

Aggie life

THURSDAY
April 18, 1996

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Aggie ring symbolizes tradition

By David Hall
THE BATTALION

Aggie rings are in. For about 2,000 A&M students, that means today they will receive a token symbolizing the years of work they have invested in their education at Texas A&M. Anticipation runs high, as the tradition of the ring is a long and honored one.

The tradition dates back to 1889. Since then, enthusiasm for the ring has grown with the school, said Carolyn Swanzy, director of the Ring Office. At this point, that spirit is still very much alive, and it is displayed by the enormous interest generated by the Aggie Ring among A&M students.

Swanzy said that currently, A&M sells more rings than any school in the nation.

She said the reason for that fact lies partly in the restrictions placed upon ring applicants. A&M students must meet certain criteria in order to qualify for the ring, whereas students at the University of Texas, for example, can buy the ring at any time with no restrictions.

"The ring tradition has been here for

as long as the rings have," Swanzy said. "This is because of the controls we place on the ring. When a student gets a ring, they know that it has been earned. The ring means something — it stands for something."

Swanzy said the restrictions on ring applicants have been in effect for over seven decades and are a source of pride to students and administrators alike.

In 1933 saw the formation of the first official Aggie Ring Committee, whose purpose was "to protect the meaning and heritage of the ring."

This heritage is born out by the students getting their rings.

Heather Campbell, a senior biomedical science major, said the tradition of the ring played a part in her decision to buy a ring, but there were more prag-

matic reasons at play as well.

"I'm getting my ring partly because of the job opportunities it may provide," she said. "If a prospective employer sees the Aggie ring, he knows that you put in the effort to earn it. And if that employer is an Aggie, well, that wouldn't hurt things either."

The interest in the tradition and practical possibilities of the ring is balanced by a newer tradition — ring dunking. The usual formulation of this tradition involves dropping the newly acquired ring into a pitcher of beer, then downing the beer in the number of seconds corresponding to the year of graduation.

Swanzy said ring dunking has been in place for about 15 years, and although it is not officially sanctioned by the University, it has nonetheless reached a position of prominence among recipients of the ring.

The Dixie Chicken is traditionally the most popular bar for the occasion, and this year Rufo Reyes, a manager of the bar, said he expects about 600 students to show up to dunk their rings. Although he can't explain why the practice is so embedded, he said he understands its importance for Aggies.

"I don't know what started this whole tradition," he said, "but it is obviously very important to the students just getting their rings, and we're glad to be a part of it."

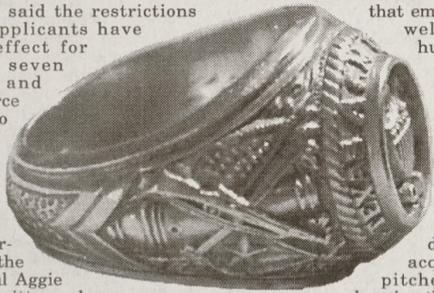
For some students, the prospect of drinking a pitcher of beer is not enticing, and as a result, alternatives have developed.

Campbell, for instance, said she plans to dunk her ring in wine coolers at Duddley's Draw with her friends.

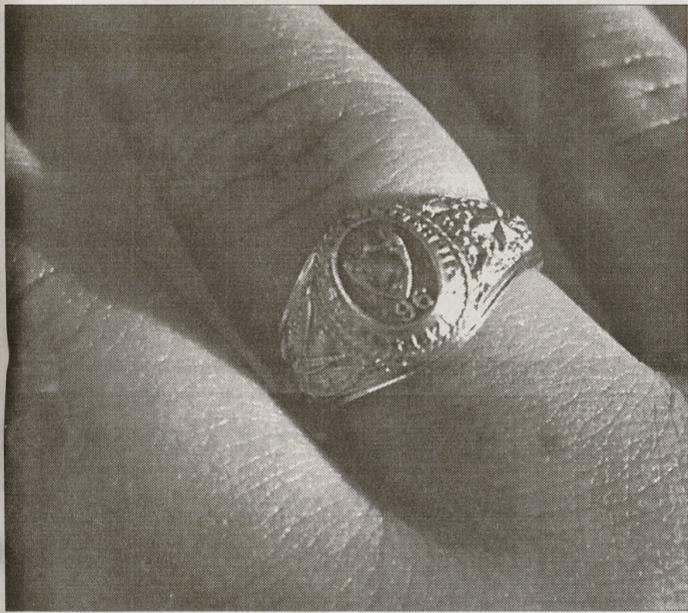
For students who do not wish to drink at all, the Earthquake at Swensen's provides another option.

John Youlton, the ice cream shop's manager, said people have been dunking their rings in his store's eight-scoop sundae for about five years. He anticipates Thursday's ice cream ring dunking to be one of Swensen's biggest days of the year, as students who do not want to drink line up to enjoy his wares.

