



TODAY



TOMORROW

# Ring Dance to take center stage in MSC

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH  
Staff writer

their last class event before graduation, members of the Class of '98 will celebrate Ring Dance Saturday at 9 p.m. in MSC and Rudder Tower.

Celeste Falcon, a Ring Dance co-chair and a senior psychology major, said Ring Dance is a fun social event that helps raise money for the class gift.

"We've put the entertainment there," she said. "We want everyone to see the faces

they've seen for the last four years and to remember what holds us together. The class gift will also be revealed and displayed in the Faculty Club of Rudder Tower."

Tickets are \$35 per individual and \$60 per couple. Everyone is welcome to attend, Falcon said.

"You don't have to have a ring to attend," she said. "We don't check rings at the door or count hours or anything. A lot of times, students who missed the year before or will not be here in the spring attend."

Seven rooms at Ring Dance will follow

"Ring Dance is a time to celebrate the spirit of Aggieland and everything the ring itself symbolizes."

Celeste Falcon  
Ring Dance co-chair

the theme, "Aggie Spirit ... A Timeless Tradition." Bobby D & the Rockhouse Band will perform in the Motown Nights room, and Bill Ingram will perform in the Roaring Twenties room.

Nolan Barkhouse, senior class president and an international studies major, said Ring Dance is a time for seniors to see others in their class and listen to the variety of performers.

Senior Ring Dance began in 1937 when a group of seniors decided that a dance with the ring as a theme would be appro-

priate as the senior class' final function.

A giant replica of the Aggie ring is at Ring Dance, and as each seniors step into it, they turn their rings so that the class year no longer faces them — it faces the world.

Falcon said that Ring Dance honors those who are about to leave A&M, ready to face the challenges of the world, and it is a time to remember the years spent in Aggieland.

"Ring Dance is a time to celebrate the spirit of Aggieland and everything the ring itself symbolizes," Falcon said.

## Push



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Michel Ann Thompson, a senior exercise technology major, works out on the leg press at the Student Recreation Center Thursday morning.

## 17th time's a charm

Ted Baglin to accompany Corps of Cadets march

By RACHEL DAWLEY  
Staff writer

When the Corps of Cadets marches to the Brazos River to raise money for birth defect research on Saturday, they will be joined by 69-year-old Ted Baglin, who has marched in the event for the past 16 years.

Baglin, who went to college in New York, learned about A&M and the Corps of Cadets when he was working as an engineer in Fort Worth. He said most of his co-workers were either from Texas A&M or the University of Texas, and he learned about the rivalry between the two schools and the traditions at A&M.

"I liked A&M because of the traditions," Baglin said. "It was what set the school apart from all of the others in the country."

Through a friend in Company E-1, Baglin became associated with the outfit and the Corps in 1981. When he learned about March to the Brazos, Baglin asked E-1 if he could join them in the march. This began a tradition that Baglin said he looks forward to each year.

"March to the Brazos is fun," Baglin said. "You really get to know the people and learn about the cadets. I come back covered in mud like everyone else."

Baglin, who now lives in California, comes to A&M each year for the march and in the fall semester to meet the freshmen in E-1. He is an associate member of the Association of Former Students.

This is the 22nd March to the Brazos and it will mark the informal change of command for the next year. All cadets march to the river, which is seven miles. After the change of command, seniors ride busses

back and the new commanders will lead the cadets in the march back.

"March to the Brazos is the single greatest community service event that the Corps performs," said Joel Harrison, coordinator of the march and a senior English major. "Everyone knows it is for a worthwhile cause, and it shows our dedication to the community."

The Corps originally made a trip to the Brazos River on April 1, 1911, to keep cadets from playing April Fool's jokes.

In 1977, the Corps began using the march as its service project and has raised \$750,000 for the foundation. Last year, the Corps raised \$50,000.

Uniformed cadets go around the community and ask for flat donations to donate to the March of Dimes. Some outfits also hold car washes and fund raisers.

Barbara Bell-Seals, division director for the local March of Dimes and Class of '88, said the foundation is looking forward to a successful March to the Brazos event.

"I knew about the Corps' involvement March to the Brazos when I was at A&M, but I have a different feel for it now that I'm directly involved," Bell-Seals said. "I have a greater respect for it now that I am a part of the foundation."

In addition to March to the Brazos, the local March of Dimes will participate in the national Walk America drive on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Southwood Athletic Park.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation centers its efforts on the health of infants. The organization worked to discover a vaccine for polio and now focuses on conquering birth defects.

## Cable modems to aid need for Net speed

By SUZANNE RIGGS  
Staff writer

Bryan-College Station computers can access the Internet up to 50 times faster than before by using a new cable modem service, according to a report going to cost.

A cable modem is a box that sends and receives data from the Internet through the same coaxial cable lines that bring television to homes and offices. It replaces standard telephone modems that are used by most computers, eliminating the need to dial into the Internet each time it is used. It offers a continuous connection to the Internet.

