

# Students facing grade inflation

United Press International  
ARLINGTON — Students attending college this year may well find themselves getting higher marks, not necessarily because they deserve them. Grades, like just about anything else, are being affected by inflation.

"It's to the point that the old 'Gentlemen's C' is more like a B-plus," said Dr. David Bromley, of the University of Texas at Arlington's sociology faculty.

Bromley, Dr. Mary Lynn Crow of UTA's Faculty Development Resource Center and Martha Gibson, student in UTA's Graduate School of Social Work, wrote an article for a recent issue of Phi Delta Kappan entitled "Grade Inflation: Trends, Causes and Implications."

Simply stated, they say the grade point average for college students these days is far higher than in years past.

Statistically, they found: —Far fewer students are going to flunk out;

—Far more are going to graduate with honors;

—Far fewer are going to make less than a B in their coursework.

Bromley said the reason for grade inflation is not so much a matter of faculty members getting easier as a basic structural change in American higher education.

He said he noticed grade inflation while studying grade differences in normative subjects such as English, liberal arts and humanities, and utilitarian subjects like math, science and engineering. He found that grades were rising steadily in both categories. In a survey of 33 Texas colleges and universities, he found that the number of honor graduates had gone from 10.8 percent in 1960 to 18.8 percent in 1975.

In a questionnaire to the schools, Bromley said most registrars blamed faculty permissiveness as the major reason for higher grades. They blamed that permissiveness on the faculty members' dependence

on the institution for his job, budgetary pressures to keep more students in school, reaction to student evaluation of teaching performance and reduced expectations of student performance.

The second most frequently listed cause was changing student. Some registrars said students were getting better and so there were more A's and B's. But the rest said students were of a lower quality now and so schools lowered their standards.

Listed third were various types of rules changes, such as later withdrawal dates, pass-fail courses and rules eliminating low grades for a course when that course is repeated.

Bromley said the concept of higher education has changed radically since a few decades ago when college was open to only an elite few. The concept now, he said, is

that everyone ought to have a chance to attend college, and that factor contributes to grade inflation at the high school level. The same attitude affects higher grades in college, he said.

"The only potential problem," he said, "is that if everybody gets A's, the principle of selectivity will be affected. How would graduate schools know who to admit?"

"And the students get restless. They lose their reference. They begin to wonder, 'If I'm getting all A's and the guy next to me is getting all A's, how am I going to distinguish myself?' And the grades begin to lose their motivating power."

Bromley said he discovered in his surveys some schools already are taking corrective actions.

"It appears that the reaction to grade inflation is a grade depression," he said.

**Battalion Classified Call 845-2611**

# CAMPUS NAMES

## Maxson acting head

Dr. Carlton J. Maxson has been named acting department head of mathematics at Texas A&M University.

Maxson came to Texas A&M in 1969 and will replace Dr. George R. Blakley who is returning to fulltime teaching and research. Maxson achieved rank of professor in 1977 and was assistant dean in the College of Science.

Maxson earned his B.S. degree in 1958 from State University of New York-Albany and his M.A. three years later from the University of Illinois. He received his Ph.D. in 1967 from SUNY-Buffalo.

## Landscape awarded

Texas A&M University's master landscape development plan has been awarded the highest honor presented by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).

The ASLA "Special Award," the highest the society extends to professional projects, was presented to Myrick-Newman-Dahlberg Inc. of Dallas, the principal landscape architecture firm.

The two-year, \$5 million project, involving four landscaping firms, the Texas A&M Facilities Planning Department and six areas of the university campus, was completed in 1976 for the centennial celebration.

The goal of the plan was to develop a landscape design which would look well and unify the overall campus through consistent landscape detailing," said Paul Stephens, manager of Texas A&M's Facilities Planning Division.

"It encompassed many types of landscape design, including the planting of trees, the construction

of berms, a fence, fountains and university signs," he said. "New open air malls were built, walkways and lighting were added."

## Faculty praised

Texas A&M University's College of Business Administration has named its outstanding teacher and researcher for the academic year.

Dr. Robert Anderson of the Business Analysis and Research department was named the college's outstanding teacher. Dr. Donald Fraser of the Finance Department received the award for outstanding research.

"Dr. Fraser's work has primarily involved research problems ranging from bank structure to the management of banks and holding companies," said Dean John E. Pearson who made the presentations. "His award is for five years of excellent and outstanding research."

Pearson said that Anderson is a new member to the college's faculty. Anderson joined the business administration faculty last year after teaching computing science in the Industrial Engineering Department at Texas A&M.

## Loan accepts post

Dr. Raymond W. Loan, head of veterinary microbiology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, will assume duties Sept. 1 as associate dean for research at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dean George C. Shelton of Texas A&M announced Loan's appointment to the post formerly held by Dr. Neville P. Clarke, now director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Loan, who holds degrees from

Washington State University and Purdue University, came to Texas A&M with a strong background in teaching and research, Shelton said.

He has been recipient of over half million dollars in grants from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Agriculture and other sources.

