

# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY  
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YOU CAN'T STOP, YOU CAN ONLY HOPE TO CONTAIN...

## The Rollerblading

By Ray Hernandez  
THE BATTALION

It was not long ago that the number of rollerbladers skating around the A&M campus was about as small as the number of self-proclaimed Aggie Democrats.

But recently, the University has become caught up in what is taking the rest of the world by storm — the rollerblading craze.

Today, one sees rollerbladers going to class, playing roller hockey at the Grove or just practicing in front of the Zachry Building or any other open space on campus.

Jennifer New, a senior environmental design major, says rollerblading is more exciting than other traditional sports.

"When I first thought of rollerblading, I just thought



Ronny White, a senior electrical engineering technology major, slides down a handrail outside the Halbouty Building.

it was like your usual skating," New said. "But this is more daring — more fun."

Most people participating in the rollerblading revolution range from former skaters and skateboarders to people who have no experience at all.

While exercise may be a motivator for rollerbladers, Tony Schilling, a senior mathematics major, said he started rollerblading for leisure and friendship.

"My roommate came back with a pair (of rollerblades) and told me that I had to get a pair so we can have fun," Schilling said. "Rollerblading is a good thing to come out and do with friends, have a good time and blow off a lot of steam."

Schilling has advice for those trying to overcome the intimidation of being a first-time rollerblader.

"If you want to learn and have a desire, then come out

and skate," Schilling said. "All you really need to do is come out and try and fall a couple of times."

"If you fall a thousand times and finally nail that move, there is no greater feeling. It makes you come out and want to keep trying."

Lately, a desire has surfaced among many campus rollerbladers to formally organize the sport at A&M.

Several rollerbladers have mentioned a desire for a club on campus, as well as the construction of a skate park in the Bryan-College Station area.

Ronny White, a senior electrical engineering technology major, said there is no telling how many rollerbladers hit the pavement at A&M.

"There are [a lot] of us that skate on campus, usually not at the same time, though," White said. "Sometimes, no one is really aware of just how many skaters there are out there."

There are a few drawbacks to skating on campus. Many buildings prohibit

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— TONY SCHILLING  
senior mathematics major

rollerbladers from skating inside, and the parking garages do not allow rollerbladers to skate down the ramps.

The skaters also agree that the sport carries a negative reputation, especially among police and security guards.

New said campus rollerbladers are often dis-

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## Students retreat to TAMU Outdoors

By Colby Gaines  
THE BATTALION

If you have been searching for adventure this summer and have not had much luck finding it, then perhaps you'll find it outdoors — Texas A&M Outdoors, that is.

From scuba diving to rock climbing, TAMU Outdoors' summer schedule has something for everyone.

Patsy Cott, assistant director of TAMU Outdoors, said people who get involved can expect fun and a positive experience.

"In the past, men and women have been overwhelmed," Cott said. "They really enjoyed learning new skills and meeting other people with the same interests."

Cott said most participants have common goals.

"These people like to get outdoors," Cott said. "Most of them set challenging personal goals [in activities like] rock climbing and kayaking, and they can attain them through this."

Others come away just as satisfied with the fact that they are "getting away."

Shane Decker, a sophomore kayaking participant, said taking the class helped him achieve skills that he will use on future river floating trips.

"I have always wanted to kayak down the wild rapids of Colorado," Decker said. "Now, I have a head start on successfully doing that."

Decker said the outdoors course was entertaining as well as informative.

"I met a lot of people in the class," Decker said. "I also had a great time learning, which came as a big surprise."

This summer the TAMU Outdoors program has already held sessions in scuba diving, windsurfing, kayaking and hiking. Additional instruction will be given in these activities during the second summer session, and several more outdoors activities and trips have been scheduled.

Dawn Hatfield, a senior who took part in a scuba diving session Tuesday night at the Student Recreation center, said she has big expectations after taking the outdoors course.

"Although I am taking this class to prepare for a trip to Cozumel, I'm hoping to learn enough to be able to scuba for the rest of my life," Hatfield said. "I'm a real outdoorswoman, and I love the water. This class will be a good experience."

Alan Woods, a graduate student in finance, said the rock climbing clinic met his expectations.

"I was able to reach one of my goals with the class," Woods said. "I always wanted to be able to climb; now I can. In the process, I met a lot of people who felt the way I do about the outdoors."

In light of the steamy Texas heat, many of TAMU Outdoors' events take place in the water, which include trips to the Bahamas and the Schlitterbahn Water Park in New Braunfels.

"Many of our events are water-related, so people don't necessarily have to deal with the heat," Cott said.

TAMU Outdoors offers classes in beginner and intermediate levels, and registration is open for all events at the Center.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Students receive instruction in snorkeling at the Open Water Diver Course held Tuesday night by the TAMU Outdoors Program at the Student Recreation Center pool.

But to beat the heat ...

## A&M Intramurals offer indoor/outdoor options

By Colby Gaines  
THE BATTALION

For students who are bummed out about attending class five days a week during the summer, the A&M Recreational Sports Department has an answer. If students are looking for excitement, competition or a break from class, the department's intramural sports program is putting the fun back into summer.

Offering sports ranging from golf to table tennis, there is something for almost every sports addict — including those who want to remain indoors.

Drew McMillen, an assistant director of A&M intramurals, said anyone who joins can expect the same type of sports that are available in the fall and spring; however, the teams will be smaller.

"We offer three-man volleyball and basketball, table tennis, golf, softball, tennis and racquetball," McMillen said. "In the fall and spring semesters, we have approximately 15,000 participants, but in the summer, only about 900

people participate per each (summer) session."

James Nash, an assistant director of A&M intramurals, said there are many benefits to participating in summer intramurals.

"They are an outlet for stress, a break from class and a place to have fellowship with your friends," Nash said. "The people who play seem to enjoy it because [summer intramurals] are a little more relaxed than the fall and spring semesters."

Brent Montgomery, a senior journalism major and summer softball player, said he has developed some positive relationships from his intramural experience.

"I've gained friendships and produced some camaraderie that, hopefully, will last a lifetime," Montgomery said.

McMillen said playing summer intramurals is a good way to spend extra time that is not available during the regular semesters.

"During the fall and spring semesters, there is a lot going

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