

TODAY

HIGH 97°
LOW 75°

TOMORROW

HIGH 96°
LOW 75°

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Front page:
Kay Bailey Hutchison visits
Bryan-College Station area.

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

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Ring leader

Success of A&M's ring has prompted other universities to borrow from the tradition

ROD MACHEN
City Editor

Aggies know their ring is special. Now, other Texas schools are showing they recognize its value, too.

Both the University of Texas and Baylor University have instituted a single-style class ring, similar to the Aggie Ring.

Jim Boon, executive director of the Ex-Students Association, said UT administrators such as former President Robert Berdahl saw what a unified class ring means to A&M.

"What precipitated the ring was a campaign to enhance the sense of pride on campus," he said.

Carolyn Swanzy, director of the Aggie Ring Program, said the two rings are very similar.

"I can't believe they put a shield on it," Swanzy said. In addition to the crest set in the top of the ring, she also pointed out the oval-type top, a star on each side of the top and the grooved edges as similarities.

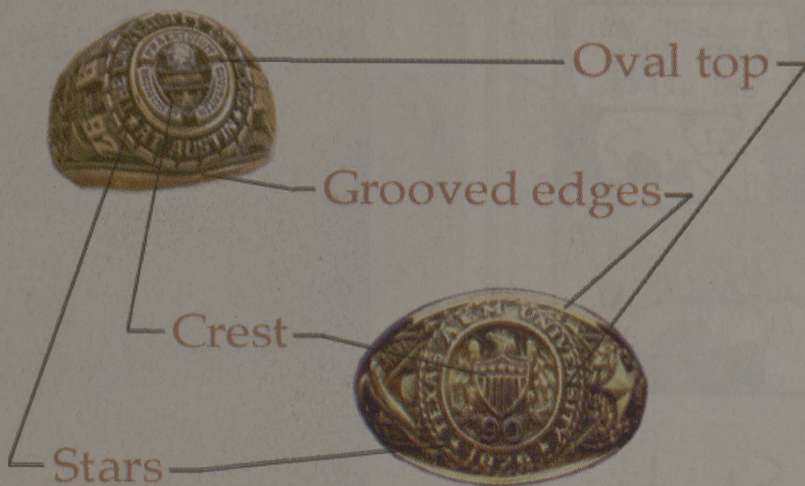
Prior to December 1996, UT students had many options for their ring, much like a high school ring. This December, previous ring licenses will run out, making the new ring the only available option.

Boon said he was surprised by the support alumni have shown toward the new ring.

"A number of alumni have purchased the ring," Boon said.

Boon said he thought unified class rings were becoming popular, especially in state schools such as University of Michigan.

"This seems to be a trend that is



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

taking place around the country," Boon said.

Three years ago, Baylor introduced a single class ring. Alan Bowden, director for special programs for the Baylor Alumni Association, said he has been impressed with how the rings have been received.

"It's been pretty good," Bowden said. "I think we've sold around 2,500."

Bowden also cited A&M as an example of what a unified class ring can do.

"We saw how A&M's ring was successful," Bowden said. "The purpose of the ring is to promote school spirit and keep some of the school's

traditions alive."

Rice University, like A&M, has had a single class ring for decades.

Philippa Angelides, department coordinator of student activities at Rice, said Rice's ring is unique: if a student does not graduate from the university within three years of receiving his or her ring, the student must return the ring.

Not returning the ring means the university will put a lock on a student's transcripts.

In response to these new rings, Swanzy sees it as a good thing.

"As the saying goes, 'imitation is the highest form of flattery,'" she said.

Former A&M cadet receives confirmation for 4-star ranking

ROD MACHEN
City Editor

Texas A&M can soon call a former student one of the highest-ranking members of the military.

Lt. Gen. Patrick K. Gamble, Class of 1967, will take over as commander-in-chief of Pacific Air Forces, at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, attaining the rank of general when he does.

According to Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hoppood, Commandant of the Corps of Cadets, A&M has produced over 200 generals, but Gamble is only the fifth to attain the rank of general. This is currently the highest rank of any active military officer.

Gamble began his military career after A&M as a 2nd Lt. in Vietnam, where he flew 394 missions as a forward air controller.

He progressed through the ranks and was nominated by President Bill Clinton on June 3 for the rank of general. His appointment was confirmed by the Senate on June 25, and he will receive his fourth star on June 31, in Hawaii.

His early start as a decorated veteran from Vietnam helped Gamble attain this high rank, Hoppood said.

"In his case, he started off very good," Hoppood said.

In addition to a degree in mathematics from A&M, Gamble received a Master of Business Administration from Auburn as well as graduated from the Air War College.

Gamble has served as commandant of cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy and most recently as the deputy chief of staff for air and space operations at Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon.

Both leadership and administrative excellence are important in order to become a general, Hoppood said.