At Missouri-Columbia, Loan was professor and chairman of veterinary microbiology and served on several committees at graduate level activities. He began teaching at Purdue and joined the Missouri-Columbia faculty in 1961.

He has won the Norden Outstanding Teaching Award, the Carnegie Award for Outstanding Leadership and served as advisor to the nationwide Student Chapter, American Veterinary Medical Association.

Loan is a member of Phi Zeta Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, AAAS and the U.S. Animal Health Association.

## Fletcher joins staff

The former superintendent of the Montgomery, Ala., Parks and Recreation Department has joined the faculty of Texas A&M University.

Dr. Leslie Reid, head of the Recreation and Parks Department, announced the appointment of Dr. James E. Fletcher, assistant professor. Fletcher will be teaching and conducting research involving park management, safety, vandalism, maintenance, law enforcement and visitor services.

Fletcher received a park administration degree from Texas A&M in 1973, a master's degree from Texas Tech University and a doctorate from Michigan State University.

## Rebuking 'in the name of Jesus'

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A woman told police her faith in God gave her the strength to resist a robber who threatened her life and stole \$900 from her church.

"I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," Mrs. Austin Boyett told the robber, police said. "That's what they taught us in church."

The man threatened to kill the Mrs. Boyett, the church treasurer,

if she refused to turn over the money Monday in a bank parking lot.

Instead of killing her, the young robber hit her in the mouth, grabbed the money bag and fled as an off-duty police officer chased him. The man got away, but three youths were captured moments later.

Mrs. Boyett said she was about to deposit the money for the Westfield Full Gospel Church when the gun-

man and a companion approached her.

"We argued a little while," she said. "I just told him he can't have it and he told me he would shoot and I told him, 'No you're not. I rebuke you in the name of Jesus.'"

The money was for a payment to the congregation's new building.

## Faith helps woman resist robber

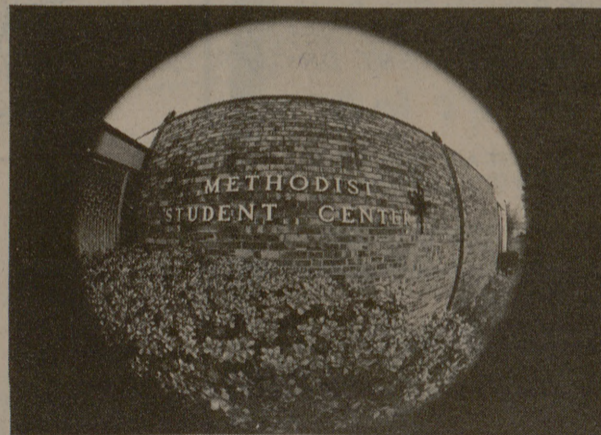
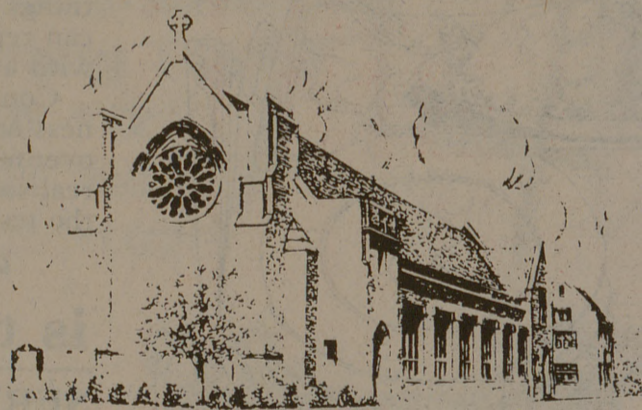
# THE A&M UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SERVING TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

BOB E. WATERS  
PARISH MINISTER

W. C. HALL, JR.  
CAMPUS MINISTER

ROY B. SHILLING  
EVANGELISM MINISTER



8:30 & 10:50 - MORNING WORSHIP  
9:40 - CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

6:00 - WESLEY SUPPER  
7:00 - WESLEY VESPERS

8:00 - RECREATION  
EACH SUNDAY

The A&M United Methodist Parish includes both A&M United Methodist Church and the student program — Wesley Foundation at A&M.

The A&M Methodist Church is a great and warm church, fully ready to serve you and meet your needs. It welcomes students to become a part of the total life of the church and would welcome your membership, either full or affiliate.

The Wesley Foundation is the student program of the A&M United Methodist Church. Wesley is a community of Christian concern where students may grow in faith, gain support and leadership ability, and build priorities and principles for life.

Wesley programs include worship, study, service, outreach, recreation, and student aid.

At the M.S.C. Open House, Wesley will have a booth, so come by. Then on Sunday morning, August 27, meet us at the All Faiths Chapel at 9:30 for an introduction to our program & upper classmen.

Sunday evening at 7 p.m. we will host a pie supper at the church. Come meet us.

**A&M UNITED METHODIST CHURCH — 417 UNIVERSITY • WESLEY FOUNDATION — TAUBER STREET**

# A&M WESLEY FOUNDATION

