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 Chair positions for the following committees are open:

Issues and Ideas\* E.L. Miller  
 Student Conference on Nat'l Affairs Professor Series\*  
 Asian Cultures Education Recreation/Gaming\*

\*Names are tentative.

Applications can be found at the entrances to the Student Programs Office. Applications are due August 5 at NOON and interviews to occur the next week.

Questions?? Contact Jennifer V. at 845-1515

**Student Counseling HelpLine**  
**Volunteers Needed!** ALL MAJORS WELCOME!  
 \* INTERVIEWING NOW \*  
 to begin service in the Fall.  
 Training will take place August 23-28, 1999.  
 For more information call Susan Vavra at 845-4427 ext. 133 or visit our web site at [www.scs.tamu.edu/volunteer/](http://www.scs.tamu.edu/volunteer/)

**STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE**  
 Texas A&M University  
 A department in the Division of Student Affairs

**AGGIE RING ORDERS**  
 THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS  
 CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER  
 DEADLINE: AUGUST 5, 1999

**Undergraduate Student Requirements:**  
 (These requirements must have been completed by summer term 1)

- You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of 25 undergraduate credit hours reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, cannot count as additional credit hours.)
- 60 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement described in the following paragraph. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 undergraduate resident credits, this requirement will be waived after you graduate and your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
- 30 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed either a fall/spring semester or summer term (1 and 11 or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).
- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.

You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

**Graduate Student Requirements:**  
 If you are a August 1999 degree candidate and do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

However, if you have completed all of your course work prior to this semester and have been cleared by the thesis clerk, you may request a letter of completion from the Office of Graduate Studies (providing it is not past their deadline). The original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

**Procedure to order a ring:**

- If you meet all of the above requirements and you wish to receive your ring on October 14, 1999, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Thursday, August 5, 1999 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to complete the application for eligibility verification.  
 It is recommended that you do not wait until August 5 to apply for your ring audit. Should there be a problem with your academic record, or if you are blocked, you may not have sufficient time to resolve these matters before the order closes out on August 6.
- Return no later than August 6, 1999 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to check on the status of your audit and if qualified, pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Discover, Visa or MasterCard (with your name imprinted).

Men's	10K - \$313.00	14K - \$411.00
Women's	10K - \$197.00	14K - \$218.00

\* Add \$8.00 for Class of '98 or before.  
 The ring delivery date is October 14, 1999.

**Midwest gets break from heat**

CHICAGO (AP) — Though temperatures began to drop Sunday across the Midwest, the death toll from last week's record-breaking heat rose even higher, with another 30 deaths here blamed on the heat and humidity.

In much of the country, the worst had passed, with Sunday's temperatures 10 to 20 degrees cooler across the Great Lakes and much of the upper Midwest. Chicago warmed to 81 by early afternoon, compared to a high of 104 on Friday.

But 50 more bodies were brought to the Cook County morgue from Friday to Sunday, city Health Commissioner John Wilhelm said, and officials expected the death toll to rise. A refrigerated trailer was brought in to store bodies until autopsies could be done.

The new deaths added yesterday brought the Illinois total to 80 and the nationwide number to at least 182 since July 19.

But for parts of the country that were sweltering a day or two ago, Sunday brought relief.

The temperature was an almost crisp 59 degrees when Bill Hansche left for work early Sunday at the Maple Grove County Club in West Salem, Wis., a sharp change from afternoon temperatures that peaked at 100 on Friday.

"Today, it's just perfect," Hansche said. "I wish you could box these up and bring one out every day you need one."

In Louisville, Ky., the afternoon temperature was down to 78 — from a high of 104 on Friday and 99 on Saturday.

While the cooler air pressed slowly toward the east and south, heat advisories and warnings also remained in effect for areas scattered from Oklahoma and Arkansas to Georgia and the Carolinas, the National Weather Service said.

**Bye bye birdie**



Ernie Crenwelge, a senior wildlife and fisheries science major, rounds up two six-week-old ostrich chicks at the Wildlife Center last week.

**6 face execution over next 2 weeks**

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Up to six convicted killers could be put to death over the next 14 days in the busiest spurt of executions in Texas in more than two years.

Texas already accounts for more than one-third of all the executions in the United States since capital punishment resumed in the late 1970s and is closing in on 200 lethal injections since convicted murderer Charlie Brooks ushered in the new death penalty era in the state in 1982.

