

Fish Raise Reading Rate

Thirty-four freshmen, volunteers in a dormitory research project, have substantially increased the rate of speed at which they normally read.

The self-help program, which originally involved 100 students, increased both reading rate and comprehension by correcting undesirable reading habits, noted Carl A. Stanitzky, graduate student who conducted the project.

"Because of the amount of reading a student must do, it should be much to his advantage if he were able to read his assignments at a fairly rapid rate without sacrificing comprehension," said Stanitzky, who conducted the program through the Counseling and Testing Center last spring.

"IT WOULD be a task too difficult, if not impossible, for any one person to be able to keep up with the influx of reading matter that is available," added the Hearne native.

"The effect of this problem, however, can be alleviated somewhat by providing better methods of teaching in the areas of reading skills, sometimes referred to as a rate of comprehension."

Stanitzky met with students, briefed them on use of a reading accelerator and reading materials

which were a part of the program. He also showed them how to keep individual records so their progress could be charted.

Beginning rates ranged from 125 to 325 words per minute. THE ACCELERATOR rate was never increased more than 50 words per minute for each successive session in the range of speeds from 100 to 700 words per minute, Stanitzky said.

Stanitzky pointed out that while 34 students carried the program through to completion, only 21 of the remaining 66 students completed 50 percent of the program.

"It seems certain that the experimental group made substantial progress in reading speed over the length of the program," he observed. "With these results, we must reject the null-hypothesis that there will be no significant improvement in reading speed due to the use of the Reading Accelerator in the dormitories—it does indeed produce a positive influence on reading behavior."

STANITZKY said the study indicates "that if this program were set up in the dormitories, students using it would derive considerable benefit in the areas

of reading speed, comprehension and vocabulary."

Improvement in these areas would likely show improvement in other areas as well, he added.

"For example, reading faster without sacrificing comprehension would allow the student to finish reading assignments in a shorter period of time," Stanitzky remarked. "This additional time could be used for review, or for beginning study on another subject."

Harker Granted Assistantship In Sensing Studies

Graduate student George Harker has been granted the first assistantship in remote sensing techniques and technology, announced Dr. John W. Rouse Jr.

Rouse, acting director of the Remote Sensing Center here, said Harker's appointment is effective June 1.

Several assistantships are being offered to graduate students in recreation and parks, oceanography and electrical engineering.

Rouse said each student will conduct his graduate program within the respective department, but will be housed in the center's offices located in the Olin E. Teague Space Research Center.

Harker, a Ph.D. candidate in recreation and parks, is a native of Fairview Park, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. He received his B.S. degree in biology and his M.S. degree in natural resources from Ohio State.

He enrolled in the graduate program here last year.

Meetings Set This Summer For Transfers

Three special pre-registration conferences for students transferring from two-year or four-year institutions for the fall semester will be held here, announced Auston Kerley.

The associate dean for admissions said conferences, first of their type, will be held on the afternoons and mornings of June 22-23; July 2-3, and July 31-Aug. 1.

Kerley pointed out a short orientation meeting will start at 4 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center ballroom where transfer students will receive identification pictures and cards, housing, registration cards and other routine details.

The second day, Kerley said individual conferences with appropriate dean and department personnel will be held to determine degree plans, decide upon fall courses and register for the fall semester.

Fees will be assessed, with a statement to be forwarded and paid by mail, Kerley stressed.

Each transfer student must bring his acceptance letter and a copy of his transcript, Kerley noted.



FIRST TO SOLO
1967-68 Corps commander, Air Force 2nd Lt. Lonnie C. Minze of Houston, was the first student of his Randolph AFB pilot class to solo. Minze (right) is shown with his instructor pilot, Maj. James C. Boyd. (USAF Photo)

Returning Student Figures Show 13.4 Percent Gain

The number of A&M's returning students was 13.4 percent higher in 1967 than in 1962.

A report from H. L. Heaton, dean of admissions and records, revealed that 1,899 freshmen students enrolled in the fall, 1962, with 58.1 percent returning the second year.

By the fall, 1965, freshmen student enrollment was up to 1,946 and 73.1 percent returned for second year classes.

It dropped to 72.7 in the fall, 1966, and to 71.5 in the fall, 1967. Heaton's office reported 2,184

freshman students enrolled in 1966 and 2,256 the following year.

By comparison, 49.2 percent of the 1962 entering class enrolled in fourth year classes. It was up to 61 percent in the 1965 class.

"OUR RETENTION record is good," said Heaton, but admitted he is "never satisfied."

"We want a better one," he added.

Heaton attributed the retention increase to "a combination of things."

Among the factors was an in-

crease in the high school class rank of entering freshmen.

Heaton pointed out only 33 percent of the entering freshman class were in the first quarter of their class in 1959. Nine years later—in 1968—53 percent of the entering students were in the first quarter.

Heaton feels high schools are doing "a better job than ever."

A&M's OWN admission standards are being raised, and "we are trying to attract a better quality student," he said.

Some of the success for getting better students are found in A&M's attempt "to offer them what they need," calling attention to the recent formation of several new colleges on campus including A&M's latest — the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

"People are beginning to find out about A&M's facilities and equipment," Heaton continued, "and our former students are vitally interested in our going after 'brain power'."

Approximately 60 percent of A&M's 900 instructional personnel has earned doctoral degrees. "STUDENTS we accept now have a good—very good—chance of graduating," Heaton said. "The quality of individuals we are getting is great."

Heaton cited several "off-hand opinions" or students not returning to campus.

Among those reasons were academic suspensions, military duty, finances, health, family problems and poor grades.

Heaton said AM has its share of students who are motivated by "Joe is going to college so I'll go too!"

This type of motivation "just won't quite do the job. There has to be a deeper motivation," he continued.

Arco To Sponsor Awards Banquet

Charles I. Mehl, assistant director of administration for the Associated General Contractors of America, will be the guest speaker Saturday at the Architectural Construction Department's Annual Student Chapter Awards banquet.

Mehl represents the AGC on various committees in government, labor and management. He also formulates programs with the deans of engineering at many colleges for the construction industry, according to Keller Webster, speaker committee chairman.

'Shoe' Suffers Injuries In Fall

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Accident Jockey Bill Shoemaker was thrown from his mount in a freak accident in the paddock at Hollywood Park Wednesday and suffered a fractured pelvis and internal injuries.

The 10-time national riding champion had been making a great comeback from a broken leg sustained Jan. 23, 1968, at Santa Anita.

The Shoe's latest misfortune will keep him from riding the well regarded Arts and Letters in Saturday's Kentucky Derby. The track doctor said the 37-year-old rider will be out of action at least six months.

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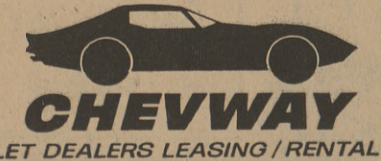
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