

**Aggie artistry**



JAMES FRANCIS/THE BATTALION

"It's always been a passion of mine to draw," **Marji Morrison**, a freshman general studies major said Tuesday afternoon as she relaxed after a test by sketching a tree with charcoal outside the Engineering / Physics Building.

**Hearing problems affect children**

CHICAGO (AP) — More than 7 million children ages 6 to 19 have some hearing loss that is usually slight but may impair their speech and learning ability, says a new federal study that recommends more testing.

Such hearing loss may escape detection in routine screenings that do not test separately for sensitivity to low- and high-frequency sounds, researchers say.

Children should be screened in both frequency ranges in elementary, middle and high school, researchers recommended in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Depending on the cause of the hearing loss — for example, if it's noise — with

continued exposure, we know in adults that the hearing loss gets worse," said the lead author, nurse epidemiologist Amanda Sue Niskar of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Catching the problem early can minimize the loss, she added in a telephone interview Tuesday from Atlanta.

Other causes of hearing loss in children include impacted wax or swelling caused by infection, and side effects from medication or diseases such as meningitis, the researchers noted. Whether hearing loss can be arrested or reversed varies case by case, Niskar said.

No national mandate exists for children's hearing screenings, and procedures

vary state to state and school district, Niskar said.

Results of the study of nationwide from 1988 to 1994 showed that 14.9 percent of those examined had hearing loss in at least one ear. In the general population, the mean more than 7 million nationwide suffer some hearing loss, researchers said.

Researchers can't say the problem is worsening because data are directly comparable. Similar data were gathered in the 1960s, she said, but the methods were so different that comparisons would be unreliable.

**DEBATE**

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Clifton Griffin, Graduate Student Council president, asked the candidates to explain how they would increase graduate student involvement on campus.

Forman said student organizations across campus need to recognize the 7,500 graduate students on campus.

"We can learn from the graduate students, and in turn, they can learn from the undergraduates here," Forman said.

Nickel said she hopes to continue to improve the relationship between undergraduates and graduates at Texas A&M.

"We need to work on how we present Texas A&M to the campus," Nickel said. "I want graduate students to get excited about this university."

MSC Political Forum and the Student Government Association co-sponsored the first student body president debate this year.

Aaron Bigbee, moderator of the debate and a sophomore mathematics major, said he was pleased with the turnout and the level of interest shown by the students who attended.

"There were people there who will have influence over the students who vote in the runoff elections," he said. "The issues addressed were important concerns to the students."

Runoff elections for student body president and other student leader positions are today and Thursday. Students can vote at the Commons, MSC, Sterling C. Evans Library, Zachry, Blocker, Wehner, Kleberg, the Student Recreation Center, Duncan Dining Hall and Sbisla Dining Hall.

**FRESHMEN**

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The Hopwood decision, which prohibits state universities from using race as an enrollment factor, has contributed to a decline in minority enrollment, University officials said.

A&M President Ray Bowen said officials interest in the effect still remains high.

"Texas A&M continues to be frustrated by the decline of minority applicants," he said. "We remain committed to aggressive recruiting efforts designed to attract a student body that reflects the population of the state. We will continue to work toward that goal."

This year, the number of Black and Hispanic applicants increased by 21 percent and 17 percent respectively, and the number of actual admissions offers decreased by 3 percent.

However, Engelgau said applications have dropped off board with no pattern by gender, ethnicity, college or academic credentials evident at this time. He said the decline has influenced this decrease such as the combined application and scholarship, and increased application fees.

"We believe we have a more dedicated applicant pool at this point, are still optimistic that the new freshman class for the fall of 1998 will be larger than last year's," he said. "We believe we have a more diverse, representative citizenry of Texas."

**WHAT'S UP**

**Wednesday**

**ATM Womens Rugby:** Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 5 to 7 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

**Catholic Students Association:** "Hot Topics" discussion session from 6 to 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center Library, followed by Newman Mass at 7:15 and a Bible study in Rudder Tower.

**AggieLand HOBY:** We will have a meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 230 MSC. We will discuss next semester's Community Leadership Educational Workshop. Call Christine at 693-7548 for details.

