

New M.D. at Health Center

Doctor likes 'efficient clinic'

JEANNINE ATZENHOFFER

The white hands on the clock indicate 5 p.m. at A.P. Health Center, quitting time for 10,000 Texas A&M employees. In smiles, aches, broken bones and swollen joints pay no attention to the time of day.

Seemingly unaware of the time, a tall-framed man with dark curly hair and brown eyes moves quickly among the ailing. His immaculately white lab coat crackles with each movement.

The man is Dr. Phillip Elizondo, newest addition to the health center's staff.

There is something comforting about Elizondo, perhaps it's his careful attire, his tan Earth shoes. Maybe it's the congenial personality that manifests itself in his broad smile.

Elizondo said he has adjusted to life at the health center since arrival on Jan. 3, 1977.

"I just love what I'm doing here. It's what I've been looking for," he said.

Elizondo came to College Station from his home town of Houston. He is enrolled in the University of Houston after completing high school in 2-1/2 years. His undergraduate study was in biology, but only three years he was accepted into the Baylor School of Medicine. Elizondo finished the three-year program at Baylor, and is a general practitioner.

The health center, however, is Elizondo's first job. He worked as a government general practitioner in the rural area around Hempstead. As a temporary em-

ployee for four months, he organized a clinic that is still in operation. He then served in the Harris County Hospital district for nine months.

Elizondo said he worked in three different Houston clinics dealing with hypertensive and diabetic patients. He also did work in gynecology and obstetrics.

In addition to these jobs, Elizondo was a member of the American Academy of Emergency Room Physicians in Houston for two months before arriving here.

Elizondo went back to Baylor for a while with the intention of specializing in family practice.

"I wasn't getting out of it what I wanted, though," he said. After a short time, he quit.

"I've always wanted to do only primary care, not surgery of high-risk (specialized) medicine," he said.

At A&M, Elizondo said he has found time to spend with patients, what he always hoped for.

"I usually get out between 5 to 5:30 p.m. every day. We pace ourselves so we don't have to rush ourselves to death," Elizondo said. Grinning, he added, "We even get our lunch and coffee breaks."

Elizondo was surprised to find the center not as bad as what everyone had told him.

"The public won't believe it, but this is the most efficiently run clinic I've ever seen," he said, "and I've worked at many."

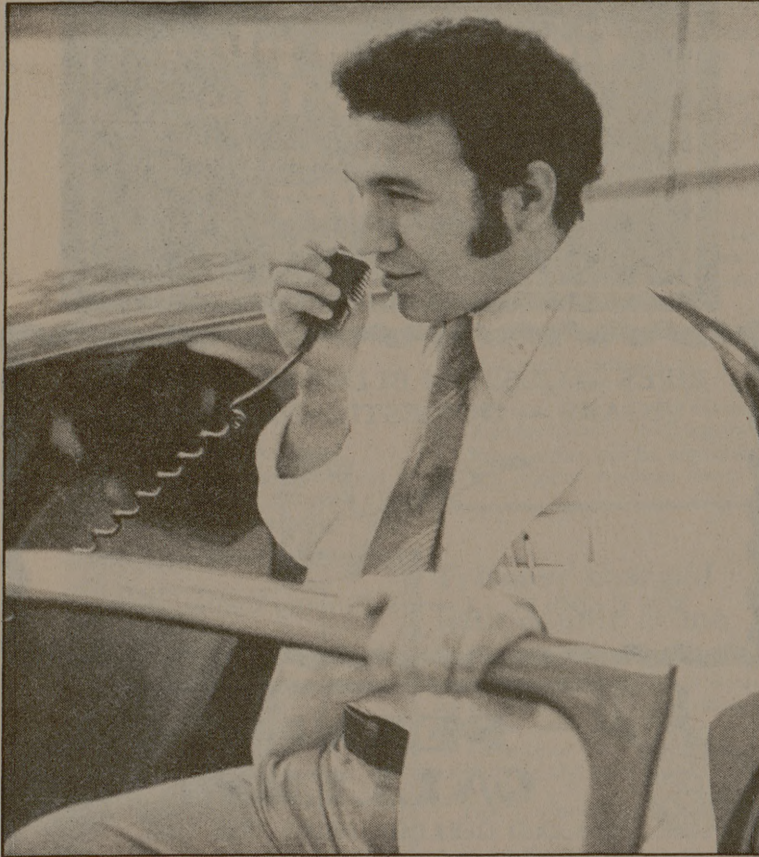
Elizondo said he felt A&M was a very good school to be affiliated with. The friendliness, the closeness of the alumni and the faculty he works with have really impressed him, he said.

