



*'Don't bother me now — I'm busy!'*

Roseanne Roseannadanna, a 7-week-old spaniel, snoozes next to one of The Battalion's newsroom telephones. The puppy

belongs to junior journalism major Mark Beatty.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

**A&M program Monday, Tuesday**

**Homemakers forced out helped out**

The group subject to the highest rate of unemployment — displaced homemakers — is receiving help from a program called New Dimensions, says Pamela Horne, coordinator of the program at Texas A&M University.

The program was organized for women who must seek a job outside the home due to an illness, death or divorce of their spouses. Horne says its purpose is to help the displaced homemaker recognize skills she developed as a homemaker and use those skills in a job.

An estimated 3 million displaced homemakers are in the United States. Despite different social and ethnic background they have one thing in common: inability to find jobs they need to become financially independent. Most of the women are not eligible for unemployment insurance, group health insurance or pensions. Child support and widow pensions are usually insufficient.

"We want to help women develop independence and economic security," says Horne, "and we try to do this in a number of different ways."

New Dimensions provides counseling, training and job placement, Horne says. Through group counseling, homemakers discuss common emotional and financial problems. The training programs help develop skills in communication, money management and business. They are assisted in locating jobs and getting interviews through the program's job placement service.

Horne says Texas A&M has been gracious in supporting the program. Each month New Dimensions offers four workshops. Monday and

Tuesday a workshop will acquaint participants with employment opportunities on Texas A&M's campus. Those interested in participating should contact Pamela Horne. Jane Armstrong, manager of the Texas A&M Personnel Department, will be one of the speakers.

"We have 230 vacancies from unskilled jobs to secretarial duties to post doctorate positions," Armstrong said. "We do have jobs they all could do."

One of the participants said she has already found the program beneficial.

"Interacting with other women I am finding that everyone has problems in common," she said. "It has already helped me find some temporary employment."

Another displaced homemaker gave her reasons for participating. "I have found it emotionally supportive to find that other women are facing the same problems," she said. "Career orientations may differ, but the emotional adjustment to think of ourselves as independent units is similar."

Horne says concern for the displaced homemaker is growing, reflected in national legislation that recognizes the plight. She said the U.S. Department of Labor recently pledged to spend \$5 million on the program.

The program at Texas A&M was organized in September and is operating out of Texas Engineering Extension Service. It is financed by a grant from the Texas Education Agency.

Horne says centers for displaced homemakers are located from Alaska to New Mexico. Three other centers are in Texas.

**Dome owes \$1.4 million, county says**

United Press International  
HOUSTON — The county auditor Tuesday said the company which leases the Astrodome owes Harris County \$1.4 million from receipts during the past seven years.

Grady Fullerton, the county auditor, said in a report to be given to Commissioners Court Thursday that the apparent past-due payments were caused by a difference in interpretation of the county's 40-year lease with the Houston Sports Association.

Warren Genee, vice president of finance for the lease holders, said no money was owed the county.

A provision in the long-term lease, which Fullerton said forces HSA to pay percentages of gross receipts into a fund insuring HSA's \$750,000 yearly lease payment, apparently caused the problem.

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