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M.A.D.

Are there any good Republicans in Texas? Calvin Guest, Texas Chairman of the Democratic party doesn't think so. Check it out on page 8.

## Classes feeling freshman crush

By LIZ NEWLIN  
Battalion Campus Editor

Freshman crush descended upon Texas A&M University this fall. About 300 freshmen no one expected showed up, and several departments are feeling the pressure.

The plan for extra freshman visiting in chemistry 101 classes is simple: in case of all students on the floor lie flat.

Dr. Rod O'Connor, director of the chemistry program, says extra students in his class have another advantage.

"When I'm down there lecturing, they remind me like an ant hill. When one asks me a question, he doesn't have to raise his hand. Instead, he just pulls on my sweater leg."

Dr. O'Connor said the "squeeze" always happens during the second year of the engineering biennium, when enrollment increases but funds do not.

Other departments that normally serve first-year students also are feeling the pressure in the Class of '82, the largest freshman class ever.

The English Department added 10 sections of English 103 and increased the enrollment in all the other sections by one student.

Dr. David Stewart, department head, said he learned of the extra students over the summer and started planning the department, but it wasn't until Monday.

Monday many freshmen found their English 103 classes were "closed." Most freshmen are required to take the composition and literature course, and many of them were very frustrated when they found they couldn't take it, he said. So were their advisers, he added.

"I was afraid that there would be freshmen who couldn't take 103," Stewart said. By Wednesday, however, enough

people had dropped the course that all the freshmen who needed the class got it.

More sections also were added in freshman courses in biology, math, educational psychology and environmental design graphics. Political Science 205 and 206, generally sophomore classes, also added some sections.

Dr. Keith Bryant, department head in history, said he has plenty of space in History 105.

"I guessed pretty high," he said. "It was just an estimate and we managed."

Dr. Carlton Maxson, acting head of mathematics, said all freshmen who needed the courses have been placed in the now-larger sections.

The most spectacular jump in enrollment was in Math 103, trigonometry. Maxson said 48 percent more students are taking it this fall than last. He said he didn't know the reason for the rise, except that maybe students feel they are weak in trig and want the review before taking calculus.

Dr. Ned Walton, assistant dean for the College of Engineering, said most of the engineering students take Math 150 to review trig and algebra, but some of the increase in Math 103 may be due to freshman engineers.

This summer at freshman conferences, new math tests were given to all students to determine if they needed to strengthen their math skills.

John Greer, environmental design department head, said four sections have been added in environmental design graphics, a course most engineering and pre-architecture students must take.

"I need more teachers," he said, "which I'm trying to get." All students who needed the course are in it.

Some sections also have been added in Biology 113.

"We've been expanding," said Dr. Marlene Churchwell, assistant professor of biology. The department scheduled every possible lab time before school started and has been opening the sections as needed, she said. "The projections we had were very close."



Battalion photo by Mark Benson

### Handle with care

Demonstrating the Shorin Ryu Style of Karate, Jimmy Kiebler (left) and Ed Crawford perform the Yaki Soku — an Okinawan training exercise. The two, both 3-year yellow belts in the sport, rehearsed additional exercises in demonstrations earlier this week in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The club meets three times a week and invites everyone to join, "especially women."

## 'Night of Power'

# Moslems celebrate holiday

By ANDY WILLIAMS  
Battalion Staff

Sixteen people at Texas A&M University joined the rest of the world's 700 million Moslems Thursday in celebrating a night of peace and security.

The group met in Rudder Tower for a religious service in the "Night of Power," an evening the Moslem holy book, the Koran, says is "better than a thousand months."

The evening commemorates the date the first section of the holy book was given the prophet Mohammad by Allah. The group is finishing observance of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic year. Adviser of the Moslem Student Organization Dr. Abdel Ayoub says that throughout the month, Moslems who are sick, members of the armed forces, or children abstain from "intakes of any kind" during the daylight hours. He said this includes water and tobacco as well as food.

