THE BATTALION

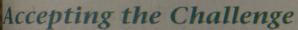
together, especially

minds opened."

where people get their

Curtis Childers

Student body president



# Childers draws on diverse experiences to serve as SBP



Curtis Childers, student body presit, served as the national president or Future Farmers of America

By Erica Roy THE BATTALION

People in Curtis Childers' hometown of Glen Rose, Texas, never doubted he would win the student body president election, because the citizens of this small community near Fort Worth knew he was destined for a successful future.

Jud Moore, Childers' best friend since preschool and a senior environmental design major, said his mother was one of Childers' grade-school teachers and she always said, 'There's something special about Curtis."

Moore said, since he has known the new student body president, he has always been involved in a variety of activities.

"He (Childers) has seen so many things," Moore said, "so he always has a story or a different point of view."

Childers' involvement in leadership positions is one of the reasons Moore said he will be an incredible student body president.

"One thing that Curtis has is so much

experience, not that he's a politician," United States visiting high schools and Moore said, "but he's been involved in so many organizations.

more agricultural development major, grew up with "Universities are Childers in Glen Rose. She said the groups he has been where people come involved with strive to help people, and his dedicated work ethic also will help him A&M. This is a place serve the Texas A&M stu-

"His love for people is something I've never seen in anybody else," Leslie said. He has a way of seeing what people need and getting that for them. That, above all, will make him a

dent body.

very memorable student body president." Childers served as the national president for Future Farmers of America in meet different types of people when they at-1992, when he traveled throughout the

universities. As a representative of 500,000 FFA members, he worked with the Depart-Ann Leslie, Childers' girlfriend and a sophoment of Education to get education policies enacted.

Childers said the work he experienced in this position will help him during his term as stu-

dent body president.
As FFA president,
Childers worked with a variety of people across the United States.

This experience helped him see the different values and beliefs people have based on where they grew up and the situations in which

they have lived He said students have the opportunity to

"Universities are where people come together, especially A&M," Childers said. This is a place where people get their minds opened.

Childers said a lack of diversity is one of A&M's negative points. He wants to start a grassroots panel to focus on increasing diversity at the University.

Through his work with FFA in high school, the president-elect came to A&M as a sophomore to visit. He said the administrators in the College of Agriculture remembered his name every time he returned. Their attitude was the main reason he chose to attend A&M.

"The administration was very hands-on," he said. "When you have that kind of attention, you already feel at home.'

Childers said he wants to encourage more adviser and college involvement in the students, because that is what drew him to A&M.

See CHILDERS, Page 6

#### **Under Pressure**

## Bill would withdraw state funds for 'career students'

By Benjamin Cheng THE BATTALION

So-called career students may end up lying more for their education if a bill in Texas Legislature passes.

The bill would eliminate state funding r college students with 170 or more edit hours who have not obtained a deree. The bill would allow universities to arge out-of-state tuition to make up

According to a 1996 study conducted by the comptroller's office, 18 percent of Cexas college seniors had 170 or more credit hours. The study also said the bill would save the state \$4.5 million.

Rep. David Swinford authored the bill, hich is currently in the House calendar mittee. If passed, the bill would go to effect Sept. 1, 1997.

Swinford said college students in xas graduate with an average of 143

He said allowing an additional 30 credhours provides students with enough

xibility to pursue their studies "We expect students to go through it llege) and not become a professional udent," Swinford said. "It's a fair bill that wards people [who] use the system as

The bill provides a number of exemptions for students with double majors, students who have credits earned at private or out-of-state institutions, and students in health professional degree

Ron Douglas, executive vice president and provost, said a substantial number of students at Texas A&M have more than 170 credit hours.

'It would provide decreased flexibility for students to broaden their studies,' Douglas said.

Mary Conoley, dean of the College of Education, said the purpose of going to college is more than just to get a job. She said the bill would have a negative impact because it prevents students from expanding their intellectual horizons.

"I don't see the University as a factory where we push people in and out," Conoley said.

Don Powell, chair of the Board of Regents, said the bill has enough flexibility for students to merit support.

'Students need to be serious about pursuing a degree plan," Powell said.

Regent Guadalupe Rangel said A&M needs to differentiate between students who are not serious about pursuing a designed and it punishes people that gree and students who are taking longer

to get one. She said A&M should look at

individual cases. "It would be a mammoth task," she

Rangel said the bill unfairly would hurt students who change majors after their

first two years of study. "I don't think all the kinks have been worked out of the bill," she said.

