

GGIELIFE

Page Tuesday • September 3, 19

All interested students, staff

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Those who decide to become member of ALLIES, Moore

ply attending an advance. 'We're asking people to go,

need," she said.

Nesheim said.

ALLIES supports homosexual community

By John LeBas The Battalion

ay, lesbian and bisexual Aggies have an ally at Texas A&M.

Actually, they have more than one ally. These students can turn to ALLIES, a support group of over 100 staff, students and faculty, when they need a confidential place to talk and confide.

Becky Elkins Nesheim, coordinator of women's programs in the Department of Student Life, has been active as an ALLY since

last spring. She said ALLIES is an organiza-tion of A&M students, faculty and staff members willing to provide a safe place to listen and provide support to gay, lesbian and bisexual students.

"Think of what the word 'ally' means," Elkins Nesheim said. "It's a person to provide support."

Student Life adviser and ALLIES coordinator, said the main purpose of the group is "to show support for the gay, lesbian and bisexual community at A&M.

in talking to an ALLY about any issue or concern, she said.

"We want them to know there's someone receptive to them," Moore said.

ALLIES also aims to educate

let them know how they may support gay, lesbian, and bisexual

students, Moore said. Elkins Nesheim said members of ALLIES may be identified by placards, usually mounted on their office or dorm room doors.

The placards are black with "ALLY" written in blue and have a pink triangle in the "Y." ALLIES will hold several educational sessions, or advances, this

semester to educate people on what it means to be gay, lesbian

This is the second story in a series about support services available on campus for students. The series will run through the week and highlight a different support service each day.

and bisexual.

Moore said individual advances will be geared towards individual people with different needs and interests. One or two advances, she said, will be designed to educate those interested in providing support to gay, lesbian and bisexual students on what it means to be an ALLY. These advances will also focus more on initial training in gay issues, rather than focusing on training development-oriented sessions directed towards people with previous gay support experience, Moore said.

biggest benefit of ALLIES show students that there is port of gays, lesbians and bi

als on campus," she said. Moore said she encou anyone with questions ALLIES to attend an advar speak to an ALLY. Several p have asked her about her in ment with the organization said, after noticing her place

Moore has explained to the importance of making student feel like an important of A&M.

"I don't want any studen Texas A&M to feel like they an supported or not valued," shes



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Christi Moore, Department of

These students can feel secure

heterosexuals on myths sur-rounding homosexuality and to "We're hoping to get people more of the introduction that they



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