

Students prepare for real world

Realistic grading causes failures

By KARIN KNAPP
Some students think their professors are trying to flunk them out. Professors say they are trying to prepare students for the real world. "Rumor got to the Faculty Advisory Committee through the Corps of Engineers," said D. Stolle, associate professor of accounting at Texas A&M University. "We made it clear that this would not be tolerated, but at the same time the faculty implemented a (CPR) certified," he said. Stolle, an undergraduate advisor at the accounting department, said quality has gone up and the quality has gone up with it.

"This has had the apparent effect of increasing the distribution of lower grades in a class," he said. Dr. Larry Pointer, head of the accounting department, said the department is making an effort to grade seriously. "The grading system is not trying to reduce the number of accounting majors," Pointer said. "I think the grading is realistic," he said. Pointer said realistic grading is especially necessary in intermediate accounting courses, such as 327 and 328. "Intermediate accounting separates the sheep from the goats," Pointer said. "This is the first real

accounting course, where students really get into problems," he added. Pointer said the need for accountants is expanding, but stressed that students must be able to do the work well. Prof. Walter S. Manning, associate professor of accounting, said courses must be rigorous so students can compete for jobs. Manning, who has been with Texas A&M for 36 years, said that the difficult courses are paying off for many Aggies, some of whom go on to work for one of the big accounting firms. "We consider A&M to be one of our prime sources of people," Raymond Terrell, an accountant

with Arthur Anderson & Co. in Houston, said. Terrell said Aggies receive a fine background and it is a good thing courses are toughening up. "If somebody's going to go to school and pay money for an education," Terrell said, "then they might as well get the best education possible." Stolle said students should not be allowed to pass through such courses as accounting 327 and 328, as did many students several years ago when teaching assistants taught the courses. This change has benefited students, Stolle said. "It really turns off a firm when grades get too high," Stolle said.

Dr. Ronald A. Schorn, associate professor of physics at Texas A&M, agrees that grade inflation hurts job chances. Schools that let students slide through soon lose credibility with employers, he said. "The idea that everyone should pass is fruitless," Schorn said. "Rum-dumbs don't get hired," he added. Schorn teaches physics 350, which is basic astronomy, a popular elective course. Many students enroll thinking it is an easy course. "It's the hardest snap course here," Schorn said, although he admitted he grades electives easier. He added that few students actually flunk the astronomy course because they Q-drop it or start studying after the first test. Schorn said physics 201, 202, 218 and 219 are supposed to be difficult. If grades are inflated, he said, no one will get jobs because employers know a school's grading reputation. "Students don't realize that employers talk to each other," Schorn said. "An image can be ruined in a very short time: one week," he warned. A&M still has a good image, Schorn said, because grades here are not inflated.

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Nudist resort attracts families

By STEVE MARTAINDALE
There is a lake for canoeing and a stocked for fishing. People are bathing and playing tetherball at the kids are in the playground. At Nudist World they are all naked.
The activities are much the same those at a church picnic except people are nude and not named of their bodies. Jim Chase of the resort he and his wife owned a few weeks ago. Nudist World is located one mile

north of Plantersville (population 212) on F.M. 1774. Plantersville is located in Grimes County, east of Navasota. The resort was officially opened the second weekend in March, but the organization, American Nudist Federation, Inc., is three years old. "My wife and I and our family — we have three kids — formed the club some three years ago while we were in Houston," Chase said. "We and several other families had to

drive some 300 miles to get to a resort. Houston is one of the few large cities in the country that does not have a nudist resort." The 131-acre tract near Plantersville was chosen because of its beauty and seclusion, according to Chase. He said the resort is about half a mile from the road with heavy vegetation separating the two. Chase stressed that the resort is not a "dirty place" where people come to glare at others' bodies. "When a person signs, we make it clear there is absolutely no public sexual contact or discussion. There is no profanity or vulgarity. Here you will hear people apologize for saying 'damn.'"

It is very much a family resort also, according to Chase. Of the approximately 900 members, only about 110 are single. Included are about 350 children, Chase said. The resort also tries to maintain a balance between the single men and women. The most obvious effort at this is evident in membership fees. Single men must pay \$300 for membership

while families get in for \$150 and single women for \$50. "More single men than single women want to join," Chase explained. "And, if there were too many single men, others wouldn't want to bring their wives and families. There are about 58 single men and 52 women here now." The club has gained about 50 members since the resort opened. "Right now we're the fastest growing nudist organization in the country, in spite of the fact we've just opened. But we only had about 200 members a year ago and we're up to about 900 now." He added that although most of the members are from Houston, they are not just big-city folks, and they come from all walks of life. There are also some 20 to 30 members from the Bryan-College Station area, Chase said. The resort does not have the entire community approval, though, according to Chase. "The law is definitely on our side," he said. "What you do on your own property is your business. There were some petitions going around, but they were meaningless since they couldn't do anything. Afterwards, though, we even had some people come and apologize."

drive friendly

Gymnast to jump on Great Pyramid

United Press International
DES MOINES, Iowa — George Nissen, the man who once taught a kangaroo to bounce on a trampoline, is taking his act to Egypt. Nissen, 63, the inventor of the trampoline, and his entourage will go on top of one of the seven wonders of the world — the Great Pyramid at Giza.

latest project was laid 150 years ago, when Napoleon Bonaparte had the pointed top of the pyramid blown off, leaving the top level and square — about 30-by-30 feet, a perfect platform for a trampoline. Nissen invented the trampoline in 1937 and turned his brainstrom into a highly profitable business. He now runs Nissen Corp. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which last year sold \$15 million worth of gymnastics equipment.

When you get a reputation of being a screwball you have to do something kind of screwball to keep your reputation," said Nissen, who cited his reputation in part by training a kangaroo in the art of the trampoline. The groundwork for Nissen's solar dryer for only \$3.50

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DAVIS, Calif. — Patricia McCormick is selling a "solar" clothes dryer for \$3.50. It comes strapped in a six-sided box decorated with a smiling sun. Inside are 5 feet of rope and 15 clothes pins.

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