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Lutheran Mission

Meeting:
**A&M Consolidated
H.S. Cafeteria (F.M. 2818)**

9:30 a.m. Study (Students, Adults, Children)
10:30 a.m. Worship (Youth-Led Folk Service)
Coffee & Fellowship

A small personal fellowship for students, families and individuals who seek personal involvement in the ministry and life of the church. Join us. Stan Sultemeier, mission pastor. 846-6016, 693-1047.

abc INTERSTATE Theatres
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PG

CINEMA II Starts FRIDAY!

OPEN 7:00
FRI. 7:25 9:50
SAT-SUN. 2:30 5:00 7:25 9:50

NUREYEV
is **VALENTINO**

A ROBERT CHARTOFF-IRWIN WINKLER Production
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MICHELLE PHILLIPS and CAROL KANE
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Directed by KEN RUSSELL
Produced by IRWIN WINKLER and ROBERT CHARTOFF

COMING SOON!
"YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE" (PG)
The Song is now the Movie.

In-building accessibility still problem

Wheelchair obstacles decrease

By ROBIN LINN

It is difficult for most students to think of a four inch street curb as a barrier preventing them from getting to class, but it is for Janie Ducote. So are door handles and lab tables.

Ducote is confined to a wheelchair and is one of approximately 200 handicapped students attending Texas A&M University. She is a graduate student in wildlife and fisheries science and was the first Aggie to graduate in a wheelchair.

When Ducote applied for admission to A&M in 1974, there were many of these types of physical barriers on campus. Few of the existing curbs were graded with "curb cuts" to make sidewalks accessible to wheelchairs. Special bathroom facilities were almost nonexistent.

A&M had been studying and removing physical barriers gradually since 1970 before section 504 of the rehabilitation act was passed in the summer of 1977. Section 504 forbids discrimination against the handicapped, and requires that physical

barriers be removed and that "programs" be made accessible. "Program" translates into "class" and section 504 gives examples of what "program accessibility" is.

"It is meaningless to admit a handicapped person in a wheelchair to a program if the program is offered only on the third floor of a walk up building," states 504.

Ducote had to face this type of problem every time she registered for classes. "It was really difficult because my advisor had to call the registration officer and find out where my classes were," she said. "If they were in an inaccessible building, I had to take the class next semester or try to get the class location changed."

Cindy Irby, A&M's affirmative action officer deals with all types of discrimination. Presently committees are meeting on different sections of 504 to determine what A&M needs to do to comply with the bill.

Irby said that interpretation is a problem and that because areas of the bill are vague, schools often ask for clarification. She added that there is vagueness as to what offering all classes in an accessible area means.

Don Gardner, campus representative for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission said there are presently 40 buildings on campus that are accessible to handicapped students. But he added that the definition of accessibility can vary from building to building.

For example, "Accessibility" for Ducote to the MSC bookstore meant entering through the back of the building's freight entrance, into a service elevator, through the bookstore storeroom to reach the front of the store to buy her books.

In 1974 an elevator was constructed to connect the main floor with the basement, but turnstiles at

the entrance of the bookstore still blocked Ducote's way. One of the turnstiles was removed for wheelchair access.

But buying the necessary equipment may be costly.

For example, a wheelchair lift like the one in the chemistry building cost around \$5,000. "The University has always found the money, there are no problems with obtaining funds for a worthwhile program," Gardner said.

Curb cuts are the easiest and cheapest type of improvement to install. Curb cuts were included in the sidewalk plans for the plant sciences building, Gardner said. Gardner added that there are presently some problems getting to existing buildings.

"I had classes in Zachry and had to wheel down the street for the first two years because there were no curb cuts," Ducote said. Gardner noted that the curb cuts to Zachry haven't been completed yet but should be done within the next two weeks.

Another problem Ducote confronted was getting to the Oceanography building. Again there were no curb cuts. "They had this nice accessible building and you couldn't get to it because there were no curb cuts," she said.

Gardner said that most of these types of problems had been solved, and the biggest problem is now internal accessibility. Many lab tables which are at normal heights are too high for students in wheelchairs.

"One of the fallacies of the law is that you can get into the building but you can't use the classroom," Gardner said. Gardner said he felt people should stop thinking of handicapped students as half-people.

"Around 80 percent of our handicapped graduates interview with the placement office and get jobs,"



Janie Ducote

Gardner said. When Ducote finishes her requirements for her master's degree she will go to work as a museum specialist in charge of the natural history collection at the Corpus Christi museum.

What would Ducote have done she wanted to go to school at A&M in 1969? "I don't know. I guess wouldn't have been able to school here," she said.

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Will it rain, snow or hail? weather radio will answer

Complete 24-hour weather information will be available to Bryan-College Station area residents for the first time next spring.

A broadcast station, recently approved by the National Weather Service (NWS), will broadcast at 162 MHz with a 40 to 50 mile range, said Doyle Casey, official in charge of the NWS office in Waco. It will be located in College Station and will provide weather warnings, and routine marine, agricultural and weather forecasts.

"The station has been approved by the NWS and efforts are under way to build it," said Jake Canglose, Brazos County Civil Defense director and chairman. He said an exact construction site and completion date have not been determined, but the antenna should start going up sometime after January.

"Routine broadcasts will be put on tape by the Waco weather service and transmitted by phone to the broadcast station," Canglose said. "The tapes will be updated every hour, but at any time they can break into the tape and issue warnings."

"We will pre-empt regular broadcasts in times of severe weather," Casey said. "Hail, heavy rains and high winds are examples of severe weather."

"The NWS has transferred the responsibility for disseminating weather warnings in Brazos, Leon, Madison and Robertson counties from the Houston office to the Waco office, he said. The switch became effective last Tuesday.

"We took a survey of the area and found out that more of the people were listening to and watching Waco stations than Houston," Casey said. "Fewer people were paying attention to Houston stations because Houston is so far away. Since we rely on radio and television to get the information to the public, we felt that we could get more to the public if we put it on stations they were listening to and watching."

Casey said the transferred responsibility had a slight effect on College Station's broadcast stations.

"The Waco NWS weather radio has a 280-mile range.

"The radar covers College Station well," Casey said. "It will even pick up light weather in that area."

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The film in its intensesness makes demands on the audience. It goes beyond the simple ideas of assessing guilt; and allows the mysteries of human behavior to remain mysteries.

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