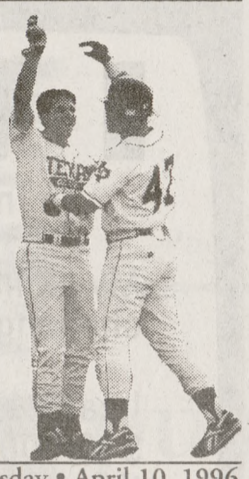


shot at breaking the A&M stolen base record set by former Aggie...

RUTHLESS STALKERS Assassins gives students opportunity to hunt prey. AGGIELIFE, PAGE 3

Clark: Candidates should make more of an effort to appeal to young voters. OPINION, PAGE 9

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THE BATTALION

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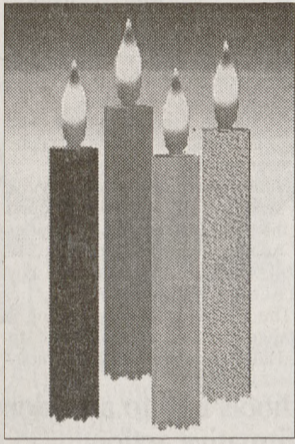
Meeting the criteria for the call

Deceased Aggies must meet one of three requirements to be called at Muster

By Pamela Benson THE BATTALION

On April 21, Texas A&M students and former students around the world will attend Muster to pay their respects to fellow A&M students who have passed away. Recently, the Student Government Muster Committee has been challenged about the criteria used to determine which A&M students and former students get their names called at the campus ceremony held in G. Rollie White Coliseum. In January, James Hodges, Class of '91, notified the Former Students Association that his mother died in November 1995. The Former Students Association informed Hodges that it would forward the information to the Muster Committee. Hodges assumed that his mother would be called at this year's Muster. But much to his surprise, Hodges was informed that his mother had been placed on a special request list, and there was a chance her name would not be called. Hodges was told that his mother did

not meet the initial criteria set by the Muster Committee, which requires that a student or former student who is called at Muster must be an enrolled student, a Brazos Valley resident or a member of the 50-year reunion class. If an A&M student or former student does not fall into any of the three categories, they are placed on a special request list and decided on by the committee in April. Hodges' mother was a member of the Class of '75. In addition, his father, sister, brother, sister-in-law, two brothers-in-law and wife are all former students. He immediately questioned the criteria because he and his wife reside in Brazos Valley.



Last week, Hodges submitted a letter to The Battalion expressing his concerns. "My intent was not to attack the Muster Committee, but rather to question the criteria," Hodges said. "I understand that there has to be a cutoff of the names that are called at Muster."

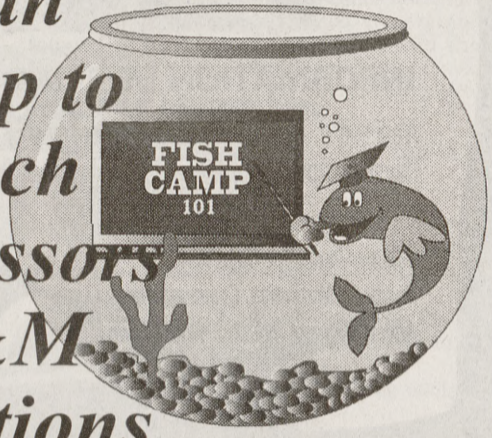
"However, my mother should not have been an exception. She should have fit the criteria because I live here."

Hodges was informed Monday that his mother will be called at this year's campus Muster.

Kim Greebon, Muster Committee chair and senior political science major, said the committee tries to accommodate people with special circumstances, but because of time and space constraints, it is impossible to

See Muster, Page 5

Students plan camp to teach professors A&M traditions



By Tauma Wiggins THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students who want to help professors become more aware of A&M traditions are considering creating a faculty fish camp.

The idea of a fish camp for professors was born when some students noticed that many professors schedule tests during traditional A&M events, such as Muster and Bonfire.

