

Equal education available for handicapped students

By CATHY BREWER
If you offered a seven-flarb bill for article that cost four flarbs, eight flarbs, and three flibs, what would be your change in terms of flarbs, flarbs, and flibs?
Community Education Director Charles Greenawalt gave members the A&M Consolidated school board just three minutes to complete this exercise Tuesday night at the board meeting.
Given that 13 flibs equals 2 flarbs and 21 flarbs equals 2 flarbs, the exercise proved difficult for board members.
"You're probably all sitting there thinking you're the only one who doesn't know what is going on," said Greenawalt. "Magnify this situation that of a child with a learning problem sitting in a room of 30 people. Think of the frustration such as child would have when he sees everyone passing him up."
The purpose of this exercise was to introduce public law 94-142, a law assuring all handicapped children a free appropriate public education. The law emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet the needs of handicapped children.
The Special Services staff, an organization created to help better educational opportunities for the handicapped, presented a visual oral explanation of law 94-142 to the school board members.
"We are here tonight to show the members of our school district just what we can and cannot do under this law to achieve a better education for the handicapped," said Margaret W. Dotson, Special Services diagnostician.
Phyllis A. Perkins, supervisor of

Special Services, said the law was a result of several committee findings:
1. There are more than 8 million handicapped children in the U.S.
2. Special education needs of children were not being met.
3. More than 50 per cent of handicapped children were not receiving full equality of educational opportunity.
4. One million handicapped children were excluded from any type of education.
5. Many handicapped children in regular classes were not being identified as being in need of special help.
The law requires that all handicapped students from the age of 3 to 21 be served in the least restrictive educational environment possible. That is, they will be educated with non-handicapped children as long as possible.
Under the law, all students in need of Special Education must be identified, located and evaluated to determine educational placement of the child.
The state assures that non-discriminatory testing practices will be used. Culturally biased tests are not considered valid.
Parents of the child must be able to examine the records of identification, evaluation and placement. If parents complain about the evaluation or placement, the law provides them with an opportunity for an impartial due process hearing.
In order to be placed in Special Services, the child must first be screened by the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee. It is composed of three members who represent the areas of administra-

tion, instruction appraisal and special education.
The total appraisal process consists of an evaluation of data received from the child's special teachers, diagnostician, speech therapist, nurse, counselor, reading specialist and school principal.
If the pupil meets the eligibility criteria, the committee then develops an appropriate instructional plan for the child.
The child's placement is determined in accordance with criteria established by the U.S. Commissioner of Education.
"Our philosophy is to accept every child as he is," Perkins said. "We strive to assist them so they can achieve an education like any other child. Just like a plant needs soil, water and sunshine to grow, likewise a child needs security, affection and freedom in order to lead a happy, well-nourished life."
The law, adopted in 1975, will not be fully effective until fiscal year 1978.

Beaked fish has mouth like gun

United Press International
The beaked chaetodon, a fish, has an elongated muzzle that works like a gun to shoot and stun insects, using drops of water as bullets.

Top of the News

Campus

THE FRISBEE CLUB of Texas A&M is hosting the first annual A&M Invitational Frisbee Championship Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the park area by the ski slope. The event is cosponsored by the MSC Recreation Committee, and will include frisbee golf; distance; maximum time in the air; accuracy; throw run and catch; and freestyle.

HOUSING DIRECTOR Glenn Jennings has resigned from his post to work with Farm Bureau insurance in Center, Tex.

MAY GRADUATES should begin picking up graduation announcement orders Monday at the Student Programs Office, MSC 216A between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Extra announcements will go on sale Thursday and will be purchased on a first come, first served basis at the Student Finance Center, MSC 217, which is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Texas

EIGHT BODIES have been recovered from the remains of

the Central Hotel in Galveston, destroyed by a pre-dawn flash fire Tuesday. Authorities had planned to continue the search yesterday, but the rain prevented it. More than a dozen people remain missing.

BEER may be purchased in seven-and 16-ounce containers under a bill senators have tentatively approved, despite vociferous opposition from Texas breweries, who say the bill will help national breweries crowd Pearl, Lone Star and Shiner beer off grocery store shelves.

EAST TEXAS District Attorney Billy Ray Green, who was arrested in a peep show booth with another man, plans to appeal his conviction for public lewdness.

ALONG THE BORDER of Texas and Mexico state and federal officers yesterday arrested 24 of 62 suspected drug traffickers in Starr County, known as one of the poorest counties in the nation.

A NEW TRIAL has been ordered for Smiley Miller, who was sentenced to life in prison for

murder. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled prosecutors improperly impeached the testimony of Miller. The state cited previous convictions, and Miller says they were too remote to be used against him.

National

A SHERIFF of Baton Rouge says he has enough evidence now to convict the former head of the Shreveport, La., police, charged with paying \$30,000 for the shotgun murder of an advertising executive.

THE CHAIRMAN of the board of AT&T claims the company's record quarterly earnings show the nation is pulling out of an economic slump. First quarter 1977 earnings of \$1.70 per share are up 31 cents from the same period last year.

POLICE SAY in Indianapolis that Melvin Carr used his garage and automobile fumes as a gas chamber to kill three people yesterday, but the fumes also killed him when he returned to check

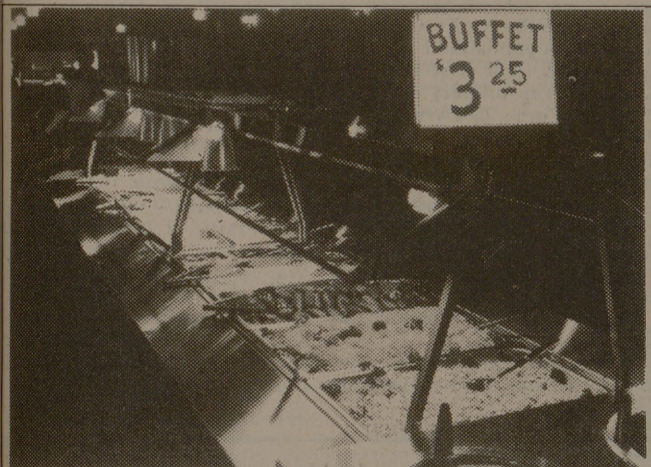
on his victims. Carr, 62, had a long police record, police said.

CLAUDINE LONGET, 36, began serving her 30-day jail sentence on Monday for the shooting death of her lover. She will spend the time in a 14-by-16-foot cell which is painted yellow and has graffiti scrawled across the walls.

World

IN OSHAKATI, South West Africa, Jannie De Wet, commissioner-general, said the Onamulenga mission school yesterday was surrounded by guerrillas, who abducted 126 school children and staff members of the mission. Officials said 30 members of the South West African Peoples Organization, herded most of them across the border into Angola.

FOUR Central American governments have urged El Salvador to release 37 prisoners in exchange for the life of Foreign Minister Mauricio Borjonovo Pohl, kidnapped Tuesday by leftist terrorists. Costa Rica offered to give political asylum to the 37, jailed for alleged political crimes.



OUR BUFFET FEATURES: barbeque chicken, sausage and beef; potato salad, bean salad and cole slaw; corn on the cob, red beans and green beans; Texas toast and cornbread; pickles, onions and relish.

3C BAR-B-Q

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Now comes Miller time.

