

## Ring Night Fever

### Seniors celebrate graduation with dance at MSC

Aggie seniors will trade their standard uniform of shorts, sandals and a baseball hat this Saturday for bowties, high-heels, suits and formal dresses.

A new set of Aggie rings will be turned to face the world as the MSC/Rudder Complex is swarmed with eager seniors enjoying their last days in Aggieland at Ring Dance.

Ring Dance is a long-standing tradition celebrating seniors' last days at Texas A&M. The event on April 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., is the last event of senior week, as well as the last Aggie function for many seniors before graduation.

Ring Dance dates back to 1937. According to the Class of 1999's Ring Dance Program, the idea was created by a group of seniors of the Class of '37 who decided that since the Aggie ring is the traditional mark of one whose days are almost over on campus, a dance with the ring as the main theme would be a good last function of the Senior Class.

The now famous giant replica of the Aggie ring was constructed to be used at this first dance. The tradition was a success, and has continued ever since.

Marissa Alanis, a member of the Ring Dance committee and a senior marketing major, said Ring Dance is a thriving tradition because it is one of the last events of the senior class.

"Ring Dance is such a great tradition because it has a lot of sentimental value and it is one of the last things to do as a senior," Alanis said. "Also, the fact you can take your picture under an Aggie Ring draws a lot of peo-

ple." This year's theme is "Around the World in '99 Days," and the event will feature seven different rooms. Each room offers a different style of music and corresponds with the overall theme.

Alanis said this Ring Dance offers something for everyone.

"Every year, the dance has gotten bigger and more and more people attend," Alanis said. "Every room is going to represent our theme with different music and different cities from around the world."

"With such a diverse student body, we have to have a variety of things for people to enjoy," Alanis said. "People will get to wander through these themed rooms full of great entertainment and they will not get bored."

In the past, many misconceptions have followed in the wake of Ring Dance. From thoughts of reliving the senior prom and not believing the MSC can be a good place to have a dance, to "all you do is wait in line for pictures" are some this tradition has to face.

Alanis said the Ring Dance committee is working hard to lose these misconceptions.

"One of the biggest misconceptions we have to face is that Ring Dance is like the senior prom," she said. "There is something for everyone at Ring Dance and the entire MSC Complex gets transformed with beautiful decorations."

Many seniors do not go or are not interested for a variety of reasons. Some are just too busy or are on a tight budget.

Roger Montemayor, a senior management

major, said the main reason keeping him from going is not the misconceptions about the dance but the expenses.

"It is very expensive to go to Ring Dance, from the ticket to everything else that it involves," Montemayor said. "I was willing to take my girlfriend, but she felt that we should save the money and put it towards our wedding and honeymoon. It was her decision not to go."

"Instead of going, we are going to save the money and just spend some quality time together this weekend," he said.

However, many students are planning to attend Ring Dance.

Elizabeth Dyska, a senior marketing major, said Ring Dance is a good tradition at A&M.

"I have not had the opportunity to go to a formal at A&M, so I am excited about going," Dyska said. "I actually did not think I was going to go until I got asked and I heard it is supposed to be fun and you should go for the experience of going, so I am."

Dyska said she also is looking forward to the experience.

"I expect to see a huge line of people waiting to take pictures and seeing people dressed-up in different ways," she said. "I am also looking forward to getting to be with my friends."

For more information on Ring Dance and for ticket information call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.



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The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

## Editor THE BATTALION

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Fall 1999  
(The fall editor will serve from Aug. 16 through Dec. 10, 1999.)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (unless fewer credits are required to graduate) during the term of office;
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester(s) (all summer course work is considered summer semester) during the term of office. In order for summer school grades to qualify as previous semester grades, a minimum of six hours must be taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s);
- Have completed or be registered in JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper, -OR- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, -OR- Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle in the Student Publications office, room 012 Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 1999. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 4:15 p.m. Monday, May 3, 1999, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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