COLLEGE STATION • TX

visiting hours proposal put on hold

By Amanda Smith Staff writer

Residence Hall Association oted last night to postpone on on a resolution to extend ion hours in residence halls

resolution said the Resi-Hall Association supports

from 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily in all residence halls on campus. An addendum to the resolution supports the right of each hall to vote for complete 24-hour visitation or for 24-

hour visitation on weekends only. RHA expects to vote on the resolution at the next meeting, March 25.

Rachelle Taylor, hall director of FHK, said extended visitation proitation hours be extended vides greater freedom to residents

'(Extended visitation) is a wonderful opportunity for residents to make good decisions while enjoying the freedom and responsibility of being an adult," Taylor said. "But I think we would be providing a disservice to our halls if we did not provide options, which includes having some halls without 24-hour visitation."

president for programs and a junior mechanical engineering major, said approving the resolution provides an opportunity for residents.

"This has good potential to be looked at by Residence Life because they are looking at making changes," Haughey said.

Rick Turnbough, an area coordinator for the Department of Resi-Michael Haughey, RHA vice dence Life, said extended visitation confusing to residents.

in co-ed halls has had benefits.

We have had much fewer discipline problems with extended visitation," Turnbough said, "but I think that the administration is less likely to pass 24-hour visitation all week compared to extended visitation only on the weekends.'

Taylor said having 24-hour visitation only on weekends is more

"It's too confusing to have the hours change from weekday nights to weekend nights," said Taylor. "One recommendation that I would make is that each resident take responsibility for abiding by the visitation and overnight guest or cohabitation and escort guidelines (because) 24-hour visitation ultimately impacts the roommate and the hall community.'

ringing on the weather



n Heiman, a professor of environmental physics in the department of soil and crop sciences, sets up equipment on West Campus nesday afternoon for an experiment which will soon measure the carbon flux from the atmosphere in a rice field in El Campo.

TV is king in recent state primaries

AUSTIN (AP) — Looking at the results of commercial that gave lots of face time to the primaries, one political consultant needed only two words to sum up the secret to success in modern Texas campaigns. "TV rules," he said.

Indeed, candidates who could afford television commercials did just fine.

Those who couldn't, didn't. In the three most vigorously contested

primary races Tuesday, candidates who were on TV either emerged with nominations or advanced to a runoff election.

Republican attorney general candidates Barry Williamson and John Cornyn spent the money to get on television during the campaign's final weeks. A third hopeful, former state GOP chair Tom Pauken, did not.

Williamson and Cornyn will meet in the April 14 runoff.

Republican land commissioner candidate David Dewhurst was a political newcomer, making his first bid for office with an advertising budget of well over \$1 million. State Senator Jerry Patterson, a veteran of the political wars, lacked the cash for a video assault.

Dewhurst is the nominee.

And in the GOP race for Railroad Commission, Tony Garza hit the airwaves with a the ground troops.

Governor George W. Bush, who had appointed Garza secretary of state.

Garza, who had failed in a previous bid for the GOP attorney general nomination, faced Steve Stockman. Stockman is a former East Texas congressman who had unseated 21-term Democrat Jack Brooks just four years ago. He was viewed as having grassroots support but little money, and he was not on TV

Garza won.

"This is not a complicated business. Everybody who won outright or made the runoff ran TV," said Mark Sanders, a GOP

"If you don't have a million dollars, don't even show up at the table," he said.

The primaries again showed the truth in the old adage of money being the mother's milk of politics, said Bill Miller, an Austin consultant who works for Democrats and Republicans.

"Obviously, if you're doing TV, you've got more money than your opponent," Miller said. He said the ideal combination is sufficient money for an air campaign combined with strong organizing efforts among

I new finish on an old tradition atural finish on Aggie Ring allows for better construction

By Kelly Hackworth Staff writer

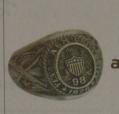
first time since 1976. called natural finish, this ring is the same It is also available in both 10 and 14-carat

the same warranty. Inlike rose and dark, the natural finish does go through any finishing processes. The is raw gold and has the same design as the

he ring was available for ordering beginin January and the first order containing natural finish rings arrives April 16.

orter Garner, associate executive director ne Association of Former Students, said the ural finish rings have a smooth finish. With the natural finish we get a consistent,

Carolyn Swanzy, Aggie ring program director, said that the introduction of the one-piece new finish is available on the Aggie ring for ring was the determining factor in adding a



"Since the top is soldered on, it can come loose and crack causing discoloration."

CAROLYN SWANZY AGGIE RING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

new type of ring. Balfour, the company which manufactures

the rings, merged with Artcarved in Austin and is now a division of Commemorative Brands Inc. This company's manufacturing process called for the one-piece rings. All Aggie rings now will be one-piece.

