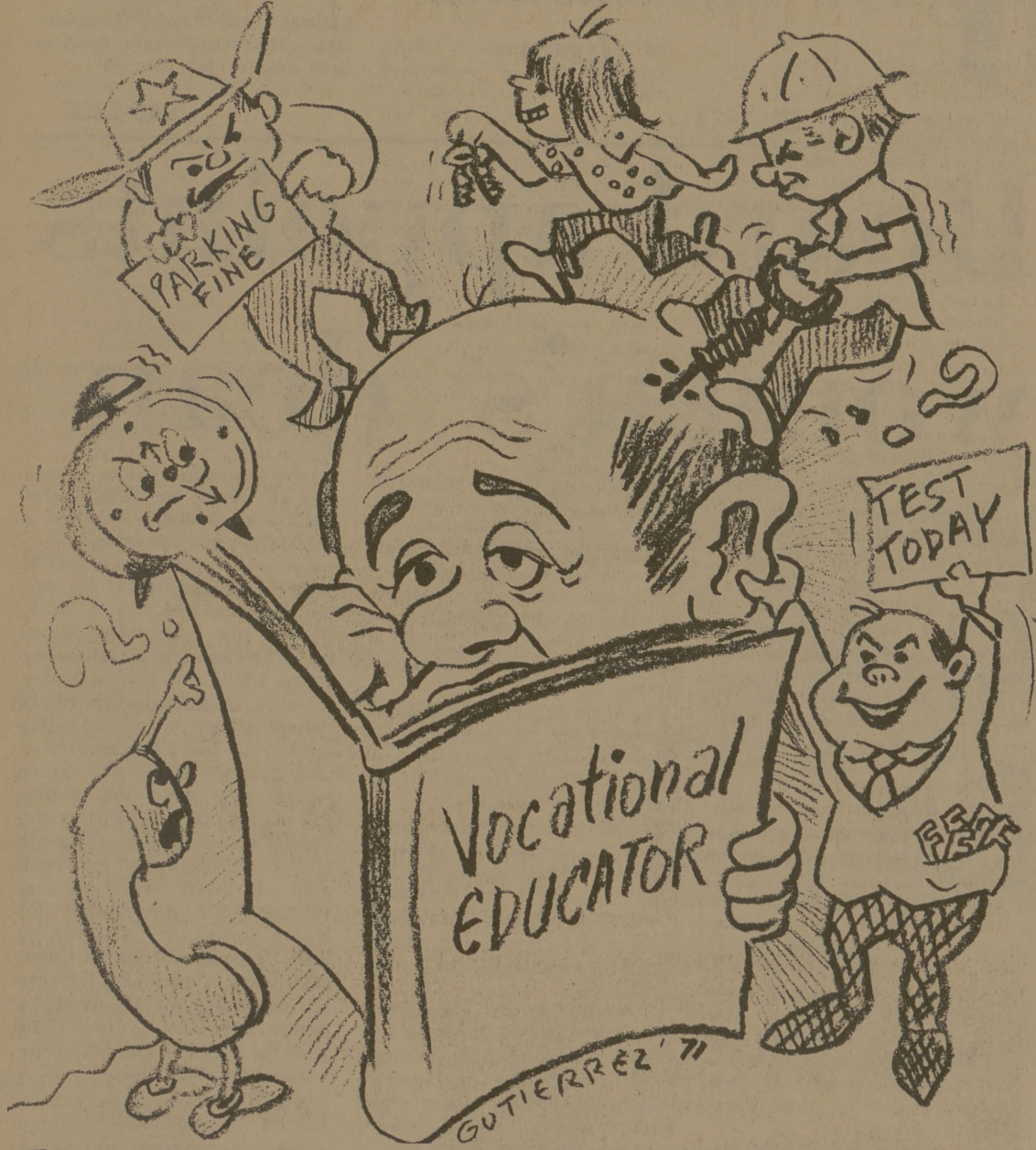


Campus viewpoint

by Herman Gutierrez



Listen up

Aeroclub story questioned

Editor:

I would like to comment on the A&M Aeroclub article appearing in the June 16 *Battalion*. The article stated that the Aeroclub was the only flying organization in the B-CS area. You skiped (sic) over Bryan Aero Inc. at Coulter Field and Texas Airmotive at Easterwood Airport.

Mr. Oxley was quoted as saying "An instructor may blindfold a student and give him the controls

a few hours later telling the student to take him home." At first it sounded like the Aeroclub had invented a takeoff on pin the tail on the donkey using an airplane, but after some thought I came to the conclusion that Mr Oxley had either been misquoted or your reporter did not take the time to clarify the statement.

In another part of the article Mr. Weseli was quoted as saying that under Federal Aviation Agency Regulations (they have no rules) ground school is not required. This may be true under part 61 of the regulations that the Aeroclub operates under, but under part 141 of the same regulations that Texas Airmotive operates under ground school is required.

