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**HAVE YOUR GROUP'S** picture taken for Texas A&M's 2005 *Aggieland* yearbook. Contracts are due beginning Friday. Follow these easy steps: (1) Download a contract from <http://aggieland.tamu.edu> or pick one up in room 004 Reed McDonald. (2) Fill out your contract and return it with payment to room 015 Reed McDonald. Space is limited. Questions? Call 845-2682 for details.

**Aggieland 2005**  
Texas A&M University



### SENIORS.

*We need your graduation portrait for the 2005 Aggieland yearbook.*

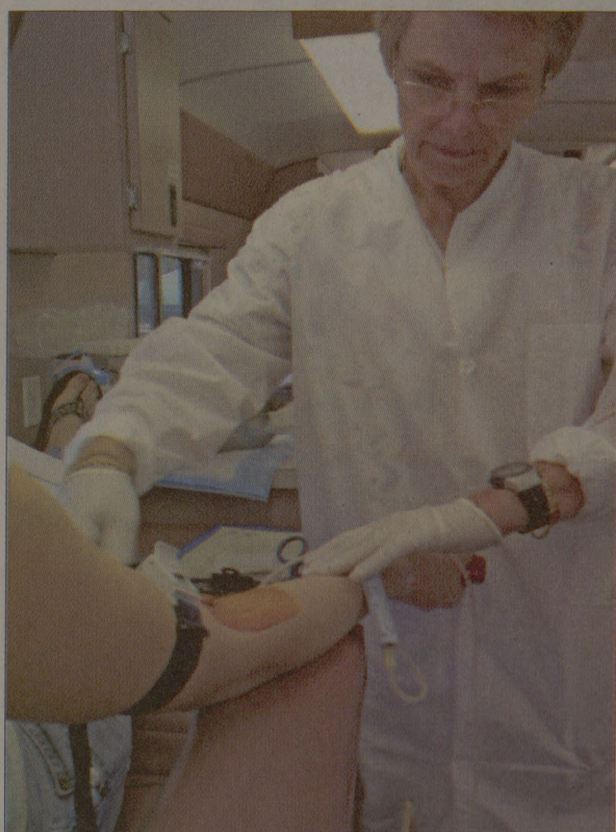
Graduation portraits for Texas A&M University's 2005 *Aggieland* yearbook will be taken Monday through Friday, Sept. 13-24, 2004, in MSC Room 027. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. There is no sitting fee required to be photographed for the yearbook.

To make your appointment, go to [www.thorntonstudio.com](http://www.thorntonstudio.com). Go to Scheduling, then click New User, and complete with Registration Password: tam

Or schedule by calling Thornton Studio at 1-800-883-9449, or see the photographer beginning Sept. 13.

**Aggieland 2005**  
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## Blood Drive in Action



WHITNEY MARTIN • THE BATTALION

Carolyn Johnson of Dallas administers the blood donating procedure at the Alpha Phi Omega-Red Cross blood drive near Sbsa Dining Hall. Today is the last day of the blood drive.

## Women

Continued from page 1

semester wearing regular clothes with nametags, and commuting to the Quad every day for afternoon formation and dinner at Duncan Hall. At the end of the fall semester, the number of female cadets had dropped to 25.

Pranglin said that although the first year was difficult, 10 W-1 male upperclassmen helped the female cadets get through it, especially W-1 commanding officer S. Don Roper, Class of 1975.

"Because this was the first year women were allowed in the Corps, we had to have some male upperclassmen to lead us and instruct us," Pranglin said. "They all volunteered to help us and they were an extremely important part of our success that year. For all of those hardships and all of those struggles, we always had 'Don, Mr. Roper, Sir.' He was everything that was positive about the Cadets."

Roper said the Corps was unprepared to accept women in Fall 1974 and that he volunteered to be commanding officer because he thought women should have equal opportunities.

"I was very proud to be a part of company W-1," Roper said. "There was a quality of women in W-1 with the loyalty and desire to be in the Corps, but it was a challenging year for each of those who participated."

Pranglin said one of the worst things was when male cadets did not allow female cadets to introduce themselves to them, or "whip out."

"At some point, we all wanted to quit," Pranglin said. "But each woman has her reason why she wanted to stay in. For me, as soon as I got into the spirit, I felt an obligation to my fish buddies, my upperclassmen who volunteered, my parents and to future women in the Corps."

Roper said one of the main reasons women survived in the Corps is because of the unity in W-1.

"The good part was the very early cohesiveness as a unit," Roper said. "There was a very strong relationship between the women."

Pranglin said she enjoyed forming bonds with the other female Cadets and spending

time giggling about guys and talking about who had a date on Friday. She added that her favorite parts of the Corps experience were Friday afternoons, after formation.

"We were so hot and tired, but we would know the weekend was there, and we would go in and clean up and then go out country-and-western dancing," Pranglin said.

Pranglin said that during the four years she was a cadet things progressed for women. During Pranglin's sophomore year, the women were given dorms on the Quad, and by her junior year, W-1 was an all-female unit and women were fully integrated in the Corps. But Pranglin said by her senior year she was a little disappointed that things still weren't perfect and some of the same discrimination was still happening.