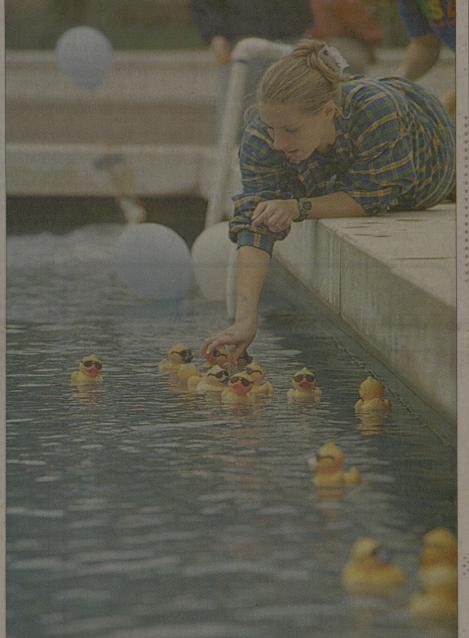
The bill also would prohibit universities from requiring students to complete more than 120 credit hours to receive a degree. A university would have to justify a degree plan that requires more than 120 hours before the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Swinford said this prevents universities from increasing the number of hours in a degree program and causing students to have to stay in school longer.

Douglas said this provision would cost A&M time and energy to justify degree programs that require more than

"In some programs, it would be hard to meet what one needs to do in 120 hours,"

The bill also would give students who are Texas residents a \$1,000 rebate if they graduate within six hours of their degree plan, if the student has paid more than \$1,000 in tuition.



**Sara Perry**, a sophomore elementary education major, takes part in the OPAS fund-raising event at Rudder Fountain Tuesday.

### Reception hall provides convenient atmosphere for luncheons

Club offers amenities to all members

By Laura Oliveira THE BATTALION

The Faculty Club provides a receptiontyle eating hall, available for anything

The club, which currently consists of 00 members, was established specificalfor faculty in 1988. Since then, it has grown and become

vailable to Faculty Club alumni, former tudents, non-classified and classified staff and corporations or non-profit orgaizations associated with the University. There are 110 Faculty Clubs worldwide nd members have access to all of them. Pennette Green, administrative secre-

ary for industrial distribution, said the epartment used the club Tuesday for a uncheon for recruiters from Summit Electric. She said the Faculty Club's onampus location was convenient.

We have a lot of professional development conferences on campus," she aid. "So they can walk from the seminars and eat lunch and then just walk

Green said the buffet setup makes the uncheons quick and makes the food

"I love the dessert," she said. "They have a brownie kind of cheese cake that is

Reeta Maddox, assistant to the direcor of the Faculty Club, said the view rom the club in Rudder Tower provides pleasant atmosphere.

'When they (members of the club) are showing off the campus, because we are located on the 11th floor, it makes it easy to see everything. We have a panoramic view all the way around," she said.

The club also provides an etiquette



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

The Faculty Club, located on the 11th floor of Rudder Tower, has a panoramic view. It is available to Faculty Club alumni and former students or anyone affiliated with the University.

Dr. Howard Hesby, a professor of animal science, said it is admirable that the Faculty Club has expanded the use of the facilities for educational purposes. He said the department of animal science has benefited from the etiquette class.

'We do it to make them society-ready graduates," he said.

"They take 120 hours of technical preparation, but they may not know how to market themselves.

The course costs \$26 per person and includes the class, as well as a sevencourse meal served in European or Continental style.

During the year, the club also provides a graduation reception open to all students and their families

Graduates may invite an unlimited number of guests, provided they have reservations.

Maddox said the graduation reception makes the day convenient for graduates and their families because many come from out of town and have trouble making party plans.

We are here because of the students," she said, "and if we cannot open it up for them as a thank you, what is the point of us being here?"

#### Music hits the slopes with Mt. Aggie concert on hand to assist beginning skiers, and an

By Rebecca Torrellas THE BATTALION

Music will be back on the slopes today, as MSC Town Hall hosts the second concert of the semester at Mt. Aggie from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rob Lewicki, chair of MSC Town Hall and

a senior psychology and English major, said he is expecting more people at this concert than attended the concert on March 4. "It rained the first time and not as

many people went," Lewicki said. "But the people who went had big fun.' Tonight's events include music and free

skiing and equipment. Lewicki said students are also encour-

aged to bring sleds. Members of the A&M Ski Club will be

be present in case anyone is injured. Sheila Dierschle, a Town Hall member

and a senior accounting major, said members from the bands Lewis and J.T. Stewart will perform acoustic sets, and bands Grubworm and Blue Earth will play full sets. 'It's a fun thing with music," Dierschle said.

emergency medical technician staff will

Town Hall held the first concert to encourage students to support rebuilding Mt. Aggie, after hearing of plans for its destruction. Lewicki said, unlike the first concert,

this concert is just for fun. "We're not having this for any political reason," Lewicki said.

Plans to rebuild Mt. Aggie on West Campus are still being discussed.

### THE BATTALION

INSIDETODAY MONTANA MAN: Freshman pitcher

Courtney Weller was drawn to Texas A&M and the state of Texas by A&M Pitching Coach Jim Lawler.

Sports, Page 7

Aggielife......... Page 3 State..... Page 4 Toons..... Page 6 Opinion.....Page 11