"He has shown his ability to administer



Lt. Gen. Patrick K. Gamble

as well as lead," Hoppood said.

Gamble reviewed one of the Corps march-ins before a football game last fall. Hoppood recounted something Gamble said.

"I was pleased to hear him say that he got a great start in the Corps of Cadets," Hoppood said.

A press release quotes Gamble as saying, "There's simply no question in my mind, as I look back through the years, that my education and Corps of Cadets experience at Texas A&M had a most profound impact on my life's work in the military."

Even with Gamble's ability, Hoppood said he is more impressed with him as a person.

"He's a down-to-earth guy and a genuine quality person," Hoppood said.

Pioneer of U.S. Space Program dies at age 74



PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

Alan Shepard died in his sleep from complications caused by leukemia in Monterey, Calif., at age 74. Shepard's first space flight was in 1961.

Monterey, Calif., (AP) — Alan Shepard, who died in his sleep Tuesday night at age 74 while being treated for leukemia at a Monterey, Calif., hospital, was "one of the great heroes of modern America," President Clinton said Wednesday.

His flight in 1961, America's first manned shot into space, inspired a generation of engineers, scientists and astronauts — and persuaded President Kennedy to pledge the nation to a race for the moon.

"None of us who were alive then will ever forget him sitting so calmly in Freedom Seven atop a slender and sometimes unreliable Mercury Redstone rocket," said the president.

One of the original — now almost mythic — seven Mercury astronauts, Shepard twice flew into space: the May 5, 1961, flight of Freedom 7 that opened the age of American manned space flight and the Apollo 14 mission in 1971 to the moon's surface.

SEE SHEPARD ON PAGE 2.

Materials returned after 67 years

BY JAMES FRANCIS
Editor in Chief

Checking in overdue books is an ordinary occurrence for librarians at the Technical Reference Center (TRC) in the College of Architecture.

But when Paula Bender, coordinator of learning resources for the TRC, received three magazines that had been checked out 67 years ago, it came as quite a shock.

"We're always surprised when we get something like this in the mail," Bender said.

Richard Colley, who attended Texas A&M in 1931, checked out the magazines over three decades ago.

Colley went on to become an architect at Colley Associates in Corpus Christi until he passed away in 1984. In 1995, another office was opened in Austin as a successor to Colley Associates.

When the new office came into contact with the magazines, Bess Althaus Graham, an associate at the firm, returned them to the TRC.

"I think we got them about around the ninth of July, and I wrote the thank-you letter on the 13th," Bender said. "The letter that accompanied them was written on July 5."

An excerpt from the letter, which came from the office of Madison R. Graham, Architect, read:



PHOTO BY JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Paula Bender, the Technical Reference Center librarian, and staff members (front) Adam Gallagher, (back, left to right) Eric Von Lehmden, Rowena Philbeck and Stephanie Folse display the magazines that were 67 years overdue.

"Please find three issues of American Architect enclosed. Richard S. Colley seems to have 'borrowed' these issues when he was a student in 1931. He never completed his degree, but he did become a highly successful architect in Corpus Christi, until his death in 1984."

SEE MAGAZINES ON PAGE 2.

NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

Texas Constitution 2000 tentatively adopted

The Texas Constitution 2000 has been tentatively adopted by the Texas Constitutional Convention following action by delegates meeting on July 11.

A transition plan was also approved at the 12th session, which was held at the Texas Tech University Center near Junction.

More than 50 "fine-tuning" motions were acted upon during the Saturday morning session, and the transition committee's plan was debated vigorously through the afternoon.

"We are pleased with the productivity of this 12th session," chairperson Don Henson of El Paso said. "We believe Texans will embrace this new constitution with enthusiasm."

The cornerstone of the Texas Constitution 2000 is the Declaration of Rights (Article 1), which defines individual rights in clear, unequivocal ordinary English.

"We have from the beginning worked to-

ward a concise document which leaves no doubt about our intentions," Henson said.

Delegates to the convention have insisted that no parts of the constitution could be in conflict with the Declaration of Rights.

"We have drafted a constitution which binds the power of government, and places most political power at the county level," Henson said.

Delegates plan to meet at least once more for a formal adoption ceremony, with a ratification committee now working toward a "Constitution 2000 Jubilee" in Austin within the next few months. The ratification process (Article 9) calls for the appointment of 12 Texans to lead the ratification effort.

Ratification follows the model of the U.S. Constitution (Article VII) by establishing county ratification conventions.

The Texas Constitutional Convention was convened on July 4, 1997 at the historic Old Irion County Courthouse in Sherwood, and delegates have been meeting monthly and semi-monthly since then.

Wave runner



Ross McCaskill, a junior architecture major, practices for the slalom ski for the Texas A&M Waterski Team Wednesday. McCaskill and the rest of the team is getting ready to make another attempt at going to the nationals.

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION