

# THE BATTALION

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## A&M changes admissions process for '97

Amy Protas  
THE BATTALION

Yesterday, Executive Vice President Gerald G. Douglas announced changes in the admissions process for 1997. Although the basic admissions process is not changed, the provisional program will be expanded and parental educational background will now be considered.

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"We do regular admissions in two ways, early notification and review," Douglas said. "We are going to make sure that at least half the students are admitted through review." The review category includes such factors as work experience, connections with A&M and parental educational history. Douglas said these characteristics will be considered more now than in the past. "In the review process, we will give greater weight to other characteristics," Douglas said. "Our goals in admissions are that we want an academically capable class with lots of leadership potential and a wide variety of students. We're concerned with diversity issues."

Douglas said despite the *Hopwood* ruling, A&M is still committed to diversity. *Hopwood vs. the State of Texas* outlawed race and ethnicity as factors in admissions decisions.

"We remain committed to having a student body which better reflects the population of the state of Texas," Douglas said. "We had a process in place that we thought was accomplishing that. We've been forced to change it by the court decision, but our goals remain the same."

Douglas said A&M is developing alternative ways to promote minority enrollment.

"There will be increased efforts in recruiting and encouraging minority students we offer admission to," Douglas said. "One of the intentions is to try to use students at Texas A&M (as ambassadors)."

The provisional program will be enlarged for Fall 1997 admissions. The program admits students who meet the minimum requirements but may be less qualified than others to have the opportunity to prove themselves at Texas A&M.

In an internal memo, Douglas said students will benefit from the summer academic program provided for them.

"I have decided to modify and enlarge the Provisional Admission Program for 1997 and

to experiment more with it," Douglas said. "All students in the top quarter of their high school class who have SAT scores of at least 820 will be eligible for the program. Emphasis will be placed on selecting educationally disadvantaged students for this program, thus further extending the opportunity for admission to all citizens of Texas."

Douglas did not accept all of the recommendations made by the Admissions Advisory Committee for the 1997-98 school year.

"What I have done, in many cases, is accepted the recommendations," Douglas said. "In some, I used the recommendations to further study the situation. We're making modifications for 1997, and I'm assuming we'll make further ones for 1998. The admissions process is in transition."

Douglas did not approve the recommendation to cut off the criteria for early notification. He said he would like to study this further before making any changes.

A standing University Admissions Policy Committee that will report to the Provost will be established at the start of the fall semester. Douglas will work with the committee to follow up on the Admissions Advisory Committee report.

## Students react to criteria changes

By Pamela Benson  
THE BATTALION

In the past many have held a perception that A&M admission standards are lowered for minorities.

Unlike other universities, A&M considers a variety of individual characteristics beyond academic standards.

The recent 5th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Hopwood vs. State of Texas* makes illegal the use of race as an admission criterion.

Yesterday Executive Vice President and Provost Ronald G. Douglas released a proposal out-

lining changes in the admissions process for 1997.

Although the basic criteria for admissions will remain the same, three changes will be implemented by 1997.

Two of those changes are effective immediately.

The provisional program, which allows students not meeting minimum requirements to attend A&M, will be expanded to include more applicants.

In addition, the education of the applicant's parents will also

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## Dole says he's 'very close' to VP decision

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Bob Dole narrowed his list of vice presidential prospects to three Wednesday and told top aides he was "very near a final decision" in a search he has described as critical to re-viving his campaign.

Campaign officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, refused to name the finalists, although one said there was a strong possibility the Republican nominee would turn to someone who has not factored in public speculation.

Previously, campaign and other Republican sources have suggested Dole had focused on four or five contenders, including former South Carolina Gov. Carroll Campbell, Gov. John Engler of Michigan, and Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Connie Mack of Florida.

While declining to rank the finalists, one source confirmed that Dole's search team had been in contact with McCain and Mack as recently as Wednesday.

Mack said he was flattered to be considered and said of a national campaign, "there obviously are some very rewarding things ... expressing your beliefs, your ideas, your commitments." But he also said he found the prospects of a national campaign "scary."

Asked if he was among the finalists, Campbell said: "I don't know and I'm not going to say anything about it."

Dole plans to announce his pick Saturday in his

hometown of Russell, Kan., and then fly Sunday to San Diego, the GOP's convention city.

Elizabeth Dole wouldn't drop any hints about her husband's choice.

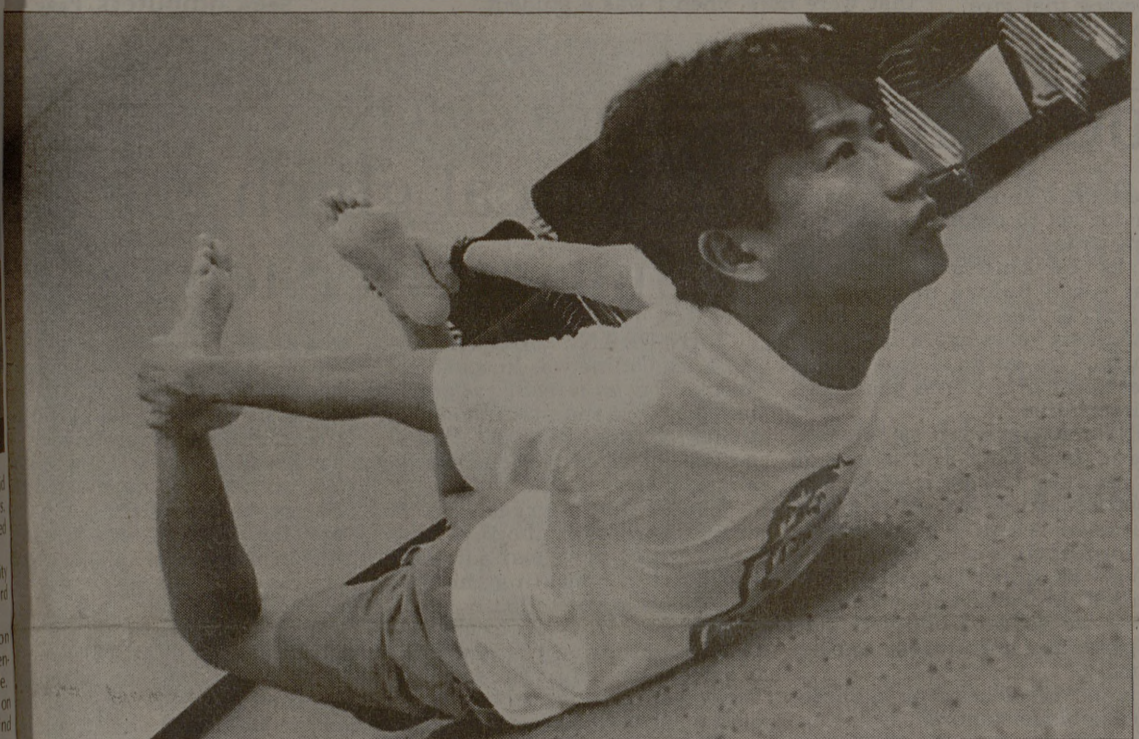
"I can't. It's his decision. It's his announcement," she told AP. "Let me put it this way: we have a continuing dialogue on that subject." She added: "I can say that it is not Elizabeth Dole."

Over the course of the past few weeks, Dole's search team has contacted at least nine Republicans. But even as their names became known, there has been speculation among top aides about a mystery candidate known only to Dole.

Within the Dole campaign, some aides are advocating former Secretary of State James A. Baker; others note the emergence of former congressman and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as a prominent Dole policy adviser. Former HUD Secretary Jack Kemp was on the grapevine, too.

There also was talk in GOP circles this week about Lynne Cheney, the wife of former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, who served as head of the National Endowment for the Humanities during the Reagan and Bush administrations.

Others contacted by the Dole search team include Govs. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin, Jim Edgar of Illinois, George Voinovich of Ohio and Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

## GET BENT

Yasuhiro Yoshioka practices a position called "the bow" in a Yoga class in the MSC Wednesday.

## FISH CAMP '96

### Leaders, students anticipate event

Heather R. Rosenfeld  
THE BATTALION

Some University buses will not be heading to the Rec Center tomorrow. This time, their destination is Palestine, for Fish Camp '96.

On Friday, Session A, the first of six Fish Camp sessions, takes the first load of future Aggies to Palestine.

The thought of arriving freshmen has many Fish Camp leaders pleased.

Suzanna Henderson, head director of Fish Camp and a senior English major, said the entire staff is ready for camp to begin.

"We have been working all year, and the time to really get to see the freshman is here. ... The anticipation level is really high around here," Henderson said. "The most rewarding thing will be seeing them involved and seeing them get excited (about A&M)."

Adam Landrum, co-chair for Camp Fowler and a senior marketing major, said the freshmen have a lot to look forward to during their stay in Palestine.

"I'm expecting an awesome time," Landrum said. "I'm excited for the freshmen to find what A&M is all about and to make some new friends."

Staff members are not the only ones excited about the start of the four-day orientation programs.

Veronica Hernandez, an incoming freshman in Session C, said she expects Fish Camp to introduce her to the Aggie spirit.

"I'm thrilled about camp because I want to get a taste of what Texas A&M is all about," Hernandez said. "I really want to meet more people and learn about tradition, but most importantly I want to be an Aggie."

Henderson said the Fish Camp office has received positive responses from the future students.

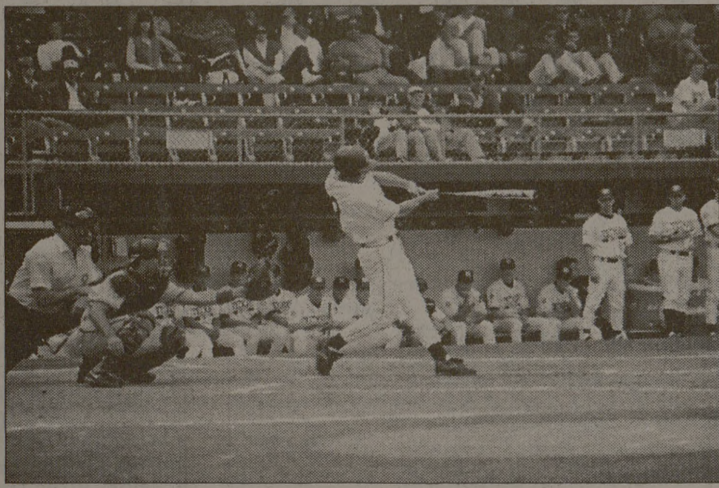
"We have already had some contact with our freshmen," Henderson said. "We have been getting several little notes in the mail. We've also had conference calls about what kind of clothes to wear at the '80s mixer and things like that."