The Texas count now stands at 180, including 16 this year. Another six already are on the execution schedule for September and October and it is possible this year could challenge the record 37 prisoners put to death in 1997.

The convicted killers set to die this month are all longtime death row inmates whose confinements range from more than 11 years to more than 18 years.

They include:  
 • Ricky Blackmon, set to die Wednesday for the robbery-slaying of a Shelby County man who was stabbed and slashed with a homemade medieval-style sword in 1987.  
 • Charles Boyd, to be executed Thursday for strangling and drowning a Dallas woman at her apartment in 1987.

• Kenneth Dunn, 39, facing death Aug. 10 for the 1980 shooting death of a Houston-area bank teller.  
 • James Earhart, 56, scheduled for injection Aug. 11 for the fatal shooting of a 9-year-old Bryan girl abducted from her home in 1987.

**"If they wanted to punish me, that would be a life sentence. They're giving me a way out. I'm thanking God for it."**

— Ricky Blackmon  
 Death-row inmate

• Larry Robison, 41, set to die Aug. 17 for the fatal stabbing and shooting of a 33-year-old man, one of five people Robison has acknowledged killing in Tarrant County in 1982.  
 • Joe Trevino, 37, scheduled for punish-

ment Aug. 18 for the rape-strangling of an 80-year-old Tarrant County woman home in 1983.

Blackmon, 41, the first of the 6 to face this month to face the lethal needle, death, likely to occur Wednesday by his appeals are exhausted, is the only one who couldn't get out of the outside.

"Every young man on death row give thanks to God when they get a date," he said in a recent interview with the Associated Press. "If they want to give me a way out, I'm thanking God for it."  
 Blackmon acknowledges hacking Carl Rinkle, 26, at Rinkle's Shelby home in far East Texas the night of 1987, and taking about \$600 in cash and a small pistol.

The murder weapon was a 3-foot-long-edged steel sword the former sawmill made out of a sawblade. He blamed the attack on jealousy, drugs and a need for some money for the attack that left Rinkle butchered. The victim's skull and throat were and he was stabbed 21 times in the chest. "I would no longer be in pain," Blackmon said.

**Crash victim's parents file suit against church**

LUBBOCK (AP) — The parents of a Texas teen-ager killed in a bus crash during a church trip in New Mexico have filed a wrongful-death lawsuit in state district court against a Lubbock church, its youth minister and the driver of the vehicle that hit the bus.

The lawsuit, filed Friday in Albuquerque, N.M., by the parents of 13-year-old Heather Bauman, alleges the bus had faulty brakes that contributed to the deaths of their daughter and five other Lubbock teen-agers.

"Defective brakes — those aren't spiritual things," Sam Faddoul, who is representing the Baumans, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "Those are mechanical things that involve human regard for safety. We have no questions for the church about what spiritual goals they were trying to achieve that weekend."

"Our concern is for all children at all times. We understand that it is controversial to sue a church and there will be criticism."

The Green Lawn youth group was on its way back to Lubbock on May 2 from a weekend retreat near Cloudcroft, N.M., when the crash happened. The bus was sideswiped by a pickup truck and travel trailer in tow.

The lawsuit does not seek specific damages, but it does say that the Baumans seek "a reasonable monetary award." The purpose of the lawsuit, Faddoul said, is to get answers to what happened the day of the crash.

**ENERGY**

Continued from Page 1

In his study, Kammen calls for more general funding search and development. He said research needs to be pushed further.

"Research is difficult to understand what you're getting out of it. When budgets get tight, people often cut budgets. There's no clear returns."

Kammen said that constant, regular funding is vital to maintaining long-term benefits.

"The important thing is that research takes time," he said. "You invest money well, you will get something back for it. Not only will developing cheaper and more efficient producing and utilizing energy potentially save consumers money, Kammen said, but it would also help ensure environmental stability in the future."

Many scientists believe that finding alternative energy sources is integral to controlling gas emissions and curbing global warming.  
 "There's been a number of recent reports in scientific journals that suggest global warming is a recent phenomenon," Kammen said. "It's difficult to tell unambiguously, but we are in the initial stages of climate change."

While the responsibility for solving the problems associated with a dip in energy research funding ultimately falls on governments and corporations, Kammen said, average consumers have the power to initiate change.

"(Consumers should) make it known to the utilities that we are concerned about their energy use and their global warming (and) would like to have more alternatives available," he said.

Stephen Lau writes for The Daily Californian (U. of California)

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