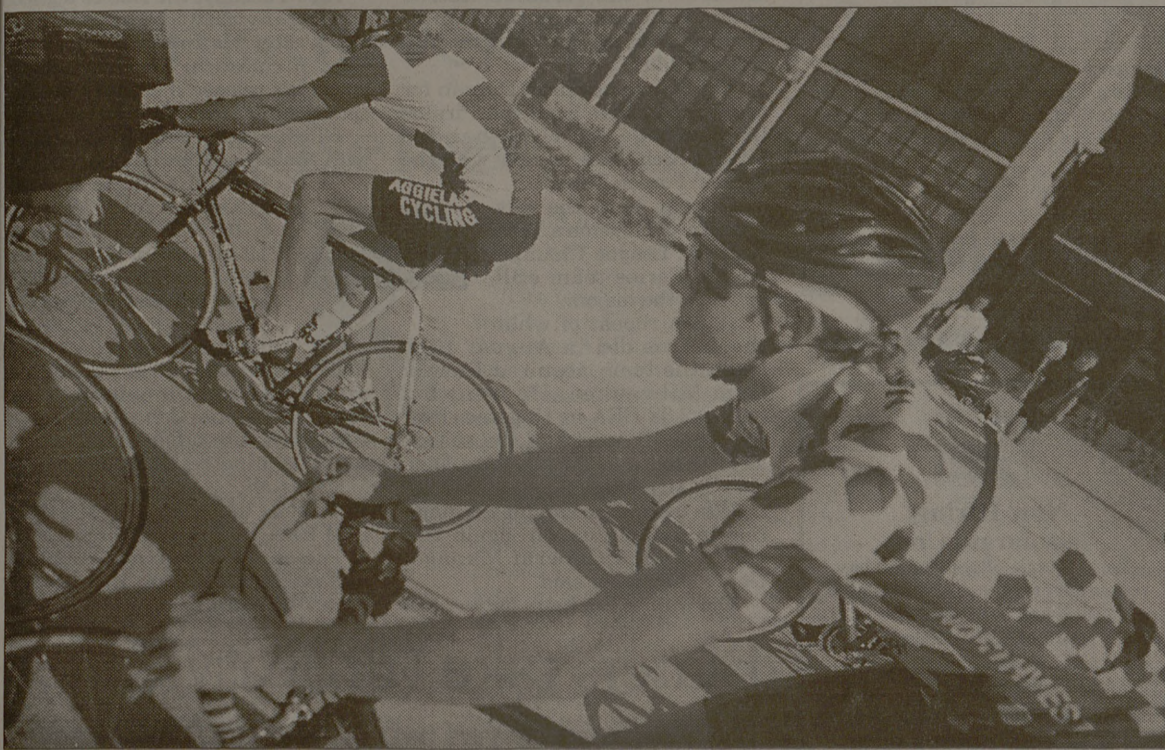


WANTED: Aggie Cyclers



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Greg Ostrowski, a member of the Texas A&M Cycling Team, embarks on a practice ride with his teammates Tuesday in front of the Student Recreation Center.

By Colby Gaines
THE BATTALION

This summer's heat wave has induced many people to move their activities indoors — including bicyclists. However, there is an exciting alternative to churning on stationary bikes in front of the Texas A&M Student Recreation Center's TV sets.

With the Brazos Valley Mountain Bike Association, the Aggie Cycling Team and more than four bicycle shops in the Bryan-College Station area, there are plenty of opportunities for pedal-pushers of all skill levels to pick up the trade.

Chris Arterburn, president of the Bike Association, said those who join the group have the option of riding and clearing trails for future use.

"We are currently in the process of building trails at Lake Bryan," Arterburn said. "In the past, we've had to drive a couple hours away to find good trails. In the future, we want people to have the luxury of mountain biking while remaining close to home."

The Aggie Cycling Team also hosts daily rides for members and cycling addicts. Hutch Butler, vice president of the mountain biking division of the team, said anyone can join the team on rides as long as they wear a helmet.

The club meets Monday through Friday at the Rec Center at 5:30 p.m., with the exception of Wednesdays when it meets at 5 o'clock.

"Sometimes we ride as far as Navasota," Butler said. "But for the most part, we ride around the Bryan-College Station area."

Hutch said people without

much experience should not be intimidated from coming out to ride with the team.

"Most people are afraid to come out because they think it will be too (physically) demanding," Butler said. "However, we have three skill levels for riders from beginner to advanced. We also have two divisions — mountain biking and road biking — for those with different interests."

The A&M team typically runs a weekly routine.

Stephen Hosman, an active member of the Aggie Cycling Team, said some days are harder than others, and the riders know what to expect on various days of the week.

"We have what we call 'easy rides' on Mondays and Fridays," Hosman said. "They usually last about 20 miles and are slower-paced than the 'hammer rides' during the rest of the week."

Although some bikers ride to fulfill personal goals, Brenner said most of the riders compete to reach nationals.

"Most of us are involved because of our interest in the sport," Brenner said. "We have goals of competing successfully at nationals."

"At the beginning of the summer we competed at Collegiate Nationals, but during the rest of the summer we have been working on our fitness and technical skills."

The Brazos Valley Mountain Biking Association and the Aggie Cycling Team accept anyone who has an interest in the sport and especially encourage people to try the sport during the summer.

"The summer provides a great opportunity to meet people and get

involved with cycling because we have a smaller group of riders," Butler said. "We want people to know that we stress one thing — fun."

The Aggie Cycling Team's season begins Aug. 26 with the first race of the season being held at Wichita Falls. Anyone interested in road or mountain biking or joining the Aggie Cycling Team can contact Valley Cyclery or Aggie Cycling and Fitness.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Junior Erik Ostergaard heads out for a practice ride.

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*INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG-13) (on three screens) dts

1. 11:30 3:00 6:30 10:10

2. 12:15 3:25 7:15 10:40

3. 7:50 10:50

*MULTIPLICITY (PG-13) 11:00 1:30 4:10 7:15 10:15

*FLED (R) 11:10 1:35 3:55 6:55 9:50

*COURAGE UNDER FIRE (R) (on two screens)

1. 1:15 4:10 7:15 10:15

2. 11:00 1:45 4:45 8:00 10:45

HARRIET THE SPY (PG) 11:35 2:10 4:45

THE NUTTY PROFESSOR (PG-13) (on two screens)

1. 11:45 2:45 5:30 7:55 10:25

2. 12:15 2:20 4:55 7:10 10:00

KAZAAM (PG) 11:20 1:40 4:15 6:45 9:45

STRIPTease (R) 11:00 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:15

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (G) 11:30 1:45 4:00 7:05 9:30

THE ROCK (R) 11:05 2:00 4:55 7:50 10:55

LOVE STAR (NR) 11:00 4:20 10:45

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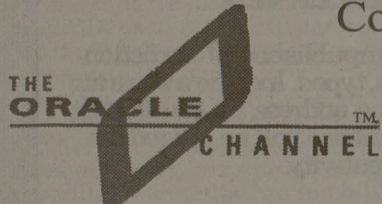
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