

The Battalion

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Mandatory attendance policy deleted

By MARY HARDIN

Bill reinstating the 1975-76 Attendance Policy was introduced to the Student Senate last night by Susan Rudd, vice president for rules and regulations.

The present regulation includes passing that instructors are expected to maintain a record of class attendance and that instructors may include class attendance as a factor in determining a student's grade.

The proposed bill deletes these passages:

"The former nonmandatory attendance policy was in existence for two years,"

Rudd said. "Student Government was not aware that the faculty was not satisfied with it."

Other proposed revisions were: Allowing students with an overall grade point ratio (GPR) of 3.0 or above to take an excess course load without obtaining permission from their dean.

Prohibiting all kitchen appliances in residence halls with the exception of coffee pots, hot pots, popcorn poppers and blenders.

Class officer candidates must have a minimum overall GPR of 2.5.

A bill proposing a division of the execu-

tive branch from the legislative branch of Student Government was introduced by Joe Beall, soph.-Engineering.

Beall also introduced a bill proposing that the Memorial Student Center put up signs asking for protection of the grass surrounding the MSC.

John Oeffinger, Grad.-Liberal Arts, pointed out that only the MSC building is memorialized, not the surrounding grass.

It was also pointed out that most of the students do feel that the grass is a memorial.

Robert Harvey, Sr. - Engineering, presented a bill to repeal the controversial Confidence - No Confidence Resolution on the

basis that it has not been implemented successfully.

The P.E. Revisement bill, introduced by Jeb Hensarling, Undergrad. - off-campus, was passed by the Senate last night.

This bill states that required P.E. may be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

A bill removing one senator from the College of Science because of decreased enrollment and adding one senator to the new College of Medicine was also passed.

The bill was passed despite arguments from Randy Levine, Grad.-Science.

Levine was concerned with the loss of a senator from the College of Science.



A wrench in his plans

Things just weren't going right for Tom Morales and a fellow worker, Maintenance employees, yesterday. The two were installing a street sign in front of the Commons and Morales' partner dropped a wrench. The tool bounced a couple of feet and then dropped into a drainage ditch. The two workers recovered the wrench about 20 minutes later with the help of a student.

Battalion photo by Jim Crawley

Day-care a problem for A&M students

By GLENN WHITLEY

Linda Howard wants to go to Texas A&M University, but she has two small problems. Her sons, Daniel, 2, and Tim, 7.

Tim is old enough for elementary school, but who will care for Daniel while Mommy is in class?

Many students have this problem. Babysitters or daycare centers are answers in many, but they also can cause problems.

"I took Daniel out of a day care center because he was unhappy," Howard said. "They seemed to be specialists in child discipline, not child care."

"Having adequate child care is a prerequisite for my returning to school. I think there's a real need for a cooperatively and creatively run child care center."

ter which would serve university families," she said.

Daniel and Donna Graham hire a babysitter for nine-month-old Brian because day care centers are too expensive. Daniel is an electrical engineering student, and Donna works on campus. They live in a sparsely furnished apartment in married student housing.

Graham said that they spent \$80 per month for a babysitter while the day care center charged \$100 per month.

Is there an alternative for students with children?

One answer is a University child care center.

"A center was set up three years ago but closed in one week due to lack of funds," said Janet Nute, a mother of three who worked a year ago in an effort to revive the center.

She explained that hundreds of forms were filled out by persons interested in the center, indicating a definite need.

Nute quit the volunteer work to care for her own children. Dr. Charles C. Godwin of the Educational Curriculum and Instruction Department yesterday said, "Funds have been sought without success. We applied to foundations and other agencies, but money is not available."

Dr. Godwin couldn't cite the specific amount of money needed, but he said that the Unitarian Fellowship has been chosen as the future location. He also said that renovation must be done to meet required standards.

A doctoral student in Educational Ad-

ministration said that part of the problem was the Student Senate's lack of initiative. David Gardner, 26, was the vice-president for the University of Houston's student government in 1972 when such a center was set up there.

"The school said that there wasn't a real need. So we set one up and funded it to prove there was a need," he said. They used part of the student government's budget of \$100,000, but Gardner couldn't remember how much.

Once the program became successful, the university took control, he said.

Fred McClure, Texas A&M student body president, said he sees a definite need, but that private donors seem to be the only answer to the funding problem.

Briscoe says government to blame for energy crisis

United Press International

DALLAS — Gov. Dolph Briscoe says the federal government is to blame for the natural gas emergency existing in the East, and the only lasting remedy is energy deregulation.

