribution major, said that even though Faulkner's career at the Citadel may have ended, the struggle left an impact on women's roles in the military.

In 1974, 51 women joined the Corps, ending an 98-year all-male tradition. Women joined special units, such as the Aggie Band, for the first time in 1985.

"[Faulkner] was making history as the women did here in the Corps of Cadets 20 years ago," Rimmer said. "It was tough back then, and they fought it. And now I have an opportunity to be here in the Corps."

In the past 20 years, thousands of women have graduated from the nation's service academies and similar military programs, and A&M's Corps is no exception.

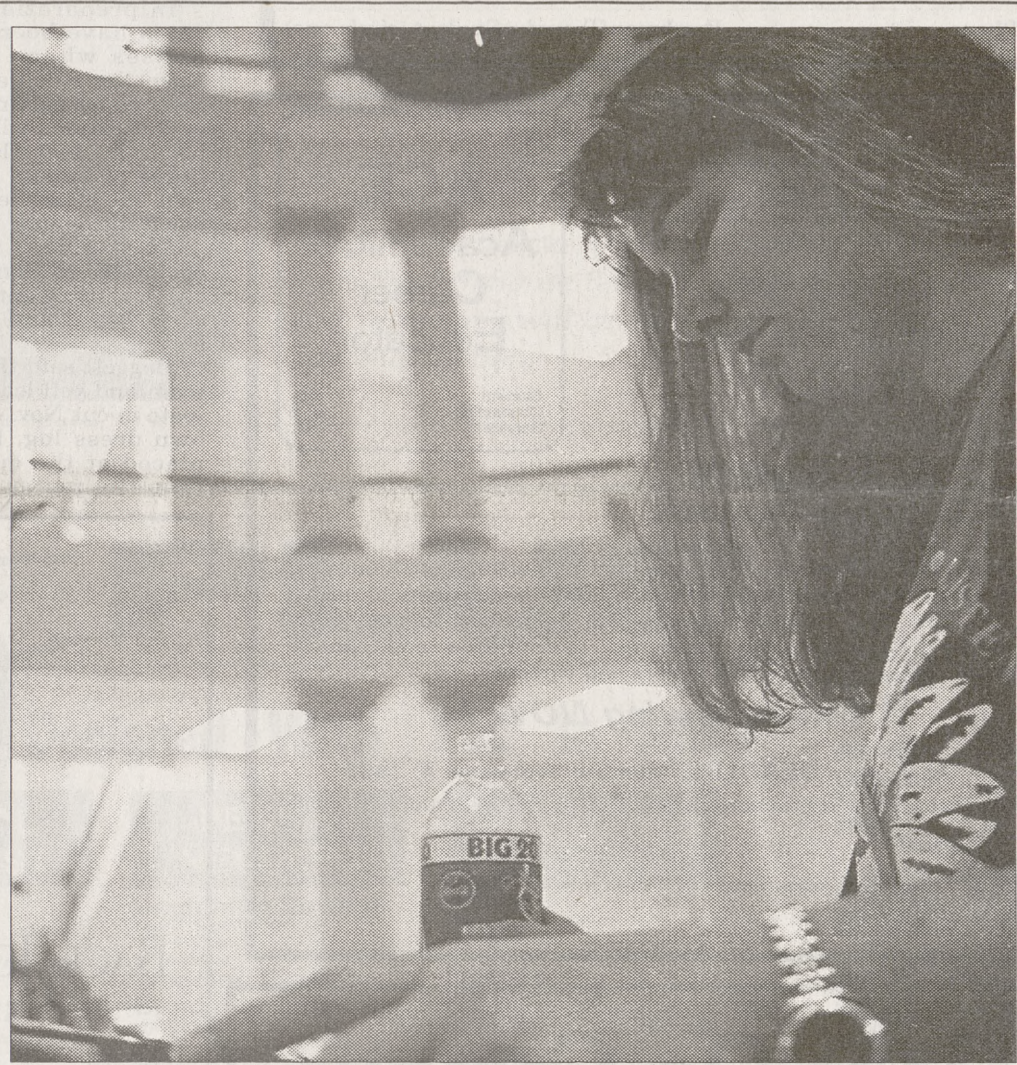
Of the current 2,100 cadets, 115 are women. The Class of '99 has 72 incoming women cadets.

Tyson Voelkel, Corps commander and a senior engineering technology major, said women military leaders are not unusual.

