

Your health ... 3 medical centers compared in service

By MARK PENNY
Battalion Staff Writer

The rising cost of living is causing more and more students to question whether they're getting their money's worth from required student fees.

The Battalion compared the fees and facilities of Texas A&M's Beutel Health Center with those of the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Tech University.

Beutel has an in-patient capacity of 44 beds. This may not sound adequate for a school with 25,000 students but during the peak flu season last semester the number of hospitalized students reached only 31. In fact, said Mrs. Mary F. Gough, Coordinator of Nursing Services, the

monthly average is usually 15-20 people with an average stay of 1-2 days. The \$14 per semester health fee allows a student to stay in the hospital for up to ten days without cost. Board students' meals are refunded by their respective dining halls and other students are charged \$1 a meal.

The staff at Beutel includes four full time doctors, thirteen nurses, two X-ray technicians, three lab technicians and a part-time psychologist. Weekly visits are also made by an orthopedic surgeon, a gynecologist, two general surgeons and two radiologists. Students in need of a urologist are referred to his private office.

It is not unusual for a doctor to see 50-60 patients a day, said Gough. On

busy days that number may increase to 100. Gough estimated out-patient treatment at 8-9,000 students a month.

The Health Center does not provide for any type of major surgery. If surgery is necessary, the student is sent to a local hospital and he assumes the financial responsibility for it.

In an emergency situation, local ambulance service can be arranged by the Health Center without charge provided the Center is contacted first.

If a very serious problem arises that can not be taken care of at a College Station or Bryan hospital, the services of a MAST helicopter from Fort Hood is available said Dr. Claude B. Goswick Jr., director of the Health Center. This helicopter is provided free of charge by the Army and is available in any kind of weather, day or night. Patients can be picked up at the drill field and flown to the needed medical center. Goswick said the service was used twice last semester involving students with head injuries.

Besides hospital care the student health fee provides as many clinic visits as needed, most diagnostic examinations, all medications available in the pharmacy, X-rays and most laboratory tests.

Student fees provide for only 80 per cent of these services. The other 20 per cent is generated by the hospital, largely by performing physicals for on-campus employment agencies and the military services.

The student Health Center at the University of Texas is a fully accredited medical facility which includes a hospital unit, an out-patient clinic, an operating suite, a laboratory, a pharmacy and physical therapy and radiology department.

Although Texas has 30,000 more students than A&M they have only 11 more beds in their center. Surprisingly with this many potential patients, the monthly average is 15 and the fall peak reached 35, said Dr. Paul Trickett, director of the Student Health Clinic. UT students are covered for fourteen days of hospitalization through student fees.

The Austin facility has the benefit

of a larger staff. Included are twenty-two full time doctors, seven part-time doctors, thirty-five nurses, four X-ray technicians, nine lab technicians, six pharmacists and a number of residential surgeons and specialists.

Out-patient treatments often reach 15,000 a month. Students must make appointments with physicians in person or by telephone. Emergencies can be attended to at any time, said Trickett.

Students at the University of Texas must pay about \$22 each semester for their medical care. This includes a \$15 health fee and a \$4 hospital fee. The remainder comes from the student services fee. Student fees account for 91 per cent of the hospital budget.

Diagnostic X-rays, orthopedic appliances and prescriptions are not covered by the fees. However, students are charged for these items at a discount.

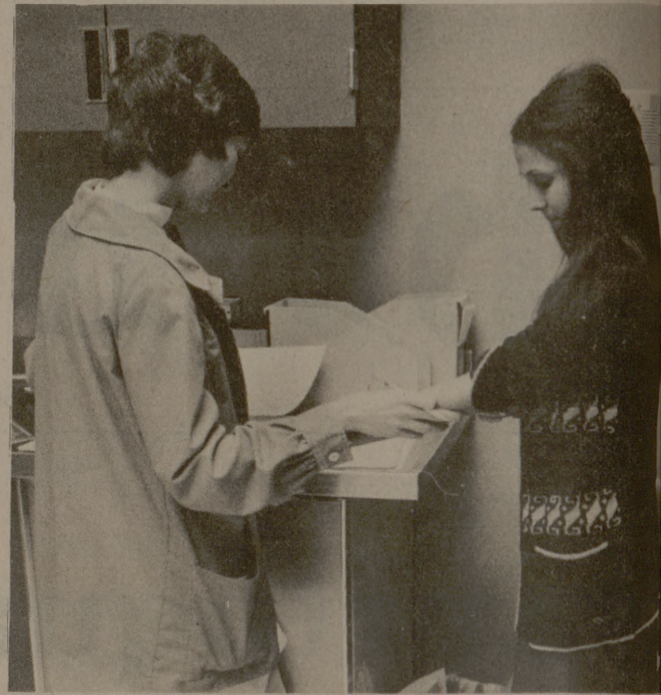
The Texas Tech University School of Medicine operates the Student Health service on its campus. In-patient medical care is not provided for Tech's 22,000 students, said Mrs. Edith M. Cruse, nursing coordinator for the Student Health Service. If hospitalization is needed, one of the local general hospitals is available. The Health Service does have two holding beds for students waiting to be transferred.

