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FORECAST
Wednesday
 Cloudy High 85

OPINION
 "In fact, TCA would be thrilled to have this contract signed because it would no longer have to compete for students' business — everyone on campus will be forced to pay for cable."
 — D'Jelma Coughran '91
page 2

SPORTS
Tennis teams split
 A&M netters have busy day as men whip UTEP while women fall to Tennessee.
page 7

INSIDE
Voters' Guide '91
 Battalion supplement highlights candidates for student elections.

The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 117 USPS 045360 14 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Tuesday, March 26, 1991

A&M implements minor in religious studies for Fall 1991

By Twila Waddy
The Battalion

Religious studies will be available as an official minor for the first time this fall in the College of Liberal Arts. The Interdisciplinary Program in Religious Studies will establish the minor. The program consists of a review committee of eight faculty members from six different departments in the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Steven Oberhelman, coordinator

of the program said courses in religious studies have been offered for several years but now are more organized. "What this minor does is give a formal and more cohesive framework by which courses on the study list have been previously offered and are brought under one umbrella," he said. "A student is exposed to many different religions and also to various methods by which one can study religion." Oberhelman said the minor is 18 hours and students must take courses

concerning world religions, including classes in near- and far- eastern philosophy. He said students will be exposed to religion's philosophy, history and psychology. "This program is meant to be a forum for the faculty to present their research but also to attract students to understand points and issues of religious studies today," he said. Dr. Bruce Dickson, an associate professor of anthropology, said there al

ways has been an interest in religion at A&M. "This is a study of religion and not the teaching of religious doctrines, especially in the case of anthropology," he said. Dickson will teach ANTH 403, primitive religion. This class, however, will not prepare students to be priests or ministers, he said. "We do not teach the beliefs of one system and say that is the answer," Dickson said. "We attempt to compare cultures. When I teach primitive reli

gion, which means simpler religion, I compare them." A large number of students taking religious studies are pre-theology students planning to pursue priesthood, but other students might find the minor a compliment to a technical major, Dickson said. Dickson has taught primitive religion for 14 years. Because the University is a public institution, however, some restraints about what can be said

See A&M/Page 6

Chlorinated water invades creek

By Richard Tijerina
The Battalion

A half-mile section of Bee Creek was polluted Monday when heavily chlorinated water was drained into it, killing dozens of fish and risking more environmental damage.

Workers from a local company dumped 15,000 gallons of swimming pool water from Peppertree Apartments onto a street outside the complex. The water soon drained into the ditch. Bee Creek feeds directly into Carter Creek, which flows into the Navasota River.

College Station firefighters built dams to stop the flow of contaminated water from spreading. But dozens of sunfish already were killed, and officials began working around noon to remove them from the water and banks.

George Mobley, owner of Mobley Pool Co., said his workers were told to drain the water into the street by apartment managers.

However, his company will be responsible for any necessary cleanup, said Joy Watson, a field investigator from the Texas Water Commission.

College Station Utilities officials took samples of the water for analysis. Watson said the TWC will wait until the results are finished sometime today before further decisions are made.

A Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife official said the fish were not necessarily killed by chlorine.

"Within this area, you've got everything that can come into this creek," Game Warden Mark Simmons said. "The



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Max Alleger, an A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences graduate student, searches Bee Creek for living fish Monday after 15,000 gallons of chlorinated water from an apartment swimming pool spilled into the creek. College Station and Texas Water Commission officials examined the scene.

fact that water was introduced that had a substance in it might not be what killed the fish. It may have been something that they stirred up in the bottom."

However, one water expert who tested the water independently said the level of chlori

nation was "three times the amount you'd find in a swimming pool."

Mark Smith, local business owner and representative of National Safety Associates, conducted an orthotolidne test — similar to the ones used to test swimming pools — on a

sample of water taken from the ditch.

An OTO turns the water sample into various shades of yellow according to the level of chlorine present.

Smith's business is on the side of the ditch next to Peppertree Apartments, and he owns the tract of land the ditch is on, including half the water. A sample he tested from the ditch turned brown, similar to the color of tea.

Smith said chlorine is not poisonous in low dosages but is lethal to fish. The surrounding area of Bee Creek could be damaged because of the presence of a carcinogen called trihalomethane, he said.

Trihalomethanes form when methane gases from decaying objects such as fish bond with chlorine. "Those are bad carcinogens," Smith said. "If it was a long-term situation, you could have a lot of carcinogens constantly in this creek and end up with strange-looking fish."

Smith's business sells water filters which remove chlorine from the municipal water supply. He said he often checks for the presence of chlorine with an OTO before and after the filter is installed.

It was the second time in two years the half-mile section of Bee Creek has been jeopardized. A garden shop on the other side of the ditch caught fire in 1989, and pesticides and fertilizers were washed into the ground when the fire was extinguished.

