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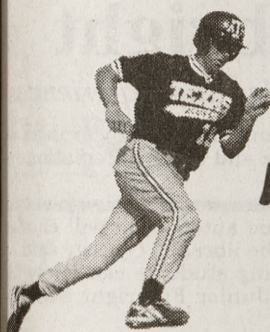
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IT'S CATCHING
Matt Garrick is making the most of his playing time.
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THE BATTALION

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Thursday • April 25, 1996

Secret organization causes concern

By Sterling Hayman and David Taylor
THE BATTALION

High-ranking University and Corps of Cadets officials are following leads on what is considered to be a secret organization within the Corps. The concern stems from fears that the organization Stickers, whose purpose and membership is secret, is operating outside the boundaries of University and Corps regulations. Stickers, according to sources,

is a modification of the Swastikas, a secret organization that existed at A&M for many years since the early 1900s. Sources say that the main function of Stickers is to recruit and promote its own members to prominent leadership positions around campus. Dr. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs, said the administration is fully aware of all of the speculation surrounding the organization and its activities. "I've had rumors of such an organization for about four

years," Southerland said. "I do not have personal knowledge of a mission statement of the organization, but the perception seems to be all negative in that the organization is not keeping with the mission and goals of Texas A&M University." A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen and the A&M Board of Regents have full knowledge of what steps the University has taken to follow-up on all leads, sources say. Southerland said an attorney has also been contacted by the University to give "infor-

mal advice" on how to handle the situation. Southerland said that although the University lacks con- crete evidence about the organi- zation, the intensity of concerns surrounding the group has caused administrators to follow all possible leads. "I've asked every person that

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Texas A&M has rich history of secret societies

By David Taylor and Sterling Hayman
THE BATTALION

The following is brief run-through of the history of secret organizations at Texas A&M. All information was collected from A&M's archives. Secret organizations are nothing new at Texas A&M. In fact, the University has a well-docu-

mented history of organizations that have existed since the 1900s. A&M's first secret organization was the Kala Kinasis, which was formed in 1904. The group, which began as a dancing club, attempted to foster a fraternal spirit and influence student

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Clinton, Congress strike deal

Administration says the budget will be signed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders and White House officials announced agreement Wednesday on a huge bill financing dozens of federal agencies for the rest of the fiscal year, solving a months-long standoff that had become a political embarrassment for both parties. Nearly seven months after fiscal 1996 began, the two sides resolved a handful of stubborn environmental disputes — in many cases following retreats by Republicans — and prepared to push the \$160 billion measure through Congress on Thursday. "We believe we have agreement on remaining issues," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., as yet another day of closed-door bargaining came to an end. About an hour later, presidential press secretary Mike McCurry told reporters President Clinton would sign the legislation as soon as it reaches his desk. "The administration is satisfied that the president's priorities have been addressed as well as they can be addressed," McCurry said. Money for agencies covered by the bill was due to run out at midnight, since they have been financed all fiscal year by a series of temporary stopgap bills. So to head off a third federal shutdown since autumn, the House voted 400-14 to keep programs running for 24 more hours, and the Senate, by voice vote, shipped it to Clinton for his promised signature.



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

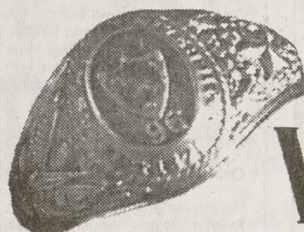
DON'T DROP THE GLASS

Jerry Shannon, senior glass blower, welds a side arm on a photo light cell in the glass shop in the basement of the Chemistry Building. The glass shop makes all of the highly specialized glass for the chemistry labs on campus.

Seniors savor last days in Aggieland

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

Members of the Texas A&M Class of '96 are remembering and celebrating their time at A&M — and looking toward the future. Several events this week are building up to "Senior Weekend: The Final Road Trip ... Destination Aggieland," the finale of which is Ring Dance. Tuesday, a Party on the Patio was held at Wings 'N' More, and Wednesday, seniors participated in their own Ol' Army Vell Practice at Rudder Fountain. Tonight is Class of '96 night at the Texas Hall of Fame. For Ring Dance, which starts at 9 p.m. Saturday, seven rooms in the MSC and Rudder Tower will be named for a different city and decorated accordingly. For instance, attendees will be able to enjoy country music in the Nashville room, and the Las Vegas room will feature an Elvis impersonator. At the dance, students walk through a giant replica of an Aggie ring, turning their own rings so that the year and inscription face away from themselves, signifying to the world they are soon-to-be graduates of A&M.