"We did not get our boots," Pranglin said. "That torch was carried by another class. Each group paved the way a little further down the road."

Maj. Kimberly Currens, Class of 1980 and a member of Squadron 14 and Parsons Mounted Cavalry, joined the Corps because she wanted a future job in the military. She said harassment continued when she was there, but that she and other cadets decided to stay and make a point.

"Why did I join? Because I had to," Currens said. "Why did I stay after I found out about (harassment)? Sheer stubbornness. I grew up a lot in my first couple of years here at A&M, and it definitely made me a strong person."

Currens, who is now a member of the U.S. Air Force and a military adviser for Squadron 12, was the first female cadet to return to A&M as an ROTC instructor. She returned to help mentor other female cadets.

"I have an open-door policy, and (female cadets) can stop in any time they want and discuss life," Currens said.

Dawn Marie Baletka, Class of 1984 and a member of Squadron 14, said that despite the harassment in the Corps, she enjoyed being a cadet tremendously. She said that as a female cadet, she participated in the building of Bonfire, something other female A&M students were prohibited from doing. Baletka said being an "odddity" on campus was a good challenge.

"We (Squadron 14) had a motto that translated to, 'I will either find a way or make

one,'" Baletka said. "That is what we do women in the Corps."

Baletka said the Corps made her into a woman she is today.

"The women who came before me stood with me and the men who stood with us, made me the mom that I am today, businesswoman that I am today, the activist that I am today," Baletka said.

Baletka said she is proud to be one of two female cadets who are the first to daughters in the Corps. Baletka's daughter, Brynn Hayes, is a freshman in A-Batt.

"She has wanted to be in the Aggie since she was out of the cradle," Baletka said. "I told her that no amount of money in the world could buy her something to replace this. It's priceless."

Hayes, a special education major, said she loves being in the Corps so far and that though she has experienced some challenges of trying to keep up with the male cadets, things are a lot better now than they were when her mother was a cadet.

"If it ever gets hard, I think, 'It was times harder when my mom was,'" Hayes said. "Anytime I'm down, I think 'My mom did it.' Knowing that they paved the way and seeing my upperclassmen in their boots makes it all worth it."

Pranglin, Roper, Currens, Baletka, Hayes will be at the 30th anniversary celebration this weekend. The anniversary, 30 years in the making, includes social gatherings and speeches from Col. Pauletta Blueitt, Class of 1981 of the U.S. Air Force and Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, commander of the Corps of Cadets. This weekend also include the opening of the official women's exhibit in the Sanderson Corps Center which will include memorabilia from former cadets and a brick dedication on Sunday.

Currens, who is on the anniversary planning committee, is excited about the interaction which will be available for old and new female cadets at the anniversary, especially between the women who have become colonels.

"This is something female cadets look at and be like, 'This is double Currens said."

Baletka is just excited to see her daughter march on Kyle Field for the first time. "She's making her own stories and own memories now," Baletka said.

# Texans rally for tax deduction

By Suzanne Gamboa  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The looming end of the session and fights over other tax cut proposals could abruptly end what several members of Congress said Thursday is the best chance in decades for getting a federal deduction for people whose states only charge sales taxes.

About two dozen lawmakers from both parties gathered in a Senate conference room to rally around the sales tax deduction proposal, which affects a handful of states, including Texas.

"We are not going home without sales tax deductibility," said Rep. Kevin Brady, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, who has led the push for the deduction.

In addition to Texas, the proposal would benefit Florida, Tennessee, South Dakota, Wyoming,

Nevada and Washington. Kansas, who pay local taxes, would benefit.

Brady acknowledged the possibility of ending the session early because Congress is scheduled to adjourn in early October.

Also, the sales tax deduction is part of similar, broader legislation passed by the House and Senate that provide corporate tax cuts and eliminate a tax cut for exporters. A conference committee has yet to meet to negotiate the differences in the bill because House Speaker Dennis Hastert has not named committee members.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said the hang-up is not the widely supported sales tax issue, but said negotiations on the corporate tax bill have widened to include discussions on a separate sweeping energy bill that provides tax incentives for energy-related programs.

# AGGIELAND'S LARGEST TENT SALE

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**A&M  
SPECIALTY  
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**A&M  
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Thursday, September 9th - Saturday, September 11th 10am - 8pm  
Sunday, September 12th 10am - 6pm

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**(In the Lack's, 4.0 & GO and Bourbon Street Bar & Grill parking lot) For more details call 979-680-8780**

The "Tribute to the Fifth Avenue" attacks on the 2,973 people.

A&M By Matt THE B

Texas A&M for a third s decreases in tal assistance new data rele Student Health "The Uni tively invo reduce risk c Assistant Dir Whether th attributed to mains unclear Draper sa aware of the telephone nu Health Service ions this year undergraduat ternational st this month the Student Affa e-mailed a m reinforcing th "We've bea tional about o