"I have to keep remembering I'm an Aggie, not a Cougar (U. of H.) anymore," he said.

Elizondo plans on making "no earthshattering changes" his first few months here, but he would like

to see the center stock more medicines.

Elizondo and his wife, Jeanette have been married for six years. They have a 14-month old daughter, Jennifer.



Dr. Phillip Elizondo

Photo by Steve Reis

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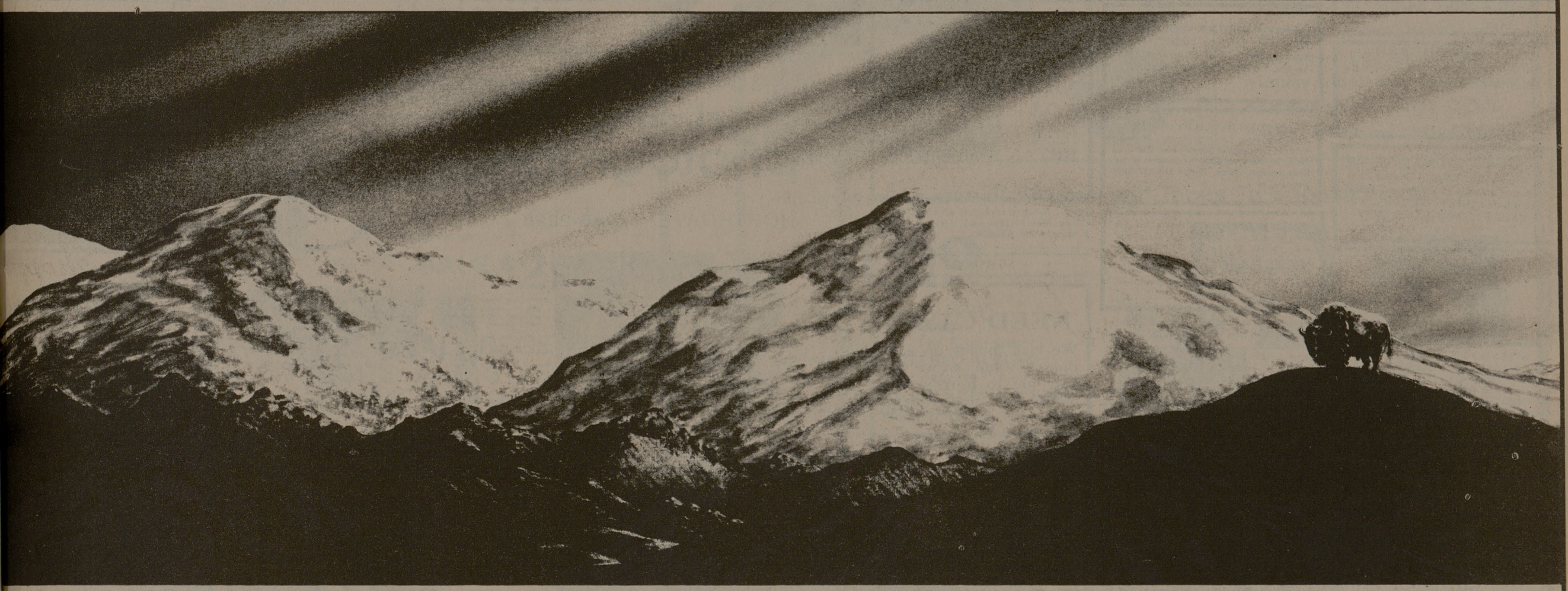
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