The difference is it takes a person 40 hours to get a private and 200 hours for a commercial certificate with the Aeroclub, while with a certified school such as Texas Airmotive it takes 35 and

160 hours respectively.

The final blow came after reading the caption under the picture. The caption said something about seeing much of the B-CS area. The writer has a good imagination because, had the picture been clear all you could have seen was College Station. Because there is so much haze you can't even see the campus.

Next time you go to press why don't you spend a little time writing the articles; after all, quality says a lot more than quantity.

Cliff Young '67
Flight Instructor

Your first point is correct—we should have said private flying organization. However, we had no trouble understanding the rest of the article. To show how easy it is to be incorrect, there was no caption associated with the picture you mention—but there were some cutlines.

It took a great deal of time to research and write the story. And the quality of your letter would have been better if your vested interest were not so apparent.—Ed.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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EDITOR DAVID S. MIDDLEBROOKE

A&M, Baylor develop infant CF test

One child in 2,500 is born with cystic fibrosis, a disabling and eventually fatal disease for which there is no known cure.

Now an IBM computer and a group of Texas A&M scientists have teamed up to spot the illness in newborn babies through analysis of their fingernails. Early detection can add many years to

A&M is performing the analyses for a project headed by Dr. Guyon Harrison of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Dr. Harrison hopes to develop a mass screening capability that eventually would allow every newborn child to be tested for cystic fibrosis.

The testing is done in the Activation Analysis Research Laboratory, headed by Dr. R. E. Wainerdi, under the direction of Dr. L. E. Fite.

"In general, children with cystic fibrosis have a life expectancy of five to 15 years," Wainerdi said. "Early detection and proper treatment can allow them to live three or four times that long."

Researchers found that the fingernails from many patients with cystic fibrosis contained several times the normal amounts of copper, sodium chloride and phosphorus. The A&M team chose copper as the measurement least likely to be distorted by contamination.

"The fingernails of normal newborns contain from two to thirty parts per million of copper," Wainerdi said. "The nails of children

with cystic fibrosis demonstrate copper concentrations of from 50 to 200 ppm."

The research group then worked out a precise test procedure using neutron activation analysis.

"Fingernail clippings are received from cystic fibrosis centers across the country," Fite said. "The samples and a copper standard are then irradiated, making the various trace elements radioactive."

Then the IBM System 360/Model 65 compares the fingernail radioactivity readings against the reading from the copper sample and reports the parts-per-million copper content of the nail clipping. The entire procedure takes only a few minutes.

"Medication and treatment can allow the cystic fibrosis victim to lead a reasonably comfortable life," Harrison explained, "but his life expectancy at best is only half the normal span. Medical science has found no way to treat

the disease—only the symptoms. Cystic fibrosis is essentially hereditary and limited to Caucasians. Its victims invariably are children of exceptional intelligence.

The disease creates pancreatic enzyme deficiencies and keeps exocrine glands from functioning properly. As a result, the child with cystic fibrosis often has persistent infection of his respiratory system that produces progressive damage and is the disease's major life-threatening complication.

A&M's neutron activation analysis laboratory generally is considered the largest and best equipped in the free world. Under Wainerdi's direction it has tackled such other projects as the assessment of structural strength of fuel tank metal in NASA's landing vehicles and the study of the composition of chunks of earth's mantle taken from three miles beneath the ocean floor.

Batt to carry cartoons by Corpus man

Beginning today, *The Battalion* will carry three cartoons, one a week, by Herman Gutierrez, Corpus Christi cartoonist here for a vocational educators workshop.

Gutierrez teaches commercial art at Del Mar Junior College and draws for the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*. He is attending the workshop to obtain certification as a vocational instructor.

Finance senior offers lay-away plan for Aggie ring diamonds

A senior finance major seeking an early start in his business is offering Texas A&M students the opportunity to purchase a senior ring diamond at a reduced price on a lay-away plan.

M. Farland Guinn III has operated Guinn and Co. Diamond Brokers since January, using the upstairs portion of the vacant Iva Starns store for an office.

His plan allows an Aggie to place a one-fifth carat, eye-perfect diamond—with a retail value of around \$100—in lay-away for \$5. By Dec. 31, 1971 the student must pay an additional \$38, and the diamond is his. He has paid

\$43 for the diamond, what Guinn calls retailer's cost.

For any successful lead a person on the lay-away plan provides, he receives \$4 credit on his reserved diamond.

"This is being done to help my firm through market exposure," he explained. "Hopefully, it also will lead to future sales."

He said his plan has worked well enough that some of his senior ring diamond customers have reserved engagement ring diamonds.

He explained he specializes in diamonds, although he can provide mounts.

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