



This summer,  
 five Aggies will

# Gear up

for the disabled

By KAREN JANES  
 THE BATTALION

Building playgrounds during spring break and giving up the first two weeks of summer to volunteer for charity are not two images commonly associated with college students.

But five members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are doing just that. Brian Robertson, Tim Gutschlag, Andy Crooks, Sam McGee and Ryan Balsam will participate in Gear Up Florida, a 675-mile cycling event for charity.

Gear Up Florida is part of PUSH America, Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropy. PUSH America works to serve the needs of people with disabilities and to raise awareness of disabilities among others.

Robertson, a sophomore industrial distribution major, said he wants people to realize that his fraternity is multifaceted. "Being in a frat is not just partying," he said. "There's a lot more to the fraternity than just what people hear."

Crooks, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said the purpose of Gear Up Florida is to inform and educate the public about disabilities.

"We will hold press conferences, stop at elementary schools and go out and talk to people," he said.

The cyclists will take two weeks to travel from Miami to Tallahassee. They will ride in the mornings and attend events at night.

Balsam, a junior business analysis and accounting major, said the ride should prove to be a challenge.

"I think what will keep me motivated is when we make stops and see the people

we're doing it for," Balsam said.

Students from various universities across the country will join the Aggies participating in Gear Up Florida. Robertson said a sense of camaraderie and teamwork will be present during the journey.

"Motivation will come through everyone else," he said. "This is a team thing."

Each Pi Kapp team member must individually raise \$1,500. This money will be used to help Gear Up Florida reach its \$80,000 goal. Crooks has utilized various resources to raise the \$1,500.

"I've talked to family and friends, gotten businesses to sponsor me, and a cycling club back home has helped me out," he said.

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Ryan Balsam, Gear Up Florida participant

Robertson said he has gotten support from both local businesses and ones in his hometown. He currently is seeking support from local radio stations. He said the effort has been time consuming.

"I've written at least 80 to 90 letters (asking for contributions)," he said. "Aggies have been very supportive."

For some team members, volunteering and fund raising is nothing new.

"On spring break, a bunch of us worked at an Easter Seals' camp," Robertson said.

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From left: **Andy Crooks, Brian Robertson, Ryan Balsam, Sam McGee and Tim Gutschlag** will ride bikes across Florida this summer to raise money for disabled children.



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

## 'Hey, bartender ...': B-CS drink servers become 'best friends' of bar regulars — and not-so-regulars

By BRANDON TRUITT  
 THE BATTALION

As much as residents of College Station might hate to admit it, alcohol is one of our strongest binding forces. Just ask Fitzwilly's bartender and cook Donald Owen.

"There's really not much to do in this town," Owen said. "You can drink, or go to the movies." "You can bowl," one of the customers chimes in, his hand clinched firmly around his third bottle of Bud Light.

"No, bowling don't count," one of the regulars yells back from down the bar. "cause you got to be drunk to really like bowling. There's really not much else but thinking and movies. That's why I'm in here all the time — I don't like going to the movies much."

"They're in here just about every day around this time," Owen said of the regular cus-

tomers. "We all know them; we usually have their drink made and on the bar before they even get in the front door."

Laurent Therivel, another local bartender, said bartenders develop insight into their customers' lives.

**"The two biggest problems a bartender faces are dealing with drunks and minors."**

Tracey Marshall  
 Fitzwilly's bartender

"You learn how to read them — like if this person wants to party, or shoot the breeze, or get deep, or just be left alone," he said.

Owen and co-worker Tracey Marshall agree that the job is social.

"There's always someone you know in here," Marshall said. "Your friends are always stopping in and

having a drink or just hanging out — that's how I got started in bartending. My friends and I used to come here, and I just got to know the right people."

Marshall also said there is a bad side to socializing on the job because whenever she goes into Fitzwilly's, there is always someone she knows wanting to buy her a drink.

Elizabeth Graves, a bartender at Dudley's Draw, said being a bartender means she drinks less because, night after night, she has to put up with so many drunk people. She said that after becoming a bartender, she never wanted to be the "idiot drunk" again.

"The two biggest problems a bartender faces are dealing with drunks and minors," Marshall said.

"With all the alcohol, sometimes mouths fly — attitudes and tempers flare," she said.

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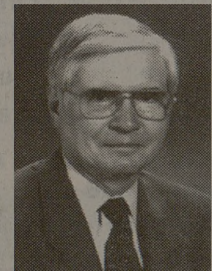
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If you have any thoughts or concerns regarding student life here at A&M, I'm very interested in hearing them. I am Malon Southerland, your Vice President for Student Affairs and my office is on the 10th floor of Rudder Tower. My door is always open and I encourage you to come by if I can ever be of assistance. Feel free to call me anytime at 845-4728 or contact me through e-mail: malon-southerland@tamu.edu

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