**Aggie Habitat for Humanity:** A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 229 MSC. Call Rosalyn at 268-1067 for details.

**Study Abroad Programs Office:** There will be an informational meeting from 8:30 to 9 a.m. in 154, 161 Blizzell Hall West. The meeting will promote the Italy Spring '99 program.

**TAMU Career Center:** The Academic Major Fair will be held from 11 until 2 p.m. in 110, 111 Koldus.

**TAMU Career Center:** The Independent Job Search Techniques seminar will take place at 5:30 p.m. in 209 Koldus.

**ATM Roadrunners:** We will meet in front of G. Rolie White Coliseum at 6 p.m. to run 3 to 4 miles. All students and skills welcome. Call Steve at 847-7905 for details.

**Muslim Students Association:** An informal discussion about Judgment Day will be held at 7 p.m. in 342 MSC. Call Muhammad at 846-4222 or email at islam101.tamu.edu. All are invited.

**TAMU Career Center:** The Visa Success Tour will be held at 5:30 p.m. in 201 MSC.

**Resurrection Week:** There will be a Third Day concert at Rudder Auditorium at 7 p.m. No admission is charged.

**Episcopal Student Center:** There will be a celebra-

tion of holy eucharist followed by free dinner at 6:15 p.m. at 902 George Bush Drive. Call Father Mark at 696-0774 for details.

**AMSA Pre-Med:** There will be a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Call Holly for more information.

**TAMU Chapter, Texas Public Employees Association:** There will be a brown bag lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. in 128 Conference Room of the Connally Building (System Headquarters) just north of the Hilton Hotel. Plenty of parking is available. Billye Tate, Barbara Childers and Jan Richards will discuss how the chapter evolved, incentives for being a member of the Association, and benefits TPEA affords TAMU employees now and in the future.

**Texas Aggie Brew Club:** There will be a general meeting at Schnitzel Haus in Bryan. Call Joseph at 696-7375 for details.

**Society of Women Engineers:** There will be a general meeting tonight at 6:45 p.m. in 202 ENPH where Price Waterhouse will be speaking on consulting.

**Pre-Dental Society:** We will have a help session for

completing applications and your OPSA file in 226 MSC at 7 p.m. Call Shannon Coyle at 696-2922 for details.

**Texas A&M Sports Car Club:** A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder. Officer nominations will be discussed. Call Layne at 691-6445 for details.

**Aggie Democrats:** A meeting focusing on Brazos Valley judicial candidates and the issue of civil rights will be discussed at 8:30 p.m. in 707 Rudder.

**Thursday**

**Graduate Fellowship of Interservice Christian Fellowship (IVCF):** Bible study for graduate and on-traditional students, followed by fellowship will be held at 7:30 p.m. See our website for location and map at <http://stat.tamu.edu/inlow/ivcf.html>. Call Mark or Jennifer at 764-1552.

**ATM Womens Rugby:** Come join! No experience needed. Practices are from 5 to 7 p.m. at the pitch on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive. Call Nikki at 694-0084 for information.

**Association of Baptist Students:** A meeting will be

held at 7:30 p.m. at 410 College Main. Call Nikki at 846-3223 for details.

**Alpha Phi Omega:** Meet to go to the B&B at 3:30 p.m. in 133 Koldus.

**Catholic Students Association:** There will be a crucifixion mass at 12:05 p.m. in the All Faith's Chapel.

**Aggie Speleological Society:** A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 146 Koldus. Call Travis at 696-1515.

**Pagan Student Association:** A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

**Resurrection Week:** There will be a crucifixion and dramatic presentation at Rudder tower at 12:30 p.m.. Greg Matthe will speak at the end.

**What's Up is a Battalion service that lists all student and faculty events and activities. It must be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Application lines and notices are not events and will not be in What's Up. If you have any questions, call the newsroom at 845-3313.**

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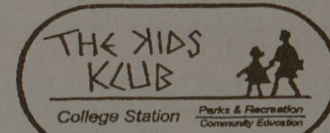
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**THE BATTALION**

Tiffany Inbody, Editor

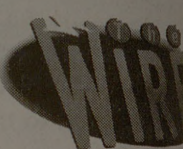
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