

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 107
8 Pages in 2 Sections

Thursday, March 1, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Wanna volunteer?

This student is helping a recruiter for the Peace Corps and VISTA who is ending her tour of duty today in the Memorial Student Center. See page 6 for details.



"Can I touch, Mom?"

Battalion photo by Julie Smiley

Seven-month-old Ryan Fisher finds a pen of ewes at the Houston Livestock Show good enough to touch. Parents John and Sheena Fisher are animal science and elementary education seniors, respec-

tively, at Texas A&M. John was one of about 50 Aggies who worked at the stock show checking in livestock and keeping records. For a closer look at the Houston show, see today's *Focus* section.

A&M offers scholarships to up minority enrollment

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

To increase the number of minority students attending Texas A&M University, the President's Achievement Awards have been offered to 25 students planning to attend college next fall.

These \$1,000-year, four-year scholarships have been established primarily for economically disadvantaged, mostly minority students, said Dr. Edwin H. Cooper, dean of admissions and records.

"We in the administration have been concerned that Texas A&M has not attracted minority students, particularly those from minority students to attend here," he said.

"We've not done a good job." Last semester, out of approximately 500 students enrolled, about 120 were black. Of those, black athletes numbered in the "low 30s," Cooper said. Mexican American enrollment usually ranges between 400 and 600 students.

In Texas' general population, 12.5 percent is black and 18.2 percent speaks Spanish or has a Spanish surname. Texas A&M's percentages are approximately 0.4 percent black and 1.64 percent Mexican American.

Other Texas universities, such as the University of Houston, have greater percentages of minorities than does Texas A&M. This is due in part, Cooper said, to the schools' locations. U of H has a larger local minority population to draw from than Texas A&M, he said.

"They can live at home and get jobs easier there," the dean said.

Cooper said Texas A&M and the University of Texas at Austin are "very close" in the percentage of minority students, despite the fact that UT can draw from a larger, more diversified local population.

Another reason for the lack of minority students here is Texas A&M's long history as an all-male military school.

"You'd be surprised at the number of people who don't realize we've changed," he said.

The President's Achievement Awards will be offered primarily to outstanding minority students who could not attend Texas A&M without that help.

"We are not changing the admission requirements," he said. "It would be grossly unjust to admit a student here with full knowledge that the odds are good he can't pass."

These awards will not be given for outstanding athletic achievement. "They are

for students who have not been offered any other type of scholarship," Cooper said.

To continue receiving aid, each student must maintain a grade point ratio of 2.5 or better.

Although these scholarships are primarily for economically disadvantaged or minority students, no student is excluded entirely.

"We offer \$14 million worth of financial aid," Cooper said. "And the law does allow us to earmark specific funds for certain groups, as long as in the total picture everyone has a chance."

Cooper hopes to increase the number of awards as funding is available. The first scholarship recipients have not yet been chosen, but 25 offers were made by letter last week.

To further help attract minority students, the Office of Admissions and Records has asked for three new staff members who would have full-time responsibility for contacting students in high schools and in two-year colleges.

In the past the office has had to "borrow" people from other departments to attend meetings at high schools when two or three were scheduled at the same time.

"A school this size should not have to limp along like that," the dean said.

Vietnam, China trade charges; U.S. renews call for peace

United Press International

China and Vietnam exchanged charges over their 12-day-old war Wednesday, with King saying Vietnamese troops struck across the frontier into China and Hanoi warning of a new "large-scale offensive" by invading Chinese. The United States renewed pressure on China to pull out its troops.

The United States urged China to withdraw as "quickly as possible," and at the United Nations a call by U.S. Ambassador Drew Young for an immediate cease-fire was stymied by the Soviet threat of a veto. The State Department said it favored a comprehensive solution.

The Soviet Union, in a commentary in the official Communist Party newspaper *Pravda*, warned Wednesday the fighting could spread in Indochina if China "is not stopped immediately."

Intelligence sources in Bangkok, Thailand, said a front may be opening near the historic Dien Bien Phu battleground in Vietnam.

The official New China News Agency said hundreds of Vietnamese broke through Chinese lines at two of the strongest invasion points—the Clear River Valley 150 miles northwest of Hanoi and the Friendship Gate area 95 miles from the capital.

Vietnam countered with a charge that Peking, while calling for a negotiated settlement, was actually preparing a new offensive in an attempt to "punish" Hanoi.

"The invading Chinese troops are preparing to launch another large-scale offensive against Vietnam," Vietnam's Ambassador to Japan Nguyen Giap said in Tokyo.

Giap ridiculed Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's war policy as reminiscent

of the late President Lyndon Johnson during the American involvement in Vietnam. But Giap said, "China is not so strong as the United States."

In Peking Wednesday U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, acting as President Carter's personal emissary, renewed American pressure on China to pull its troops out of Vietnam.