SENIOR WEEK

The Senior Weekend and Ring Dance traditions date back to 1937. MariClare Feeney, a Senior Weekend committee co-chair and senior English major, said the events serve to recognize graduating seniors and to provide a way for seniors to express their A&M pride. "It's the culminating event of a student's years at A&M," Feeney said. "It's our last hurrah." Kristen Gibbons, a Senior Weekend committee co-chair and senior marketing major, said the committee has been preparing for Ring Dance since last fall. Now the committee is in the final stages of planning and coordinating last-minute details. Gibbons said Ring Dance has grown

a great deal since it was first established. She said that when her dad attended his Ring Dance, it was held in Sbsia Dining Hall. Feeney said she expects about 1,500 students to attend the dance this year. Because there has been a three-hour wait to get photographs taken at Ring Dance in past years, photographs will be taken under the giant ring starting 9 a.m. Saturday. A banquet with a surprise guest speaker will begin at 6 p.m. at the College Station Hilton Hotel. Peggy Philpot, Class of '96 adviser, said the committee has done a good job coordinating this year's events. "They are very well-organized," Philpot said. "This thing is very well-planned."

Students frustrated with Career Center

By Kasie Byers
THE BATTALION

Graduating Texas A&M students using the Career Center to find jobs, especially those in lesser-known majors, may run into some snags. Some students say kinks in the system are causing companies to overlook qualified applicants. At the Career Center, students fill out a résumé disk on which they enter their major, expected degree, grade-point ratio and expected date of graduation. Students are allowed to enter up to three codes that provide information about their majors. They can enter codes for majors they will receive degrees in and have received degrees in or the departmental names under which their degrees are listed. Companies seeking employees fill out forms indicating to the Career Center what types of students they need. From these forms, students are matched with companies based on four criteria: major, degree earned, graduation date and work authorization, or citizenship. Dr. Glen Payne, associate director of the Career Center, said students who want an interview with a particular company must fit all four criteria. "Students may not realize that their major is not the only criteria considered," Payne said. He said many students are over-

looked by companies because they do not understand the center's format for selecting interviewees. Students in several majors have complained that the system is not working to its full potential. Mike Ferguson, a manufacturing engineering technology major, said several companies' literature described positions he felt he was qualified for, but when he went to sign up on their interview schedules, he discovered he was blocked. "I asked someone at the Career Center what the problem was," Ferguson said, "and they told me this story about 'that is just the way it goes, and if I wanted to get an interview with these companies I should send a letter to the companies asking them to call the Career Center and put me on their interview list.'" But Ferguson said it is unlikely the companies would comply. "There are no odds of this happening," he said. "Here they have 80 résumés to look at. Why would they worry about one person pleading for an interview?" Ferguson then discovered that only 12 companies were requesting interviews with manufacturing engineering technology students, but 58 had requested engineering technology students, the department within which his major is listed.

See Students, Page 5

Biking benefits environment

By Erica Roy
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station groups are encouraging people to ride their bicycles to school and work on Friday. The Brazos Valley Cyclists have declared Friday the third annual Bike-To-Work Day, and Don Mueller, BVC publicity chairman, said the main purpose of the event is to build awareness of the benefits of bicycling and of bicycle safety. But riding bicycles is also environmentally beneficial, and the A&M chapter of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition is supporting the event in honor of Earth Week. TEAC members are stationed today at an information table in front of Rudder Fountain to encourage students to consider traveling by earth-conscious modes of transportation rather than by automobile. A solar-powered car will be on display. TEAC members are also planning to participate in Bike-To-Work Day. Carrie Thompson, TEAC president and senior geography major, said many TEAC members are bicyclists and want to help out in any way they can. "This is a good day ... to remind people there are other ways to get around besides driving," Thompson said. She also said the day will serve



to increase the sensitivity of non-bicyclists toward bicyclists. "This day is a positive thing for the community," she said. "A lot of students and people ride bikes, and it is not always safe or easy." Gary Varner, a BVC member and A&M philosophy professor, said he rides his bicycle to work every day and does not even have a parking space on campus. He said that because he lives only a mile from campus, bicycling is the fastest and most convenient mode of transportation to work. More people in the Bryan-College Station area would ride their bicycles, Mueller said, if they felt the activity was safe. To that end, College Station has implemented a bicycle safety plan.

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