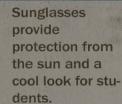
The rings in the past have been two-piece with the base or the top of the ring soldered to the sides or the shanks. This two-piece ring required a finish in order to protect the construction of the ring, Swanzy said.

"Since the top is soldered on, it can come loose and crack, causing discoloration," she

Jessica Beezley, a senior human resource management major, said that she ordered the natural finish because it looked better to her.

'It looks more like gold and isn't as yellow as the rose finish," she said. "It's shinier than the rose finish but pretty because it doesn't have

the yellow color.'



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shman softball player hley Lewis off to impressive

art for Aggies.

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lumnists debate the ssibility of 24-hour sitation in residence halls.

ttp://battalion.tamu.edu ook up with state and naonal news through The ire, AP's 24-hour online ws service.

Iran ordered to pay damages

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge ordered Iran to pay \$247.5 million in damages to the family of an American woman killed in a suicide bombing in Gaza in 1995. "The court is seeking to deter further terrorist actions," said District Court Judge Royce Lamberth.

The ruling Wednesday was the first under a new law allowing Americans to sue nations believed to sponsor terrorism for damages caused by such attacks. While the victim's family is unlikely to collect the damage award any time soon, the ruling could complicate tentative efforts to improve relations between the United States and Iran.

"Terrorists and the countries which sponsor them should know that we will continue to increase the price to be paid for acts of terrorism," declared Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., who heads the House Task Force on Terrorism. "This decision clearly shows that we will ... hit them hard in the wallet as well."

Iran vehemently denies it has any connections to terrorist groups or attacks. Although Lamberth said Iranian representatives had been invited to testify at court hearings on March 3-4, a spokesman for the Iranian mission to the United Nations said Wednesday he was not aware of the court case in Washington.

ter foes since the 1979 ouster of Shah Reza Mohammed Pahlavi and the taking of U.S. hostages. But since the election last year of a moderate cleric as president of Iran, there have been signs of a possible thaw and reestablishment of cultural and other ties. President Clinton greeted Mohammad Khatami's election as a

"The lunatics who planted the bomb and drove the van that killed Alisa were not acting alone." Stephen Flatlow Alisa's father

"hopeful sign" but demanded that Tehran renounce terrorism and endorse the Israeli-Arab peace process.

The ruling, made under the Antiterrorism Act of 1996, would award the money to the family of Alisa Flatow, 20, of West Orange, N.J., who was student at a seminary in Jerusalem when she was killed in an attack on a bus in Gaza City on April 9, 1995. Seven Israeli soldiers also died in the attack for which Islamic

Jihad claimed responsibility. The judge agreed with the Flatow family that Islamic Jihad is backed by Iran's Islamic government and that Iran therefore is responsible for her death.

The lunatics who planted the bomb and drove the van that killed Alisa were not acting alone," said Stephen Flatlow, the student's father. "A state sponsor of terrorism such as the Islamic Republic of Iran has to be held to account."

But Lamberth did not specify how the award was to be collected. Flatlow family lawyers said they plan to go after Iranian assets in the United States and elsewhere.

The United States froze Iranian assets valued at \$12 billion in 1979. Most of the funds, however, are controlled by the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, a group of nine judges who decide claims against both Iran and the United States. The United States itself has jurisdiction over only a fraction of the assets, mostly real estate.

Two years ago, the United States agreed to pay \$131.8 million in a settlement to families of Iranians killed on a civilian airliner shot down by the U.S. Navy in 1988. All 290 passengers aboard that flight were killed.

Binge drinking poses risks to spring breakers

Staff writer

As Spring Break approaches, so does the possibility of binge drink-

Helen Gutierres, campus-wide said binge drinking can be defined as five or more drinks within a 24drinks for females.

The drinks are one half- ounce of pure alcohol, one 12-ounce beer,

half ounces of a mixed drink. According to an October 1994 Harvard College Alcohol Study, the Texas A&M students binged when they drank, compared to 44.4% at large public colleges nationwide and 39,9% at all colleges surveyed. Another study will be conducted

Alcohol and drug education programs under the Department

Cynthia Hernandez, program coordinator, said the purpose of the program is to change the student's perception of alcohol before

"We're trying to be proactive in our education," she said. "We base for themselves to stand on."

speaks at freshman orientations

and the impact it can have on grades, work and staying in school.

Spring Break, Hernandez said. set and know your own limits,

professor in the Department of communication, conducted a survey at another college campus on

The name will not be revealed for confidentiality sake, she said. The study looked at the relationnetworks and the perceptions of risk and susceptibility and how they relate to drinking in excess,

ship (with drinking) to the extent of how students talk to one another about the consequences of attribute causality," she said. "We need to make sure there is education taking place so the students

about why they have that need, the repercussions of binge drinkcy, sexually transmitted diseases

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