

Co-oping — an alternative to classroom learning

By PATTI SHOQUIST
Battalion Reporter

Students searching for an alternative to consecutive years of classroom learning may find what they are looking for in the Cooperative Education Program.

Co-op is a non-traditional approach to education which enables a student to alternate semesters of work and school. Working three or four semesters (including summers) provides a student with one to 15 months of work experience.

Most of Texas A&M University's colleges require that a student have at least a 2.0 grade point average and one or two semesters of academic study to be eligible for the co-op program. The program is not limited to undergraduates. Some colleges award academic credit to students while they are working.

Opting to join the co-op program is something all students should consider," Dr. Henry Pope, coordinator of the program in the College of Liberal Arts, said. "Co-op aims to make students more employable and give them a competitive edge in the job market," he said.

Steve Yates, coordinator of the program in the College of Engineering said, "Most co-op students expect to find a good job with high pay in an ideal location when they graduate, but some of them set themselves up for less if they have little or no work experience."

However, students who receive on-the-job training through the co-op program usually find themselves in a better

position to get the job they really want after college," he said.

Pope said the co-op program remarkably changes some students. "Students come back to school from working with the added confidence of knowing that they can hold down a job," he said.

Yates agreed that there are advantages to the program.

He said co-op helps students to eliminate career choice errors, since they find out if they are suited for their jobs.

Some students decide against their original career choice, he said. Yates placed a chemical engineering student in a job at a

chemical plant and the student was unsatisfied with his job, so he came back to school and changed his major to accounting.

"At first I felt bad that things didn't work out for the student," Yates said, "but then I thought that three months of testing a career was a small price for him to pay, since he could have ended up spending his life in a chemical plant had he went on to receive a degree in engineering."

Through co-op, students find what they can expect in their jobs. Roy Husley, an engineering co-op student said, "Co-op allowed me to examine my career and I was shocked by the amount of non-engineering

work involved." He said he learned that engineers do a lot of paper work.

Co-op also helps students see what courses they need to emphasize in school. Pope said co-op experience seems to motivate students in their studies as well.

"Leaving school and friends made me start thinking in a different direction. Since I know what's out there, I know what goals I must shoot for," said Hans Kenner, an engineering co-op student.

"Any student planning to enter the co-op program must first work out a feasible degree plan," Yates said. A good degree plan will help a student graduate without too much delay, he said.

However, Yates said, co-op is not for every body. "Co-op is like two sides of a coin there are some disadvantages."

"Some students have excellent job opportunities in family businesses or with companies, so they don't need to turn to the co-op program for a job," Yates said. "For others, working during the summer is all the job experience they want before graduation."

Another problem is that some students can't get used to going to summer school, Pope said. "If students would look at school as a 12 month enterprise, they could adjust to working for a semester and

picking up the need hours in the summer."

However, Yates said that some students don't like to break the continuity of their courses. For example, some students want to take all of their math courses in a sequence with no break in between. "Though taking a break to co-op isn't any different than putting down the books for summer," Yates said.

Co-op creates a psychological problem for some students, Pope said. "Many feel that they are dropping out, but it takes a lot of courage to leave the University and friends behind."

Leaving roommates in a bind and losing housing deposits are other problems that co-op students encounter. However, arrangements can be made between co-op students to switch apartments when they go to work, Yates said.

Weighing the pros and cons is the only way for a student to determine if co-op is right for him, Pope said.

Yates said more students are turning to the program, as he talks to prospective co-op students every half hour all day long.

He said students and employers are generally receptive to the program, however, some resistance comes from faculty members. Once they become more familiar with the benefits of the program, faculty members grow increasingly supportive, Yates said.

HEW funds help extend A&M's program

Texas A&M University's Cooperative Education Program is the 15th largest in the nation, said J. Malon Southerland, director of the program.

In order to further expand the program, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) granted Texas A&M \$100,000 for the 1978-79 academic year. The University has applied for an additional \$175,000 from HEW to continue expanding the program next year.

