THE BATTALION Page 5

## Students in understaffed field

care medicine is an un-Medicine at Texas A&M is prepar-ing its students to enter the field and fill this need, said acting Dean Dr. Elvin Smith recently.

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The medical school is holding classes for the first time this fall. "Our goal at the college is to produce at the end of four years a highly trained and qualified undiffrentiated physician," Smith said. "We want to try to help correct the maldistribution and specialty choice problems of physicians.

Smith said many medical special-ties are overcrowded , so the A&M curriculum exposes students to pri-mary care fields. These include family practice, pediatrics, general internal medicine and obstetrics-gynecology. More doctors are eded in these fields.

"The curriculum allows them to pecialize in any direction they want, but we hope to persuade them to consider family practice or another primary care area," Smith

Through all four years of medical school, the A&M students are in-volved with physicians in private trol offic plus the of anim and small group practices in rural areas, he said. One afternoon each week during their second year, the rector R M Cent students visit and learn in offices of

general practioners within a 40-mile adius of College Station. "In the fourth year they spend tress Ca four weeks in selected primary care physicians' offices all over Texas," sad Smith. "This gives them first n Wils onio Cit en the ime of making career decisions." Good Mu The students at the college were selected in part for their high prob-ability of going into non-urban, pri-mary care medicine, he added. ope, who is the Pet Foo

All of the 32 members of this fall's reshman class attended A&M at College Station, with the exception of one student from Tarleton State University. Only two of the students completed four years of college; 16 finished three years and 14 finished

only two years. "We're very selective with our

## Med students must pay back state cost

United Press International WORCESTER, Mass.— The University of Massachusetts Medial School, unlike any other medical school in the nation, will begin requiring all graduates to pay back or work off what it costs the state for their education

Trustees will consider on Dec. 7 how much money must be repaid or what length of service will be required. Unlike other repayment programs, the rule applies to everyone, not just scholarship stu-

The Legislature included the re-quirement in the college's 1978 budget. Carol Cohen, public infor-mation officer for the medical school, said the school was not consulted. The rule becomes effective with members of the September 1978 freshman class after they complete their internship and resi-

two-year students-we want mature of the most cherished residencies in lerstaffed field, but the College of students, only the very best," Smith Texas

> with the exception of total semester and credit hours," he continued. "For a student to finish the A&M prerequisites well enough to be ad-mitted to the school, they must be bright and highly motivated."

years of college is an attempt to shorten the time spent on a medical shorten the time spent on a medical they've waited so long to teach." Most of the 32 full-time faculty areducation, Smith said.

represents too long a time to edu-cate a physician," he said. That's only to get the M.D. There's still an the lecture rooms, laboratories

A&M feels the bulk of medical knowledge prohibits students from ter and 30 student housing units

hours a day, five days a week at the be one of the only in the nation to school, Smith said. The laboratories get started because of a nationwide Smith said.

we've got to retain this information. by science of the set of the being an undergrad, said Smith. "This gives them first hand experience from their entrance to medical school to the being an undergrad, this test tonight and then I can forget it."

ing some trouble finding residen- curriculum, the faculty and the cies. But we'll be doing our residen-cies at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, and that's one association with the Veterans Ad-

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Most of the students feel lucky to be at A&M's school, Hodges said, stressed that A&M's connection especially because they are the first

"I feel lucky to have come along at the right time to get into med school here," he said. "I turned down here, other schools. Here I'm getting Admitting students after two extra training. And all the professors are putting forth extra effort because

"Some people think eight years and summer of 1975, Smith said.

only to get the M.D. There's still an extra three years for residency. "Some medical schools try to cut down on medical education, but dent Health Center. A student cendoing that. We attempt to shorten the preparatory time in college in-stead," Smith said. Students spend almost eight

are open at night and the students feeling that the present number of are expected to use them then, medical schools is not sufficient to provide the doctors needed, Smith

Smith said. The students have found the pace to be hectic, John Hodges, freshman class president, said. "Everyone's been able to adjust so far, "Hodges said. "There's a lot of material, but we realize that the Association of American Medical Colleges Liaison Committee on Medical Education. The school now

forget it.They don't grant provisional ac-<br/>creditation unless they know a<br/>uneasy, but not worried, about<br/>being the first class at a new medical<br/>school.They don't grant provisional ac-<br/>creditation unless they know a<br/>school is good," he said. "In fact,<br/>A&M will be checked after the first<br/>class completes two years. Nor-<br/>mally, medical schools are checked<br/>every year. The committee was very<br/>impressed with the quality of the<br/>curriculum the faculty and the

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ministration, Scott and White Memorial Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine. However, Smith with Baylor is one of cooperation only

"Medical students from A&M will get their degrees totally from A&M," he said.

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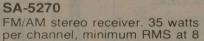
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