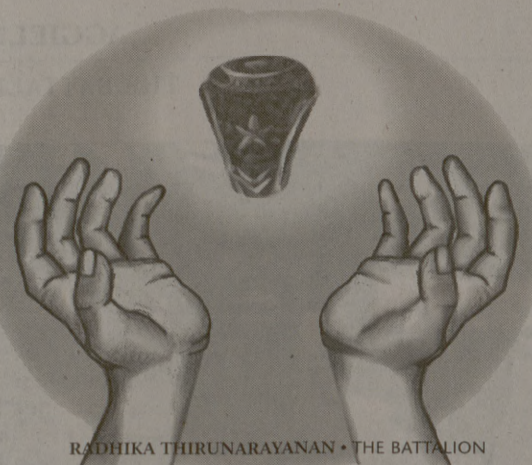


# AGGIELIFE

THE BATTALION

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RAJHIKA THIRUNARAYANAN • THE BATTALION

## Spare change for a ring

New organization, Change, raises money for Aggie rings

By Tori Foster  
THE BATTALION

When Glen Phillips couldn't afford to buy his Aggie ring, he and a friend Tree Lynch brainstormed about how they could solve the problem. While sitting in the Memorial Student Center 12th Man Cafeteria, they decided to ask students for donations to help Phillips purchase his ring. In a matter of minutes they had raised \$10 and the idea for an organized Aggie ring fund-raiser emerged, said Phillips, a senior math major.

Phillips, along with Jason Chaka and Nikki Grose, formed Change, an organization dedicated to helping those who can't afford to buy their Aggie rings.

"I had to take out a loan for my Aggie ring, and I know that there are a lot of people who wouldn't do that," Phillips said. "It's an awesome symbol to have, but for some people it's not realistic to shell out \$250 for a piece of gold."

With the many expenses of college, this organization is welcomed by most students, said freshman engineering major Reyna Flores.

"This organization really shows how the Aggie family helps each other out," she said. "Rings are expensive, and it's hard enough to pay for tuition, room and board, books and other college expenses. You want to be a part of the tradition, but you may not be able to afford to be."

When Change kicked-off its first change drive on March 30, Phillips said some volunteers returned with jugs containing approximately \$100 in change and bills. Phillips said some students individually donated jugs filled with \$50 to \$75.

"We're starting it off really simple; we didn't want to try and take on too much our first year," Phillips said. "Right now we're

focused on just getting money by student change. Volunteers go through dorm and sorority houses. We also have places at the MSC and Wehner where you can drop off change if you want."

Although Chaka, a senior industrial distribution major, already has his ring, he said he volunteers for the organization so that others can receive what he was fortunate enough to afford.

"When I look at my ring I see a lot more to it than the academic side," he said. "It pains me to think that people are going to graduate from this University with everything they've done and not be able to represent that after they graduate. To think that people won't be able to do this because of something as meaningless as money."

Applications for rings will be available Fall 2003, Phillips said. Rings will be awarded based on the needs and desires of individual students. The application will include questions such as how much the student worked to pay for college and what the Aggie ring means to him. A panel of faculty, staff and students with rings will be randomly elected to choose who will receive the rings.

Phillips said the organization is based on the honor system in which he hopes students will not lie to get free rings.

When sophomore finance major Matt Wood graduates, he will be able to buy his own ring, but he is helping others who cannot.

"My parents are going to be able to buy my ring for me, and I'm thankful for that. I know how much work goes into getting your ring and all that work needs to be given a reward. A diploma is nice, but a ring is something that you can show more than a plaque on the wall," Wood said.

Change will be collecting money today from 11 to 3 p.m. at Rudder Fountain, Wehner and the MSC. The drive will end April 7 at 5 p.m. Change hopes to award the first ring in April of 2004.



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

Drew Jones, a sophomore business major, donates coins to Change as Nikki Grose, a senior industrial engineering major, accepts

### PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

#### Liv Tyler marries lead singer of Spacehog

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Liv Tyler has added another rock musician to her life. The daughter of Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler married Royston Langdon, lead singer of the band Spacehog, in a private ceremony at a villa in the Caribbean on March 25, her publicist said Wednesday.

It's the first marriage for both the 25-year-old actress and 30-year-old musician. They plan a small reception for family and friends next month in New York, where the couple live, publicist Stephen Huvane said.

#### Charges dropped in Claudia Schiffer case

LONDON (AP) — Prosecutors dropped charges Thursday against a kitchen work-

er accused of harassing model Claudia Schiffer, saying the man was undergoing psychiatric treatment.

Prosecutor Ian Devine told judges that Agostino Pomata, 34, was being held under mental health laws and would be detained at least until the beginning of August. He may be released then or indefinitely detained, Devine added, saying that trying him "would not be in the public interest."

The magistrates hearing the case

agreed it could be discontinued.

Pomata, who had denied the charges against him, was accused of harassing the German model at her home near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, eastern England, nine times between Sept. 23 and Nov. 12 last year.

#### Metallica to be honored as this year's MTV icon

NEW YORK (AP) — Avril Lavigne, Limp

Bizkit, Sum 41 and Korn are among the performers who will honor Metallica as this year's "mtvICON."

The tribute to the veteran metal band is scheduled to air at 9 p.m. EDT May 6 on MTV. The 90-minute special will include covers of Metallica's hits, testimonials from musicians who have been influenced by the band, and a finale in which Metallica will perform.

Previous "mtvICON" artists are Aerosmith and Janet Jackson.

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Snook Rodeo Arena

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Dub Miller - 11 AM

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Seth James - 3 PM

Danni Leigh - 5 PM

ThrowAway People - 7 PM

Zero to Fear - 9 PM

**Starts at 11 AM**

**Ends at 1 AM**

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**OPEN LATE**

**Sunday: 11 a.m. - midnight**

**Monday - Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.**

**Thursday: 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.**

**Friday & Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 a.m.**

**OPEN LATE**