"Co-op is a program worthy of funding in order to expand it and make it available to students in all disciplines, so that they may gain work experience before gradua-

tion," said Steve Yates, coordinator of the College of Engineering's co-op program.

Texas A&M is one of the 316 universities that received more than \$15 million in funds from the HEW for such programs.

Presently, seven Texas A&M colleges are participating in the co-op program. They include the colleges of Agriculture, Architecture and Environmental Design, Engineering, Geosciences, Liberal Arts, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

The co-op program went university-wide three years ago. The College of Geosciences joined the program last year; the College of Engineering has had a co-op

program since 1963.

"Our intent is to keep the program growing," Southerland said. The College of Education and the College of Business will begin co-op programs Sept. 1.

Southerland said he expects the College of Business' co-op program to be nearly as large as the College of Engineering's.

The key to expanding the program rests with the students' interest and participation in co-op, Southerland said.

He noted that there are generally more co-op jobs available than students to fill the positions. "We estimated that 620 stu-

dents would be in the co-op program last year, when actually there were over 720," he said. "Yet there were many jobs left unfilled."

"We must make more students aware of the wide range of opportunities available in co-op," Southerland said.

In order to inform more students about the program, the co-op coordinators from each of the participating colleges will host a Co-op Fair Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will distribute information and answer students' questions about the program at various locations on campus.

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Only A&M concert missed

Boston gives no word

By SCOTT HARING
Battalion Reporter

After a day of negotiations, there is still word on the fate of 7,500 or so tickets to the canceled Boston concert.

Boston, one of the leading rock bands in the country, canceled its scheduled Sunday night appearance here, saying that band leader Tom Scholz was ill.

Monday night Boston played to an audience of about 9,000 in a "packed" Stephen Austin Coliseum in Nacogdoches, said Tom Johnson of the SFA student newspaper. All five members of the rock group returned, he said. The only concert the group missed was the one here.

Brooks Herring, chairman of the MSC Student Hall Committee, said he was told

Scholz had some kind of 24- or 48-hour stomach virus.

Even though Herring said, "We believe everything is legitimate," Town Hall has asked for the name of the doctor and the hospital that treated Scholz Friday night.

Johnson said Boston called a news conference Monday night. A group spokesman said exhaustion was the reason Scholz could not perform here. He said a doctor suggested they lay off a day, since the group has been on tour for several months.

The spokesman said that Boston is planning to reschedule an appearance here, but didn't say when that would be.

Herring said he talked to Premier Inc., Boston's booking agency, but they said

there was nothing they could do about the situation.

Herring tried to contact Boston's personal manager Monday night but couldn't reach him.

Herring said he would pursue negotiations "very heavily" Tuesday. He said Boston is scheduled to play in Shreveport, La., Tuesday, and that he might fly there to talk to the group's manager personally.

Herring said he didn't know how it would all turn out, at least "not until tomorrow's over with."

Carter vows to work with Khomeini

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter said Monday the United States "stands ready to work" with Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, whose followers have overthrown the U.S.-backed government there.

"Our objective has been, and is, a stable and independent Iran," Carter told a news conference. "We stand ready to work with them."

He said his most pressing goals in Iran now are to ensure the safety of American citizens there, to minimize bloodshed and prevent intervention by outside governments and ensure the independence of Iran.

Carter also said the cutoff of Iranian oil to the United States amounts to 500 million barrels a day, or 2.5 percent of the nation's daily consumption.

He said there is "no immediate danger" from the oil shortfall, and added it can be compensated for if Americans obey the 55 mph speed limit, use car pools and public transit and keep their thermostats at 65 degrees.

He called recent moves in some state legislatures to wipe out the 55 mph limit "ill advised."

Asked about the possibility of rationing gasoline in light of the unstable situation within the nations that supply the United States with fuel, Carter said, with special regard for Iran: "The situation is not crucial now. It's not a crisis but it certainly could get worse."