After a reading in Arabic from the Koran, Ayoub reminded the congregation that the night represented the light of Allah coming to man to eradicate the "darkness of ignorance."

Ayoub asked the students in the audience to remember as the semester begins that "Islam is work" and "work is worship."

For the benefit of non-Moslem observers, Ayoub explained that Moslem is not alien to the predominant faiths of America, Christianity and Judaism. "We believe these are three evolutionary stages of the same religion."

He said that Judaism had served to lay down the "basic laws"; Christianity had provided one who led an ideal existence and taught men to love each other; and that Mohammad had clarified and made more detailed the laws of the first two beliefs.

"They were there, and they did their

part," Ayoub said of Moses and Jesus.

Dr. Mir Khan of the research staff in the Soils and Crop Sciences departments warned the audience of judgment day in another sermon.

"A day will come when we will all be accounted for," Khan said. Their worthiness will be judged on the quality of their performance of the five pillars, he told them.

The five pillars of Islam, Ayoub said, include openly expressing a belief in God as One and Mohammad as his prophet; making the prescribed prayers each day, done in five sessions; observing the fast of Ramadan; giving alms; and, if a Moslem can afford it without causing undue discomfort to himself or his family, making a pilgrimage to Mecca (a Hajj).

He explained that the prayers consist of a certain series of positions, a "rakha," during which the worshipper recites from the Koran while standing, bowing, standing,

knocking, and standing again. They are always performed while facing the city of Mecca.

After a brief debate over which direction Mecca lay in, the men in the congregation concluded the service with a group prayer, called a "jama'a." Ayoub explained that the three women present did not join them because it was necessary to perform the ritual washings of the body before prayer, and that it would have been impractical for them to do this while taking care of their small children.



Battalion photo by Ben Po



Two Moslem women (above) await the finish of prayers at religious services held in the Rudder Tower last night. At right, Amer Sheikh recites from the Moslem holy book, the Koran, as he faces Mecca. The group was celebrating the "Night of Power," remembering the occasion Allah gave the

first verse of the Koran to Mohammad. The women would have participated in the prayer if they had not had children to watch. A daytime fast which Moslems have observed throughout the month will be broken early next week when the crescent of the new moon is sighted.

## Nicaragua near open civil war

United Press International

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Youthful anti-government rebels set off homemade explosives, hurled firebombs and took potshots at national guardsmen, adding to the civil war atmosphere across Nicaragua Thursday.

As the fighting spread, a general strike called by businessmen seeking Somoza's ouster grew in strength. Airline employees in Managua, including Pan American, voted to begin a walkout today that could shut down the international airport.

At least 25 bomb blasts shook the capital city of Managua Wednesday night, and national guardsmen under the control of President Anastasio Somoza Debayle were pelted with firebombs.

In Masaya, about 20 miles from the capital, snipers opened fire on patrolling guardsmen, injuring at least one.

A band of 500 armed rebels, most of them students, occupied two-thirds of the city of Matagalpa Wednesday and held government troops at bay with homemade bombs.

At least five people were killed in a battle Tuesday night and Wednesday between poorly armed anti-government forces and guardsmen equipped with machine guns, mortars and helicopter gunships.

But residents of the city of 50,000 said the toll was much higher, judging from the number of bleeding bodies that lay still in the streets with flies swarming over them.

Residents offered food, water and shelter to the rag-tag bands that are trying to bring down Somoza's regime.

Many of the rebels were as young as 14, residents said.

"We're not communists," one man who identified himself as an English teacher told a reporter. "Tell your American president not to give Somoza any more money."

The students, emboldened by last week's successful invasion and escape from the National Palace by Sandinista guerrillas, declared a "Free territory of Matagalpa" and controlled the city's Municipal Palace and most of the downtown area.

Nicaraguan observers said attempts by the students, backed by local residents and businesses, to establish their own independent civil authority moved the nation close to open civil war. The fighting posed the most serious threat ever to the Somoza family rule, which has spanned four decades.