In a 75-minute meeting with Premier Hua Kuo-feng, Blumenthal said he repeated the U.S. position he first delivered on Tuesday to Teng. The meeting in the Great Hall of the People began 40 minutes late, raising speculation that some diplomatic maneuvering was being conducted by the Chinese to show displeasure over the U.S. position.

Blumenthal said Hua told him that the border fighting would be a "limited operation" and "of limited duration."

Q-drop date change offered by deans

By KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Staff

Students may have to Q-drop during the first 18 days of classes in the fall semester of 1979 if a motion passed by the Academic Operations Committee is enacted.

Dr. Diane W. Strommer, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the committee, made up of associate deans of the colleges, voted 6-4 to abolish the present system of Q-drops.

The motion, passed last Friday, still must go before the Academic Program Council and the Academic Council for final approval.

The Academic Program Council is made up of the deans of the colleges and the Academic Council consists of the University president, vice presidents, deans, department heads and elected faculty members.

Dr. Edwin H. Cooper, dean of admissions and records and chairman of the Academic Operations Committee, said he did not know when the motion would go before the Academic Program Council or the Academic Council.

Presently, a student can drop a class with a "Q" instead of a letter grade on his record until the first Monday after the end of mid-term.

This year that day is March 19.

The motion, introduced by Associate

Dean Gordon G. Echols of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, would make the student decide before the end of the first 12 class days whether to drop a class.

Strommer said she opposed abolishment of the Q-drop policy, but she did give a reason for opposition to the current policy:

"I don't think I should argue a point that I don't hold, but I can say that the Q-drop presents an expense to the state, the people of Texas."

She said students pay only a portion of the cost of education and tuition, and the rest is paid by the state. The amount of money allocated for a particular course is determined by the number of students enrolled on the 12th day.

"I think that it is an alternative students should have," she said. "There are good reasons for dropping courses, such as an overload of courses, unexpectedly having to work, or class conflicts. It is useful to encourage students to experiment with courses."

Dr. Phillip J. Limbacher, associate dean in the College of Education, introduced a similar motion last semester.

Limbacher said the issue is not the abolishment of Q-drop — it is the purpose of Q-drop.

"The purpose of Q-drop has never been defined. If the purpose of the Q-drop is to

give a student the opportunity to avoid an F, it (the last day to Q-drop) should be moved to the last day before finals, as it was when I first came here," he said.

Cooper said many of the deans feel that students abuse Q-drop by over-loading, or taking courses they know they will drop.

"We're trying to think of how we can make it benefit the most students in the University," he said.

The current motion would reduce the Q-drop period from mid-term to the 18th class day, Cooper said.

Strommer said the Q-drop issue comes up two or three times a year. She said she is not sure what the decision will be this semester. If the motion is enacted, it will take effect during next fall, she said.

"If the students want to keep Q-drops, they had better get on the ball," she said.

Strommer said the student government could pass its own motion that could affect the final decision.

She also said the motion passed by the Academic Operations Committee would have no effect on the drop-add period being used.

A student can drop or add courses anytime during the first five days of classes. If a course is dropped during the first 12 class days, no record is kept of the student's enrollment in the course.

Iran chief cuts ties with 13 oil companies

United Press International

TEHRAN — Iranian oil chief Hassan Nazih said Wednesday Iran will have no more to do with the 13-company consortium of American, British, French and Dutch oil companies that have handled most Iranian oil for 25 years.

Nazih accused the consortium of "wheeling and dealing" and making "secret deals." He did not elaborate.

Nazih, the newly appointed director of the National Iranian Oil Co., told a crowd of cheering employees at the agency's headquarters in Tehran. "The word consortium is to be deleted from the company's dictionary."

He said the consortium companies would now only be dealt with on an indi-

vidual basis and here "will be no concessions to them on oil sales."

Nazih gave his address a day after announcing that Iranian oil exports would be resumed Monday after a four-month pause because of the oil workers' strike that helped topple Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

He said he expected the oil to be sold to the highest bidder at between \$4 and \$6 more than the \$14 minimum recommended by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

He answered Western oil experts who have expressed scepticism over Iran's ability to produce and sell its own oil without the aid of western experts who have fled the oilfields since the revolution.

"Western experts are saying we cannot produce 5 million barrels a day," said Nazih. "Don't you believe it. If they order it, we can produce 6 million barrels."

Nazih condemned what he said was waste of billions of oil dollars "because of corruption unequalled anywhere else in the world."

Nazih said the shah's wife Farah was paid \$14 million a year out of company funds. "At first we thought it was \$42 million," he said, "but now we find it was \$14 million. But why should it have been even one cent?"

The revolutionary government announced its greatest priority was restoration of law and order hours before a gun battle early Wednesday near a hotel where most foreigners live.