If the Iranian production is not restored rapidly, Carter said, the United States "would have to take strenuous action" to ease the shortage in U.S. supplies.

Carter was asked whether the United States would be willing to go to war to protect Taiwan if China launched an attack against Taiwan.

"I have no intention of going to war," he replied, adding that he is confident that China plans no such move.

Carter said the United States had done all it could to get a commitment from Peking to settle mainland relations with Taiwan peacefully.

"We did," he said, "get the maximum — in my opinion — that was possible."

The president will fly to Mexico Wednesday for a three-day visit, during which he will meet with Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo. Paramount in their discussions is sure to be Mexico's newfound petroleum wealth and the energy needs of the United States.

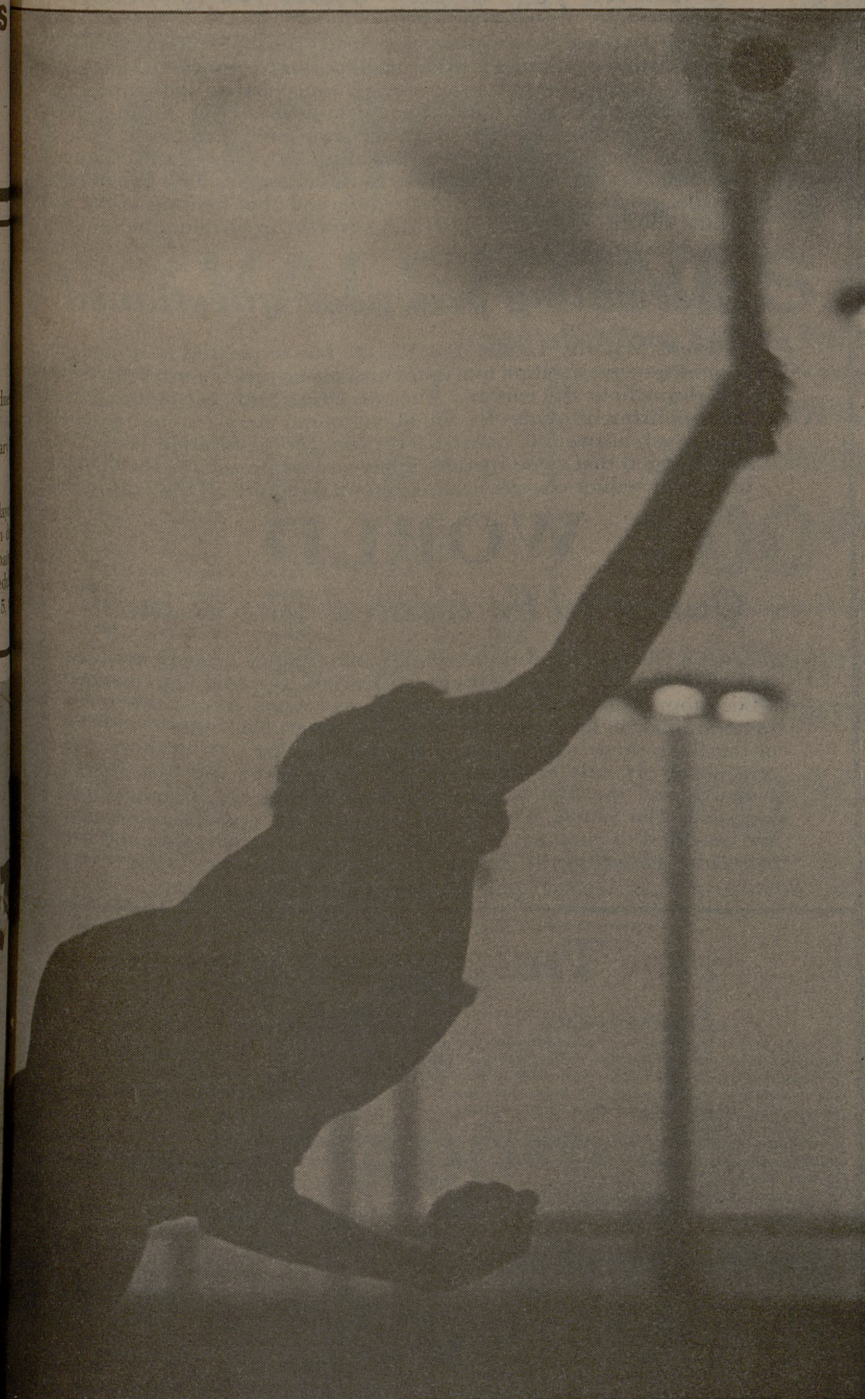


It was a Sun-Day

College Station residents took to the outdoors in hordes Sunday to enjoy the first sunny weekend in some months. It didn't matter whether being out-

doors meant playing in the grass or just sitting under a tree watching a softball game.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.



Match set at sunset

Senior Richard Rosinsky makes the most of the recent sunny reprieve from icy weather. Rosinsky was one of many Texas A&M students who stayed on the University's tennis courts until the last glimmer of Sunday's sunset.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.

Bryan postpones decision of city of private ambulances

By JUDIE PORTER
Battalion Reporter

After discussing using firemen or a private company to provide an ambulance service for Bryan, the city council Monday postponed a decision until other cities' services can be studied.

The discussion came in the wake of the Jan. 29 decision of Bill Thornal, the owner of Mid-Tex Ambulance Service, to not seek renewal of his operating permit, which expires March 31.

Fire Chief Don Van Huss prepared for the council a report that estimated the cost of a fire department-run Emergency Medical Service, with two ambulances constantly ready, at \$144,259 per year.

The report also outlined an alternate plan in which the department would keep only one ambulance ready at a cost of \$53,922 a year.