National Guard troops in Matagalpa were commanded personally by President Somoza's son, Mayor Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero.

## Hurricane moves toward east coast

United Press International

MIAMI — Tropical storm Ella turned into a hurricane Thursday and may pose threats to the mid-Atlantic coastline by Friday.

The National Hurricane Center said in a special advisory that an Air Force plane sent to investigate Ella Thursday afternoon found that highest winds in the storm had increased from 60 to 80 mph, with gales extending out 100 miles north of the center.

A storm is rated as a hurricane when its winds reach 75 mph.

At 2 p.m. Ella was reported centered near latitude 29.2 north, longitude 68.9 west, or about 900 miles east of Jacksonville, Fla. It was moving toward the west northwest at 15 mph and was expected to remain on that course Thursday night.

"Although there is no threat to the United States tonight, if Ella continues to move on its current course warnings may be required over portions of the mid-Atlantic states Friday," forecasters said.

The weather agency also warned that "there is evidence steering currents are changing and Ella might recurve towards the north and northeast in 24 hours. All coastal interests from the Carolinas northwards should stay in close touch with future releases on Ella," the weather agency warned.

Ella developed from a tropical depression late Wednesday to become the fifth tropical storm of the season late Wednesday.

Tropical Storm Bess lashed the Mexican coast with gale winds and heavy rains just two days before Cora formed off the African Coast. But Bess spent its force as it hit the coastal mountains and there was little damage.

Earlier this week, Tropical Storm Debra was born in the Gulf. It threatened coastal areas from New Orleans to Galveston, and finally went ashore in Louisiana Tuesday. Tornadoes spawned by Debra claimed one life, and another person drowned.

## Prof will oversee postal negotiations

WASHINGTON — Negotiators for the Postal Service and three unions, who failed to settle their contract dispute under the threat of a national mail strike, will try again beginning today under guidance of a Harvard University professor.

James Healy, a nationally known labor relations expert, will open a 15-day contract bargaining period between the two sides and will oversee the talks through the Labor Day holiday weekend, a spokeswoman for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service said Wednesday.

The talks will run until Sept. 16, if necessary.

Under an agreement that averted the illegal walkout threatened for midnight Monday, Healy was named mediator for a novel 15-day bargaining-arbitration period to which both sides agreed.

The talks at mediation service headquarters need not run until the 15-day period expires, the spokeswoman stressed.

"If there is an agreement prior to then, the mediator can put it out for ratifica-

tion," she said. "Also, if he decides after four or five days of dealing with these people that there isn't going to be an agreement, he can render a decision (under his arbitration authority) prior to the 15 days."

Healy, 62, an industrial relations professor at Harvard, has served on and off since the World War II years as a mediator and arbitrator in major disputes spanning most areas of industry.

The 280,000-member American Postal Workers Union, the 180,000-member National Association of Letter Carriers and the 40,000-member National Post Office Mail Handlers union all rejected a proposed three-year contract offering an overall 19.5 percent wage and cost of living increase.

Postmaster General William Bolger said the Postal Service could afford no bigger money package and favored submitting the dispute to binding arbitration, where it was possible the "no layoff" clause could be eliminated. The unions demanded renewed negotiations instead.

## Citizens want recall election on tax issue

United Press International

HOUSTON — A group of citizens has threatened to force a recall election if the City Council does not schedule an election on property tax limitation proposals.

The group believes it has enough signatures to put to a vote.

The Tax Protest Group is confidently awaiting validation of a petition to force a vote on a proposition limiting property taxes to 50 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The proposed city charter amendment also would limit increases in property taxes to 10 percent annually. The current

rate is \$1.58 per \$100 paid on an assessment ratio of 53 percent of true market value.

Polk said if the council does not honor the group's demands next January — the earliest possible time under state law for an election — his organization might resort to an attempted recall election.

Polk said 43,187 persons had signed the property tax limitation proposals and there were 44,765 signatures on a petition for a proposed ordinance holding property taxes at the 1977 rate pending reassessment of the entire city.