Staff at the Tech center involves three full time doctors, one part time doctor and eight nurses. The pharmacy, laboratory, physical therapy and X-ray services are provided by the staff of the medical school. Cases requiring the services of other specialists are referred to the faculty of the Clinical Teaching Facility or to community physicians. These people care for the 8,500 outpatients a month.

The \$9 health fee covers clinical visits, allergy injections (not medications), normal lab work and X-rays. Students must fill their own prescriptions, which can be done at the Health Service pharmacy.



Students wait turns to see a doctor or receive treatment from nurses in Beutel Health Center.



Cheryl Coman receives treatment from Beutel Health Center nurse Mary McDonough.

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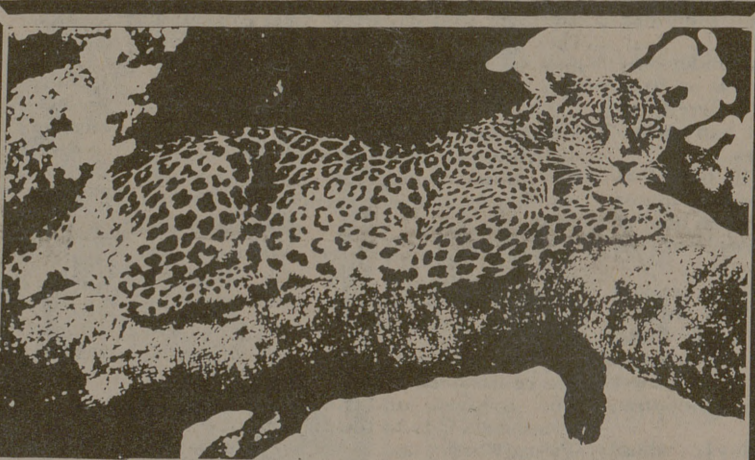
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Panel proposes expansion of A&M employe benefits

Expanded life insurance and vehicle coverage may be in the offing if the administration approves the suggestions of the Personnel Policy and Employee Benefits Committee.

Bruce Miles, associate director of the Texas Forest Service, is chairman of the 27-member advisory committee.

The group suggested that employes have the option to acquire additional life insurance for their dependents.

The proposed option would allow a wife one-half the amount her husband is insured for up to a maximum of \$5,000. The proposal would benefit either spouse employed by A&M.

Under the same plan eligible children could be covered for \$1,000.

The committee also decided that the university should pick up the tab for insuring drivers of university vehicles. Drivers given permission to use a vehicle by an authorized official would be covered under a group policy paid for by the A&M.

The committee discussed the possibility of insuring a driver transporting students on a field trip and de-

cidated that the driver would be covered by the group policy only if in a university vehicle.

If an employee were in his own car, then he would be liable under his family policy.

In additional discussion the committee talked about such improvements as allowing part-time employes to enroll in university insurance policies.

Dental coverage was mentioned as was accidental-death and dismem-

berment coverage for dependents. A suggestion to increase the amount of the Optional Life Insurance also reviewed.

Plans are also being made by the committee to initiate an annual recognition award. At the meeting of the committee, outlines were set, and various types of awards such as pins, certificates and plaques will be reviewed.

Today in history

Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 1976. There are 329 days left in the year.

On this date:
In 1778, France recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1964, Cuba cut off the normal water supply to the

American naval base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Ten years ago, the U.S. States disclosed it had dropped 3,000 tons of bombs on Vietnam in the year since hostilities began.

Five years ago, the Apollo 14 astronauts were preparing to head for home spending more than 30 hours on the moon.

The Battalion

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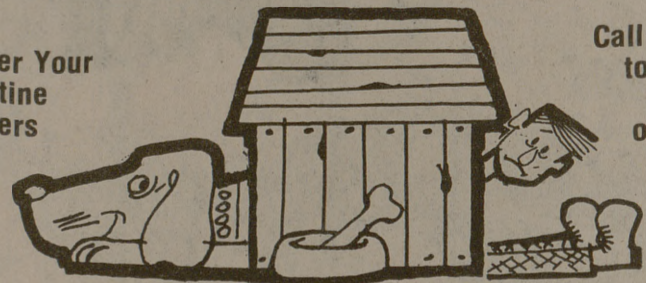
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