Smith said firefighters stopped the flow when they realized the hazardous chemicals were there.

However, a hard rain two days later alarmed officials because they were afraid chemicals might have seeped into the ditch. But the water was tested, and the samples showed no chemicals were present.

Budget woes force summer course cuts

Liberal arts, science colleges close sections to save money

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

Half of all liberal arts summer courses and 30 percent of biology and chemistry summer courses have been closed indefinitely because of a major appropriations cut.

Dr. Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Monday that the revenue cuts to the liberal arts college — more than \$200,000 — have been devastating.

He said the only option the college had was to cut summer courses, which will make up about \$170,000 of the \$200,000 the college needs.

The college's revenue returns are part of a \$3.2 million cut from A&M's budget by the Legislature.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said some class closings are temporary, and he hopes some of the sections will reopen in the next few weeks.

Fallon said the courses have not been "canceled," but rather the enrollment limits on the classes were set to zero. This allows administrators the freedom to easily reinstate the classes on the computer system.

If students try to register for a course or section that has been "zeroed," they will receive a message from the computer that the class is full. Registration for summer courses began Monday.

BUDGET CRUNCH

The following is a partial list of courses in which some or all of the sections have been closed indefinitely for the first and/or second summer session. Administrators expect to reopen sections and courses as funds become available. Information about courses in the Departments of Anthropology, English and Modern Languages were not available:

- ECON 202, 203, 311, 323
- HIST 105, 106
- JOUR 214, 273, 356
- PHIL 111
- POLS 206, 207, 331, 442
- PSYC 107, 315, 307, 351, 345
- SCOM 403
- SOCI 205, 315
- THAR 200

Dr. John Fackler, dean of the College of Science, said as many as 30 percent of summer biology and chemistry sections probably will be cut, while a much smaller number of math and physics courses would suffer.

He said the college has not decided yet which sections to cut, so students can register for sections that might be cut later. Fackler said sections of lecture classes will be combined, but he is not sure how lab classes will be handled.

Fallon said administrators at the College of Liberal Arts made the decisions of which sections to cut with three main criteria in mind:

- They tried to not cut courses which would affect graduating

See Budget/Page 6

Mary Kay leader addresses role of businesses, environment

By Julie Hedderman
The Battalion

Businesses, not the government, should take the lead in claiming responsibility for the environment, the CEO of Mary Kay Cosmetics told several Texas A&M marketing classes Monday.

Richard Bartlett, president and chief operating officer at Mary Kay, said companies must develop environmental policies to respond to environmental concerns.

"Mary Kay Cosmetics has a strong corporate commitment to pre-eminence in environmentally sound policies and practices," he said.

Some of the company's practices include responsible packaging, solid waste management and recycling, he said.

Bartlett said he also wants to help strengthen the market for recycling and recycled goods, educate employees, the sales force and consumers on environmental responsibility, and help other businesses make a positive difference on the environment.

Mary Kay has an office recycling program which began in March 1989. It involves corporate recycling of office paper and other materials, employees bringing recyclables from home, and recyclable and recycled product packaging.

Since the program began, 4.3 million pounds of glass, aluminum, paper and plastic have been collected. More than \$8,000 in proceeds were given to the Texas Nature Conservancy, a program that buys and conserves natural habitats.

Bartlett, vice chairman and a trustee

of the Nature Conservancy, said Mary Kay also has placed solar panels on the tops of its buildings and computer controls on heating, air conditioning and lighting systems to conserve energy.

"As I put this program in, the first year we saved over and above the money we contributed to the Nature Conservancy," he said. "We saved \$40,000 or \$50,000 in recycling. By trying to do something good, something for the ethical reasons of it, we benefited."

Bartlett said one problem with recycling is making a market for it. He said there are not many plants for recycling paper. It also is expensive to produce recycled paper coated for four-color use, he said.

Bartlett said 90 percent of all paper purchased by Mary Kay for office use is from recycled stock.

In June, Mary Kay introduced recycled paperboard packaging. Bartlett said the company's orders of 2,229 tons of recycled paper have saved 37,900 trees, 15.6 million gallons of water, 9.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity and 6,687 cubic yards of landfill space.

He said he wants to use the environment as a strategic opportunity so consumers will see Mary Kay's commitment to safe environmental practices.

Bartlett said it is important that companies do not try to exploit consumers with false environmental claims.

One example of misleading claims is when a company recently labeled its aerosol shaving cream packages as "ozone friendly" because they don't contain chlorofluorocarbons, he said. CFCs, however, were banned in 1978.



DANCING WITH OSCAR

Kevin Costner's "Dances with Wolves" was a big winner at Monday night's Academy Awards. The motion picture won a total of seven Oscars, including Best Motion Picture and Best Director (Costner). For a rundown of major awards, see page 9.