

## SOE WEEK

### NATIONAL ENGINEERS' WEEK: FEBRUARY 15 -22

#### Saturday, February 15th

8:00am SWE Fun Run Research Park

#### Monday, February 17th

10:00am - 4:00pm Kickoff Celebration Academic Plaza

#### Play Games & Win Prizes @ Raffle: XBOX\*PALM\*DVD PLAYER\*MORE

5:00pm - 9:00pm AIChE Basketball Tournament Rollie 351

#### Tuesday, February 18th

10:00am - 2:00pm Engineering Projects Day Zachry Lobby

11:00am - 1:00pm FREE Pizza Lunch Zachry Lobby

7:30pm Dr. Bennett: Dean of Engineering Zachry Rm. 102

#### " 9 DAYS AT GROUND ZERO "

#### Wednesday, February 19th

10:00am - 2:00pm Students Interests Gallery Zachry Lobby

7:00pm - 10:00pm AIAA Bowling Tournament Triangle Bowl

#### Thursday, February 20th

10:00am - 2:00pm Photo Scavenger Hunt starts @ Zachry Lobby

7:00pm - finished LIFE Pool/42 Tournament Alfred T. Hornbacks

for more information visit: <http://sec.tamu.edu>

## Don't be alone on Valentine's Day Get Singled Out!!!

Win a date to Robert Earl Keen and Cowboy Mouth

Remember the old Mtv show Singled Out?

Well, come play with your fellow Ags  
on Friday February 14th!

6 lucky couples will be set up with fabulous dates for Saturday,  
February 15th including flowers, dinner and concert tickets.

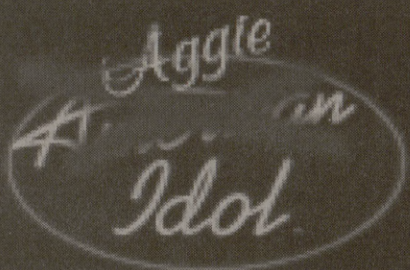
Sign up to be a contestant at the MSC Aggie Nights tables  
in Rudder Plaza on Feb. 10, 11, or 12

Or

at the Singled Out table at MSC Aggie Nights on Feb. 7



Do you have what it takes  
to be the first?



ENJOY THE STARDOM OTHERS ONLY DREAM ABOUT

Friday, February 21, 2003

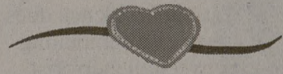
starting at 10pm

in the MSC Flagroom

For more information call 845-1515



A Valentine Gift  
Like No Other



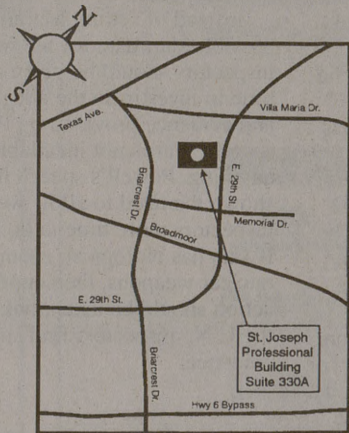
Between now and February 14<sup>th</sup>  
we'll give you a box of Godiva  
Chocolates along with fresh  
flowers when you purchase one  
of SpaMedic's spa packages.

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• European Facials • Pedicures /  
Manicures and much, much more!

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## Moment of silence debated Legislator proposes time for prayer

By Natalie Gott  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A bill that would require public schools to hold a minute of silence so students can pray, meditate or reflect came under scrutiny by lawmakers and others Tuesday.

The legislation by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, would replace current law that gives school districts the option of holding a moment of silence.

"It is my view at looking at our society over the last four decades, at least, there has been a coarsening of society, I would call it. There is more violence in the schools," Wentworth said.

However, he repeated during a Senate Education Committee hearing that the bill is a not a prayer bill.

"This a reflection, meditation or prayer" bill, he said. "In fact, as I have said before, we won't know if (the students) are doing any of those three things. They may be doing something else because it is actually 60 seconds of silence."

State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, said she was concerned about the bill because school districts now have the option of holding the minute of silence.

But Wentworth said that because the issue has been so

controversial for a long time that it is probably better for the state to say that every student "has the opportunity to have 60 seconds of meditation or reflection or prayer," Wentworth said.

"It gives the local school districts the opportunity to say 'that's out of our hands. This is not an issue that we are going to deal with,'" Wentworth said. "The Legislature requires this statewide."

*"It gives the local school districts the opportunity to say, 'that's out of our hands. The Legislature requires that statewide.'"*

— Sen. Jeff Wentworth  
R-San Antonio

Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, and others also raised concerns about a provision in the bill that would require students to sit in their seats during the moment of silence.

In some religions, "people are on their knees when they pray," West said.

Wentworth said he was con-

cerned that a court would strike down any legislation that allowed a student to kneel or be in another position other than sitting during the minute of silence.

It could be argued, for instance, that allowing someone to kneel could make other students who are not kneeling feel discriminated against, Wentworth said.

Wentworth's bill is patterned after a Virginia law that requires a minute of silence in schools and specifically lists prayer as one of the silent activities that students may choose. The U.S. Supreme Court last year rejected a challenge to the law.

"I am not trying to pass a bill that is going to be struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court," said Wentworth, who also said he had no doubt that if the Texas law was passed, it will be challenged in federal court.

Lisa Weatherford of Horseshoe Bay told the committee that she would pull her child out of public school if the state passed such a law.

"Religious liberty is the freedom to decide if, when, where and how one wishes to adhere to spiritual ritual," Weatherford said.

The bill, she said, undermines religious freedom by imposing a spiritual ritual on school children.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Final Harris witness testifies

HOUSTON (AP) — Squealing tires, screams and the crash of metal against metal jolted Oscar Torres from his tennis game last summer as he played across the street from a hotel parking lot where a woman is accused of fatally running over her husband with her Mercedes-Benz.

Torres, who punctuated his testimony Tuesday by making the sounds he heard the evening of July 24, used toy cars to show jurors what he remembered. He was the prosecution's final rebuttal witness in the murder trial of Clara Harris, 45.

Attorneys were to deliver closing arguments Wednesday morning and then jurors would begin deliberating whether dentist Clara Harris should be convicted of murdering her orthodontist husband, David Harris, in the parking lot of the same suburban hotel where the couple was married 11 years ago Friday, Valentine's Day.

"I wasn't sure if what I was seeing was real," another eyewitness, Chris Junco, tearfully testified Tuesday. "It was weird. I don't know how to describe it. The whole scene was very mad."

Both Torres and Junco said they watched in disbelief as Clara Harris drove over her husband's body three times.

# grease

It's still the word!

Tuesday-Wednesday Nights!  
February 11-12 at 7:30 PM  
Rudder Auditorium

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TICKETS  
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[www.MSCOPAS.org](http://www.MSCOPAS.org)

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