Briscoe, speaking to business leaders yesterday, said federal regulations had created the crisis.

"I hope that the majority of the nation will see that deregulation of new natural gas is the direction we must move," he said. "The natural gas shortage in the East and elsewhere is a most serious national emergency."

"Federal regulation by the Federal Power Commission has resulted in a national disaster of major proportions. The

only way to get more natural gas is for the federal government to get out of the energy business."

Briscoe testified for deregulation last week in Washington. He said President Carter's emergency energy plan was at best a "stop-gap measure."

"We must develop a more long-range energy policy," he said. "We have to work for a national policy for drilling of new natural gas reserves."

Briscoe also said it was time for Texas and other gas producing states to gain the respect due them from the nonproducing states.

"Texans have paid higher prices for their energy, and the result has been active drilling programs in this state that have resulted in adequate supplies of natural gas," he said.

"In the past years we have done our part in supplying the rest of the country with its energy needs. We have done our part even though Texas consumers must pay more than northeastern neighbors."

But Briscoe said in the future his main concern would be protecting Texas consumers.

"I think we now have the right to demand that the other states do their part to help the country meet its energy needs," he said.



Are you sure you'll be okay? ... I'm late for class

David Songer, a graduate student in Agricultural Development, has just been injured by a speeding bicyclist and the bike rider does not seem too concerned. Well, the biker, Mike Sherrill, a senior electrical engineering major, is a friend of Songer

and is shown above while helping the grad student make a film for a documentary film course, Journalism 425. The movie is produced and directed by Songer, who also stars as the innocent victim.

Battalion photo by Tracie Nordheim



Battalion photo by Steve Reis

Setting the rules straight

Susan Rudd, vice president for rules and regulations in the Student Senate, answered questions regarding revisions in the Texas A&M Rules and Regulations handbook last night at the Senate meeting.

Committee to be awarded for professor investigations

By RAY DANIELS

Your professor may be under investigation.

A committee secretly selected by deans and heads of student organizations has been specially assembled for the project.

Those under investigation were reported by their departments heads and peers. Personal data, letters from associates, and even a picture are supplied by the executive committee of their college.

After several meetings, the committee will make a judgement. In May, those selected by the committee will receive Distinguished Achievement Awards sponsored by the Association of Former Students.

A certificate, \$1,000, and a gold watch will be awarded at the faculty convocation in May, as awards in teaching, research, continuing education, student relations and administration.

The selection committee members are

secret so the awards will be a surprise, said Richard "Buck" Weirus. Weirus is the executive director of the Association of Former Students which provides the funds for the awards. The awards are a regularly budgeted item and come from the unrestricted gift fund of the association.

Attendance at the convocation is largely faculty, but student organizations are included in the stage party and the event is open to the public.

Fourteen awards are available in the five areas; the number and type given is up to the committee.

Not all of the awards are always given. Weirus said. "The watch and the stipend are a small part of the award," said Dr. Murray Milford, recipient of a 1972 teaching award. "It's the recognition that is important."

This is the first year that staff and administrators have been considered for the award. A bill passed by Student Senate last semester recommended the addition and Former Students approved the move.

Surplus may be returned to taxpayers

United Press International

AUSTIN, Tex. — The chairman of a House committee conducting hearings on more than \$350 million in proposed tax reductions said legislators should return part of the \$2.9 billion budget surplus to taxpayers.

Rep. Joe Wyatt, D-Victoria, chairman of the House, Ways and Means Committee, said Wednesday he favors abolishing the state sales tax on residential utility bills, and revising the state inheritance tax to allow larger exemptions.

Hearings on two bills dealing with the sales and inheritance tax reductions were scheduled at 2 p.m. today, after most legislators headed home for the weekend.

Wyatt said he hoped his committee could act quickly on a tax reduction bill, so lawmakers would know how much of a projected state revenue surplus would be depleted by the measure.

Exempting residential utility bills from the sales tax as Wyatt proposed would reduce consumers' bills by \$210 million in the next two years, and revising the inheritance tax would reduce the state surplus by an additional \$20 million. A bill by Rep. John Wilson, D-La Grange, abolishing the sales tax on both residential and commercial utility bills would save consumers \$344 million and reduce the projected \$2.9 billion surplus a corresponding amount.

"In view of the surplus and projected revenues, I feel we should return this money to the Texas taxpayers," Wyatt said.

weather

Cloudy and cool with intermittent rain with partial clearing tomorrow afternoon. High today in mid-50s. Low tonight in upper 30s. High tomorrow in low 50s. Winds will be from the northwest at 10-15 m.p.h.