Children's author fascinated by ocean

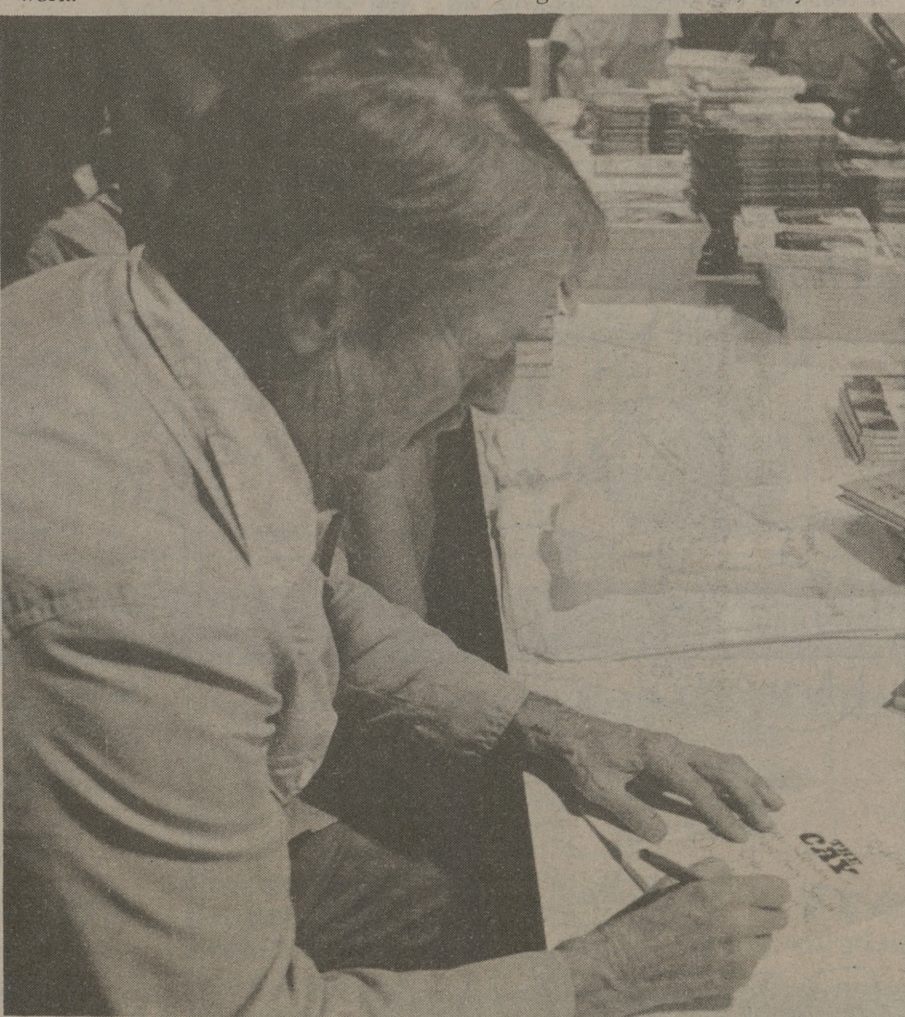
A&M sponsors sea literature seminar

By TRACEY WILLIAMS
Battalion Reporter

For some people the sea is a place to spend a vacation surfing and sun-tanning. For award-winning children's author Theodore Taylor, the sea is a place at which to live and work.

Taylor, one of several speakers here this week at the Children's Literature of the Sea Seminar, told a group of area children and teachers that the ocean has always fascinated him.

"No matter what I do, I keep coming back to the sea," Taylor said.



Children's author Ted Taylor, from California, autographs a copy of his book "The Cay" Tuesday afternoon during the fourth annual Children's Literature of the Sea Seminar.

Battalion photo by Colin Crombie

"Right now I have a house in Laguna Beach, Calif., and I'm on the beach every day of the week."

Taylor said he began his writing career at the age of 13.

"I wrote sports for a paper in Virginia for 50 cents a week," Taylor said, "and years later I'm still pounding the typewriter."

Taylor said his financial situation has improved since then. One reason is the popularity of Taylor's book, "The Cay," which has won several awards since its publication in 1969.

Taylor said he is probably most best known for "The Cay," which describes the survival of a prejudiced white boy and an old black sailor who end up on a deserted island after a shipwreck.

After Taylor spoke, the children were encouraged to ask about his career. These "career" questions included what type of car he drove and what his children did.

Children's literature scholar Rebecca Lukens and author-illustrator Jan Adkins also spoke at the two-day seminar, which was sponsored by the Sea Grant College in cooperation with Texas A&M English Department and Continuing Education Department.

Norma Bagnall, director of the seminar, said the meetings were designed to educate children ages 5 to 12 on the importance of marine awareness.

"Although most of the United States population lives within 100 miles of an ocean or one of the Great Lakes Lakes," she said, "the majority of children have not experienced the vast waters firsthand."

"And even a trip to the beach is only the first step."