Tracy McAllister, a senior marketing major, said the faculty fish camp is only a proposal, but if enough support is raised, it could become an actual program.

McAllister said many professors do not relate to or understand A&M spirit or traditions, but their apathy could be alleviated by attending a specialized fish camp.

"We're trying to fix the symptom to a disease, which is faculty apathy," McAllister said.

"Maybe instructors would be more aware, and it would work easier in class conversations if they did understand."

The MSC Hospitality Committee offers a brief orientation for new faculty members, but McAllister said the proposed program would do more than just inform participants; it would get them involved.

Danny Shaha, a senior biology major, said several faculty members have told him that they sometimes feel alienated because they do not understand A&M traditions.

He said professors noticed that this also bothers some of their students.

"I have heard people say that their teachers don't know when Muster is or what 'Beat the Hell' means," Shaha said. "I suggested the idea because sometimes teachers feel left out and don't understand the students' spirit."

"Some of the professors come to A&M from different parts of the country, and we need to let them into the A&M spirit."

Shaha said the idea for the original faculty fish camp was to have an overnight program, but the format was altered so professors would only have to allocate one day to the event.

He said representatives of campus organizations, such as the Student Government Muster Committee and Traditions Council, would be available to help with the new program.

However, not all faculty members think the fish camp is necessary or even beneficial.

Mark Card, a Texas A&M graduate student and political science instructor, said he would probably not attend and that if incorporated, the program might be met with some resistance from faculty.

"The best way to benefit A&M is to educate the students well," Card said, "not necessarily to know all the

See Camp, Page 5

Laughlin, Bryant defeated in runoffs

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Rep. Greg Laughlin, one of the Democratic congressmen who switched parties after the 1994 GOP landslide, lost a runoff Tuesday to former Libertarian presidential candidate Ron Paul.

In a Senate runoff, Cinderella candidate Victor Morales, a high school government teacher, won an upset victory over Rep. John Bryant of Dallas for the Democratic nomination to challenge Sen. Phil Gramm.

In the 14th District runoff, Laughlin, a four-term incumbent, became the first congressman this year to go down to defeat. The three previous House members forced into runoffs this decade also have lost.

With 100 percent of precincts reporting, Paul had 11,236 votes, or 54 percent, and Laughlin had 9,492 votes, or 46 percent. "The voters decided they wanted a change," Laughlin said.

In the Senate race, Morales had 247,604 votes, or 51 percent, and Bryant had 235,247 votes, or 49 percent, with 99 percent of precincts reporting. "Long live the people," Morales said.

Morales, 46, told cheering supporters. "And when I talk about that, I'm not just talking about my supporters but Mr. Bryant's supporters and everyone else who took the time to go out and vote today because that's what it's all about."

Laughlin's defeat is sure to embarrass national and state party leaders, who worked overtime to ensure his victory. He was one of five House members who jumped to the GOP last year.

The 54-year-old lawyer was forced into a runoff after capturing just 42 percent — less than a majority — in the March 12 primary against three opponents. Paul, a 60-year-old doctor, won 32 percent. The other challengers threw their support behind Paul in the runoff.

Upon joining the GOP last summer, Laughlin was rewarded with a plum spot on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

Attacked as a political opportunist, Laughlin lined up endorsements from such GOP

See Runoffs, Page 6



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

EQUESTRIAN EXCELLENCE

Sarah Martin, a junior industrial engineering major, jumps her horse "BJ" Tuesday at Texas A&M's Freeman Arena while practicing for the upcoming competition in Denver this weekend.

Plan passes to restrict special event parking

By Kendra S. Rasmussen THE BATTALION

A plan to restrict parking in certain neighborhoods adjacent to the Texas A&M campus on special event days was approved March 28 by the College Station City Council.

The city's first priority is to limit parking in south gate, where parking is especially troublesome on home football game days. South gate is defined by Wellborn Road, George Bush Drive, Timber Street, Park Place, Dexter Drive, Thomas Street and Luther Street.