Along with mixers and other activities, Fish Camp incorporates several programs to encourage freshmen's emotional development when making the transition from high school to college.

Henderson said this year the staff is bringing a program called "Who's Who A New U" to focus on the importance of accepting yourself and

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## Allen expected to sign with Minnesota



Battalion File Photo

Chad Allen hits a ball against the University of Houston last April.

By Tom Day  
THE BATTALION

In what has been a summer chock-full of surprise departures of coaches and players in the Texas A&M Athletic Program, fans can expect another development to occur.

Aggie Baseball outfielder Chad Allen is expected to forgo his final year of eligibility at A&M and sign a contract with the Minnesota Twins.

Following a stellar performance during the U.S.A. Baseball Olympic Trials in June and early-July, and at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Allen has engaged in contract negotiations with the Twins.

Although Minnesota Media Relations Manager Sean Harlin could not confirm Wednesday evening that any contract had been finalized, Aggie coach Mark Johnson said Allen has had contact with the Twins.

"This has been an on-going deal," Johnson said. "(Allen) put things on the backburner for a while and went to the Trials to give that a

shot and things really panned out for him."

Allen, who could not be reached for comment, was fourth on the U.S. team with a .403 batting average, 6 home runs, 29 runs-batted-in and a .702 slugging percentage.

Allen, who was drafted in the fourth round of the 1996 Amateur Draft, contacted Johnson when negotiations with the Twins heated up.

"I just talked to him two days ago and he said he thought they were going to up the deal," Johnson said. "We talked about what he ought to look for in terms of a contract."

Johnson, who received another call from Allen Wednesday, said terms were reached sometime Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.

Allen's solid hitting for the U.S.A. Team over the summer apparently turned several heads in the Twins' front office.

"I think he showed he can play with the 20 elite amateurs in the country," Johnson said. "They're the professionals of the future

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## Ol' Army Gentlemen's Society

### Ol' AGS gives male leaders chance to serve

By Erica Roy  
THE BATTALION

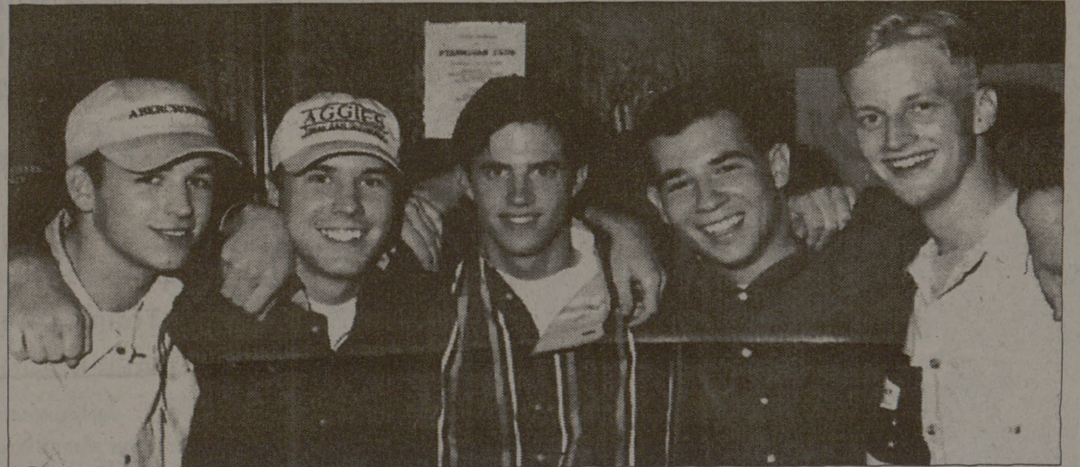
Ol' Army Gentlemen's Society (Ol' AGS) is a male student organization formed by a group of student leaders whose motto is "Aggies First." They want to contribute money, talent and time to Texas A&M University.

T.J. Williams, president of Ol' AGS and a junior marketing major, said the group was organized for social and service purposes.

"We want to build friendships, give back to A&M and have fun doing it," Williams said. "It's not all service or all social; it's a mixture of both."

In the spring of 1995, Williams and a few of his friends went to lunch, and senior Chris Cochran suggested the organization of the group. The students were busy with school and extracurricular activities, and it was difficult to find time to go out together.

"All the guys were real involved in school, and we wanted a reason to get together because we hardly ever saw each other,"



Todd Keel, SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

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Todd Keel, Chris Miller, T. J. Miller, Jimbo Cross and Wes Burnes are members of Ol' AGS.