"We are providing an alternative for students who don't want to drink," he said. "This gives them another way to enjoy the celebration of receiving their Aggie ring."



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION



About 2,000 students are receiving their Aggie rings today.

Explosion Week gives reverence to Broadus

By Rachel Barry
THE BATTALION

When David A. Washington, a senior political science major, was running late for a flight he had to catch in Houston, he knew he could count on one person to get him to the airport on time.

"Even when times and odds looked difficult to beat, he tried his best," he said.

Washington said Reginald Broadus was willing to do anything to help a friend.

Three years ago this month, Broadus, and another A&M student, Crystal Miller, were murdered in Dallas. This week during Explosion Week, Washington said he hopes students will remember Broadus' impact on his community and learn from his example.

Steven Traylor, president of Alpha Phi Alpha and senior finance major, said Explosion Week is a week of programming put together in an effort to celebrate the memory of Broadus.

"I want people to remember him as a multi-faceted individual that cared more about others than he probably cared about himself," he said. "In the things he did, he always tried to put himself last."

Explosion Week, which began with a church service in the All Faiths Chapel on Sunday, will include speakers such as Qwanell X and State Rep. Sylvester Turner, group discussions on issues faced

See Explosion Page 4

Reginald Broadus

Senior Year

- President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Director of programs, MSC Black Awareness Committee
- Minority Enrichment and Development through Academic and Leadership Skills
- Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference
- Adopt-a-School

Junior Year

- Programming Chair, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Director of Housing, Minority Enrichment and Development through Leadership Skills
- Outstanding African-American man — Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Mentor, Aggie Buddies
- Presidential Distinguished Ser-

vice Award — Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Sophomore Year

- Assistant Director of Membership, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Care
- Director of Students Development, MSC Black Awareness Committee
- Transportation Assistant, Southwestern Black Student Leadership Conference

Freshman Year

- Co-founder, Prime Time Posse Acting Group
- Bass Section Member, Acapella Alliance Singing Group
- Peer adviser, TOMORROW Youth Group
- Excellence Uniting Culture Education and Leadership

Ladies Protect Yourself FREE

SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES EVERY SATURDAY AT 11 AM

Bucky's

500 S. Texas Ave., Bryan 82-BUCKY

May Graduates

Graduation Announcements Are In

Pick up in the MSC Visual Arts Gallery
MSC Room 289
Through Friday, April 19
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
845-1234

Bring receipt or student ID

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4.0 & GO TUTORING

700 E. University Dr., Suite #108

Sunday Apr-21-96	Monday Apr-22-96	Tuesday Apr-23-96	Wednesday Apr-24-96	Thursday Apr-25-96
Aggie Muster 7 pm	MATH 152 Review from last week 5pm-7pm	MATH 151 Review from last week 5pm-7pm	Tickets for all classes on sale Sunday April 21 at 2:30 pm.	
	FINC 341 Part I 6pm-8pm	FINC 341 Part II 6pm-8pm	FINC 341 Part III 6pm-8pm	FINC 341 Part IV 6pm-8pm
Finals Tutoring				
	MATH 152 Part I 7pm-10pm	MATH 152 Part II 7pm-10pm	MATH 152 Part III 7pm-10pm	
MEEN 329 Part I 3pm-5pm	MEEN 329 Part II 8pm-11pm	MEEN 329 Part III 8pm-11pm		
	FINC 341 Part I 8pm-10pm	FINC 341 Part II 8pm-10pm	FINC 341 Part III 8pm-10pm	FINC 341 Part IV 8pm-10pm
Finals Tutoring				
	MATH 151 Part I 10pm-1am	MATH 151 Part II 10pm-1am	MATH 151 Part III 10pm-1am	

For ticket information call 846-7670R (846-8886).

Senior Weekend '96

"The Final Road Trip...Destination Aggeland"

Tuesday, April 23rd
Party on the Patio 7-10 p.m.
Wings N' More across from Campus

Wednesday, April 24th
Old Army Yell Practice 6:30 p.m.
Rudder Fountain

Thursday, April 25th
Senior Bash 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Texas Hall of Fame

Saturday, April 27th
Senior Banquet 6-8 p.m.
Hilton Hotel

Ring Dance 9 p.m.-1 a.m.
MSC and Rudder Complex

For ticket information call 845-1234

JUNIOR FULBRIGHT

The Junior Fulbright provides graduating seniors and graduate students of U.S. citizenship the opportunity to develop a proposal for a specific research project to be undertaken in the country of their choice during the 1997-1998 academic year. Each applicant may apply once during the current year of competition.

Informational Meeting Times
MONDAY APRIL 15 at 1pm
WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 at 1pm
FRIDAY APRIL 19 AT 1pm

All Meetings Held in Bizzell Hall West room 154
FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, INFORMATIONAL MEETING TIMES, OR GENERAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS OFFICE
161 BIZZELL HALL WEST
(409) 845-0544