A portion of this area was added to the City Council's original proposal after public hearings indicated the area

needed to be restricted.

Parking will be restricted during Bonfire on east gate, across Texas Avenue from the main entrance of A&M.

This area has been completely closed to traffic in the past, but the city's plan allows restricted parking.

Maj. Mason Newton of the College Station Police Department said restricted parking will spare the city the cost of closing the area.

"We will not have to spend over \$10,000 in overtime and equipment costs for five hours of operation to block off that area," he said. "We can divert a lot of the police personnel toward

enforcement instead of traffic control."

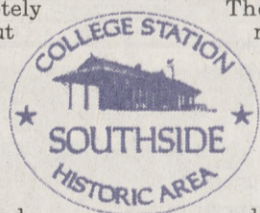
Ed Hard, College Station transportation planner, said the plan will allow parking on one side only of the road.

The other side will be clearly marked with no-parking signs. Cars violating the no-parking ordinance will be towed.

Parking restrictions will be effective only during special events.

Newton said College Station does not suffer as many daily parking problems as other college towns.

"We are kind of unique, fortunately, because we don't have a daily off-campus problem like most universities," he said.



Hard said hinged signs will be placed in the restricted neighborhoods to warn motorists of the parking ban on special event days.

Signs on south gate will appear on a daily basis as historic area markers but will fold down to expose "No Parking Tow Away Zone" signs on event days. Signs outside the Southside Historic Area will bear the College Station logo.

Lt. Scott McCollum, College Station Police Department public information officer, said parking on south gate during special events crowds the roadways, making access to residences in the neighborhood almost impossible.

See Parking, Page 6

2 A&M fraternities close doors

By Marissa Alanis THE BATTALION

Two fraternities, Phi Kappa Tau and Delta Upsilon, have closed their Texas A&M chapters because of financial setbacks and low membership.

Established at A&M in 1987, Phi Kappa Tau officially closed its chapter March 4 with only 15 remaining members. The chapter had its peak enrollment of 35 members in Spring 1994.

Jeff Dye, former president of Phi Kappa Tau and junior management major, said he was sad to close the chapter, but a lack of funds forced the decision.

"We were basically putting money in that we weren't getting anything back on," Dye said.

The national chapter told the local chapter to close, he said, because the local chapter's enrollment was below the national requirement of 20 members.

In a year, Dye said, the Phi Kappa Tau national chapter will send a representative to A&M to start an interest group.

The representative will select five to 10 students or alumni who are interested in restarting Phi Kappa Tau and who are not satisfied with what A&M's Greek system offers.

On Dec. 2, 1995, Delta Upsilon

decided to close its chapter after five years at A&M.

Peak enrollment for Delta Upsilon was 52 members, but by late Fall 1995 it had declined to 10.

Palash Kulkarni, a former Delta Upsilon secretary and sophomore management major, said the fraternity's downfall was the result of ineffective publicity and rush processes.

Steen Oldenburg, a former president of Delta Upsilon and senior economics major, said the members and the alumni tried to save the chapter, but the financial burden of their

See Fraternities, Page 6

PikeFest raises largest donation for local charity

By Courtney Walker THE BATTALION

A Pi Kappa Alpha event held earlier this month resulted in the largest donation the Muscular Dystrophy Association has ever received from a Bryan-College Station organization.

PikeFest '96 raised \$7,000 for the MDA. Pi Kappa Alpha members sold all 1,500 tickets available for the event, which included a concert and crawfish boil.

The money will be used to

send Bryan-College Station children suffering from neuromuscular diseases to summer camp, to fund the Bryan-College Station MDA clinic, and to provide funding to research cures and treatments for muscular dystrophy and related diseases.

Jimmy Shafer, PikeFest '96 chairman and Pi Kappa Alpha internal vice president, said fraternity members did not expect to sell all the tickets.

See PikeFest, Page 10

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