"Women hold important positions in the civilian world. They are leaders of businesses, they are CEOs in corporations, and it is the same in the military," Voelkel said. "The only reason it is different is because of stigmas."

The physical differences between men and women have

See WOMEN, Page 8



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

### GETTIN' A HEAD START

Brandi Raymond, a freshman chemical engineering major, reads 80 assigned pages for her CHEM 101 class in the Academic Building Tuesday.

## Boenig ready to tackle financial aid cuts Training center to call B-CS home

Toby Boenig, A&M student body president, began work toward implementing his goals this summer.

By Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

Touting financial aid and cultural respect as his top priorities, Toby Boenig has begun his first fall semester as Texas A&M's student body president.

Boenig, a senior agricultural development major, said he has been working all summer to ensure that student opinions influence financial aid decisions made at the national level.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 15

Some financial aid cuts are inevitable, he said, but he hopes they will be minimal.

"My goal is that we're heard, as much as we possibly can be," he said. "Hopefully, the outcome will be that cuts are somewhat reduced."

Boenig co-authored an editorial with Sherry Boyles, University of Texas student body president, that appeared in the Aug. 6 Dallas Morning News. The editorial stated that financial aid cuts would hurt Texas families.

"Yes, the people of this country have sent a mandate to Congress to cut federal

spending," Boenig wrote in the editorial. "We support that mandate. However, by cutting financial aid for education, Congress is cutting the opportunity for many kids to battle their way out of the inner city and rural Texas."

Boenig also wrote a guest column about his stance against financial-aid cuts for the June 29 issue of The Battalion. U.S. Rep. Jack Fields, R-Humble, responded to Boenig's column in an Aug. 1 Mail Call letter.

"I can assure Boenig that I have not forgotten, nor has the Republican Congress forgotten, the importance of higher education," Fields wrote.

Boenig said he plans to send a letter to the student body presidents of the Big 12 schools, expressing his concerns over proposed financial aid cuts and encouraging active opposition to them.

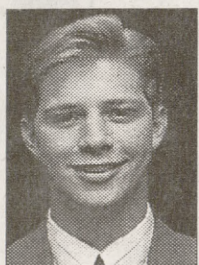
In a similar tactical move, Boenig said Student Government is starting a grass roots campaign through the Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs.

When presented with information about student concerns, Boenig said, the students' mothers typically get involved

See BOENIG, Page 10

### BOENIG'S GOALS

- Ensure that student opinions influence financial aid decisions
- Increase cultural respect around campus through student group interaction
- Establishment of a student liaison position to work with the Board of Regents. This will be voted on by the Board of Regents this week.
- Development of campus safety. Improvements were made to the lighting of the Olsen Field area this summer, which was Boenig's primary safety concern. But he wants to take safety further, he said, and increase the number of emergency phones on campus and the number of self defense courses in the kinesiology department.
- Creation of sign language courses to fulfill foreign language requirements. Some progress was made on this goal this summer when the decision was made to accept sign language courses for transfer credit.
- Creation of a student advisory committee to oversee the allocation of funds for library improvements.
- Installation of automatic teller machines in the Commons, on West Campus and on Northside.
- Elimination of exams on the day of Muster.
- Creation of a campus day care center.
- Use of off-campus bus routes for transporting people to football games.
- Implementation of a residence hall recycling program. A pilot program was run this summer, and the program may be expanded into the fall.



Boenig

The new facility will train emergency personnel to deal with terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

By Javier Martinez  
THE BATTALION

Bryan-College Station will be the site of a new Heavy Rescue Training Center that will prepare emergency personnel to deal with special crises.

The new facility, located on 60 acres adjacent to the Brayton Fireman Training Field on George Bush Drive, will train firefighters, law enforcement officials and city employees in specialized emergency rescue and crisis management.

Mike Wisby, training coordinator for the center, will supervise the program that will instruct trainees to deal with situations like the bombing of the A.P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

"This will be state of the art," Wisby said. "We know it will be top notch."

The center should be fully operational by the year 2000, and Wisby said he expects that more than the initial 3,000 trainees estimated.

"We know we will far exceed that," Wisby said.

Sessions will last from two days to two weeks.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency response team may eventually be stationed in Bryan-College Station because of the cities' central location in the country.

All 12 active teams are stationed at one of the two existing rescue centers in California and Maryland.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service estimated the cost to be between \$7-15 million.

Funding will come from the state and federal governments as well as donations from the private sector, particularly the

See CENTER, Page 14