Jacklyn Giles, a TCA Internet marketing/design specialist, explained the impact of cable modem technology.

"So many people use the Internet as a business and educational tool, and time is everything nowadays," she said. "The speed difference is incredibly important."

Greg Futrell, TCA Internet Director of Broadband Access, said a cable modem can save users several hours of downloading.

"Downloading files or some other piece of software that is considered a large program or file can take up to five hours to download on a telephone modem," he said. "It would take less than 30 minutes on a cable modem."

Murphy Hawkin of TCA Internet Corporate Services said that the speed of a modem depends on the size of its bandwidth.

"Bandwidth is like the size of a pipe," he said. "The bigger the pipe the more signals can pass through. A cable line has a lot larger bandwidth than a telephone line so it can transmit more data." This does not have any affect on television services and

leaves your telephone line totally free."

Futrell said the added bandwidth will open up an array of multimedia applications that require speed such as full-motion graphics, online gaming and virtual reality modeling language.

"All these future developments have more complicated files with a lot more data than the telephone lines can handle," he said. "With cable lines opening up, all these things that have been on the back burner can now come of age."

However, these benefits bring higher costs than that of regular telephone modems.

Sebastian Nienhuis, technical support technician for University CIS and a junior management and information services major, said the expense is a major deterrent for switching to a cable modem. It runs about \$15 more than the average telephone modem cost of \$20 per month in addition to the setup fee.

"It's a premium Internet service that will cover all of your needs, but you are going to pay for what you get," he said.

Futrell said the idea for the cable modem has been around for about two years.

"Getting all the kinks out and figuring how it is going to work is difficult," he said. "The reason that a lot of the other cities like Dallas and Houston don't have cable modems is because they don't have one conglomerate that owns all the cable."

Nienhuis said that as cable modems become more and more popular, the cable systems may slow down.

As a result, telephone companies have already started to create their own services for high-speed data transfer including the digital subscriber line service.

## Whoopstock swoops in to campus

By JENNIFER WILSON  
Staff writer

The Whoopstock Unity Festival, one of the newer Texas A&M traditions, will bring students together in a celebration of diversity while listening to bands, playing games and sampling foods this Saturday at O.R. Simpson Drill Field.

Whoopstock started five years ago in response to a KKK rally in College Station. Instead of going to the rally and protesting, students decided to organize a festival celebrating diversity.

Dima Mousselli, chair of Whoopstock and a senior biology major, said

the festival aims to promote diversity and unity in a relaxed atmosphere.

"We are not trying to shove diversity down anyone's throat," she said.

Mousselli said she hopes participants open their minds expand their cultural knowledge.

"We are reaching beyond ourselves to embrace our differences and share our similarities in a celebration of unity," she said.

Kristina Wright, director of administration for Whoopstock and a senior anthropology major, said the festival presents opinions and other ideas about many cultures.

"We want to get people out who want to try something different or

who might not normally come," she said.

Wright said diversity is an important issue on campus because A&M lacks diversity compared to other universities.

"This [Whoopstock] helps us understand the diversity we do have," she said.

Comedians, dancing groups, music, games, art and food will highlight the festival's entertainment.

Holly Doughti, public relations director for Whoopstock and a senior agriculture development and entomology major, said some of the ethnic music that will be featured includes ska band Evil Skanevil, music

from the band Viru, which is composed of three professors from the engineering department, Indian music and a reggae band from Houston.

She said Mexican dancers and the Aggie Wranglers will perform, and international associations will provide food from their respective countries.

Doughti said some of the more interesting foods will be ethnic candies provided by the Baja student organization, and cooked insects offered by the entomology club. Some local restaurants also will provide food.

She said the Indian student association will provide mehndi, which is the popular hand and body painting art form.

## SWT students protest school's treatment of rape suspects

SAN MARCOS (AP) — Southwest Texas State University's handling of rape allegations against three black athletes is drawing protests from black students who say they face a hostile environment on campus.

"This case did not start racism on campus. This is the history, and we must work to break it," student Keithon Kerley told a Wednesday rally.

University officials, while expressing concern about that perception, said they did not mishandle the rape allegations and they do not think the school's environment is hostile.

"Whenever you have a diverse student body ... there are going to be situations where people have difficulty dealing with differences in others," James Studer, vice president of student affairs, told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "We're trying to turn that around."

White students make up 74 percent of the student body; Hispanics, 18 percent; and blacks, 5 percent. The rally comes after three foot-

ball players were charged April 1 with raping two white students after a March 23 dormitory party.

"This case did not start racism on campus."

Keithon Kerley  
SWT student

Leaders of black groups at Southwest Texas contend that black students long have met with harassment from the university police force, which includes no blacks among its 27 officers.

They say they face insensitivity from an all-white group of top administrators, racial slurs from some

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### online

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