"We have not started any training whatsoever," Van Huss said, "but if business quit tomorrow, the Fire Department could do it."

The city's current contract with Thornal grants him a \$2,000-a-month subsidy or \$24,000 a year for running his one-ambulance service. Thornal had asked the council for \$5,000 per month, which would raise the total annual cost to

\$60,000, said Hubert Nelson, Bryan's former acting-city manager.

"I'm not willing to pay someone \$6,000 or \$7,000 more than we would be paying if the city ran their own service," Councilman Wayne Gibson said.

The council decided to hold up action on the matter until research could be done on ambulance services on other cities. Mayor Richard Smith suggested the report be ready by the Feb. 26 council meeting so a firm proposal could be made and agreed upon before Thornal's permit expires.

In other action, the council approved a speed limit of 45 mph on a part of Briarcrest Drive that stretches to F.M. 158.

An ordinance was also passed amending the city's code concerning mobile homes and trailers. It requires mobile home parks to keep additional records and to revise their requirements for anchoring and blocking. The ordinance was passed in an attempt to recover property tax lost on mobile homes leaving the area.

The council also decided to try an alternate design to lower costs of improvements to Coulter Field. The alternate design was considered because the low bid for the present design was \$4,570

more than the engineers' cost estimate.

A resolution was also passed acknowledging the services of Hubert Nelson as acting-city manager of Bryan. Nelson was presented with a copy of the resolution and council members expressed appreciation for his services.

The council adopted a resolution appointing Ernest Clark as City Manager retroactively effective to Feb. 1, 1979.

Woman seeks televised trial

United Press International

BEAUMONT — A district judge Monday scheduled a hearing Feb. 20 for a defendant's request to have her trial for narcotics sales televised.

Judge Leonard Giblin Jr. is expected to rule against the motion of Ima Jean Baker because the State Code of Judicial Conduct forbids televising trials.

Defense attorney Dexter Patterson said he might take the issue into the federal courts system if Giblin refuses to allow the trial to be televised.