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If you want to
graduate ...

Today is the deadline for undergraduate and graduate students to apply for degrees to be awarded in December.

Stiffer Q-drop regulations adopted by some colleges

By ROSEMARIE ROSE
Battalion Reporter

It sounds simple enough; following the first 12 class days, "with the approval of the dean of the student's college, a student may drop a course through the fifth class day following the reporting of mid-semester grades" with a "Q" given to indicate a drop without penalty, according to Texas A&M University Regulations.

But Q-dropping a course in some colleges may not be as easy as it sounds. And different colleges have different criteria for granting Q-drops.

All of the academic colleges adhere to the basic university policy for granting Q-drops. The colleges of Agriculture, Education, Geosciences, Liberal Arts and Science require approval of a Q-drop request only by the student's adviser.

However, the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and the College of Engineering require the specific approval of the dean of the college. The College of Business Administration limits the number of "discretionary" Q-drops a student may take, according to an April 16, 1979 memo for undergraduate students.

Students entering the College of Business Administration this fall will be allowed to make two unquestioned Q-drops during their undergraduate career. Students entering the college before the fall of 1979, who have not taken a Q-drop in the past, may also Q-drop two courses at their discretion. But students who entered the college before 1979, and who have exercised their Q-drop option one or more times, may make only one more "unquestioned" Q-drop.

If a student has used all his discretionary Q-drops he must obtain the specific approval of the dean to drop a course after the 12th class day, according to the memo issued by Dean C.A. Phillips and Assistant Dean C.D. Stolle.

The Executive Committee of the College of Business Administration initiated the restrictions because, according to the memo, "Frequent exercising of the Q-grade drop does not reflect favorably on the quality of the students or the college. Prospective employers may question the quality of programs which appear to allow students too easily to get out of courses when experiencing difficulty. In addition, many courses fill at registration because places are occupied by students who have Q-graded and now must again occupy a place in that class. There is indication that students with higher grades may experience a negative effect on grade curves when the students with lower grades choose to Q-grade drop."

Dean C.D. Stolle.

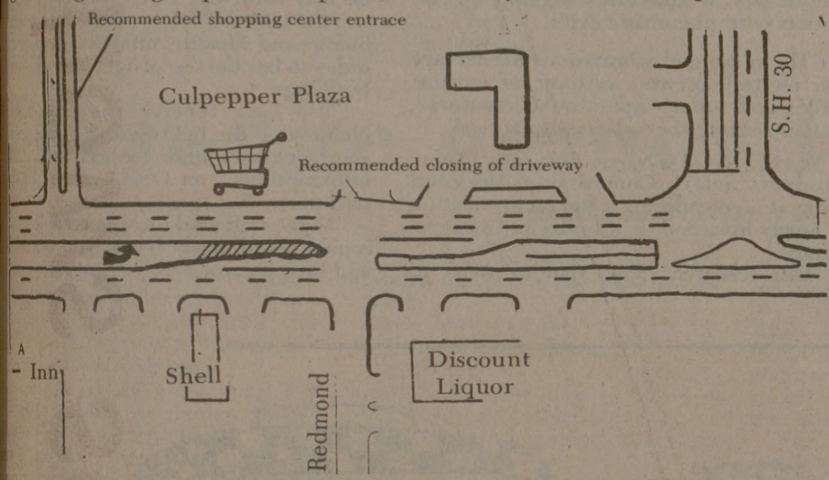
Dean Ned Walton of the College of Engineering said that each Q-drop request by an engineering student must have the approval of the dean. Drops after the 12th

class day are only approved when a situation arises which the student could not reasonably have foreseen and corrected, Walton said.

The College of Architecture and Environmental Design also requires personal approval by both a student's adviser and his dean before a student may Q-drop a course.

In a June 18, 1979 memo from Associate Dean Gordon Echols to the faculty and students of the college, he said, "The purpose of the Q-drop is to give a student relief from unanticipated academic overload or personal hardship," and that drops may not be granted only because a student has "low grades in a course or an over-commitment from a job to earn money."

At present, the College of Business Administration is the only college that has officially limited the number of Q-drops a student may make, but other colleges are considering changing their policies.



This map shows a confusing situation in front of Culpepper Plaza on Texas Avenue. The arrow on the map indicates the location of the white arrow that refuses to disappear. The hash marks indicated will be painted on the median Monday.

Map courtesy of the City of College Station

Utilities tug-of-war Towns to meet

By RICHARD OLIVER
Battalion Staff

The College Station City Council met in a five-hour marathon session Thursday night, highlighted by a one-hour closed discussion of pending litigation with Bryan.

The open session, attended by 35 people, was mostly filled with debate over rezoning several local plots by area land developers.

The most pressing item on the council's agenda, however, was a closed session to discuss what action would be taken in today's closed session with the Bryan City Council.

Today's session, to be held at noon in

the Bryan Utilities Building, is the latest in a series of sessions between the two cities to discuss who will supply utilities to the soon-to-be constructed Texas Instruments (TI) plant.

The TI acreage, located just east of the East Bypass at Highway 30, has been annexed by College Station, but Bryan currently holds the utility rights.

Prior to Thursday night's city council meeting, College Station Councilman Homer Adams was confident that College Station would win the debate.

"We think we'll win in the end," he said. "But, then again, who knows? It's never a 100 percent deal until the finish."

Adams said the College Station City Council had offered to "buy the TI tract from Bryan," or, in effect, "buy the power" from them.

After the meeting, however, Adams declined to elaborate.

The Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a restraining order on Monday, blocking either city from supplying power to the TI plant site, but the order was lifted Thursday after the cities filed a joint motion asking for its dismissal.

Following the meeting, Adams was reluctant to comment on any specific aspect of the planned negotiations.

"These meetings are too important and too much is weighing on it to make any comments," he said. "Just say we're ready to go."

Adams said he believes College Station has a right to supply utilities to the TI tract.

"I think that it's basic in all Texas law that all land in the cities should be provided with utilities from that city," he said. "The problem remains that Bryan has the rights to the utilities. It's no secret, though, that we want to serve TI. They don't want to give up this right, and I can understand this. At least, if I were on their side, I'd fight for it, too. There's a lot of money involved."

Adams added that if the dual certification were granted, TI would be allowed to choose between the two cities. He believes TI would choose College Station.

"I asked us to annex them and supply them with utilities," he said. "It's as simple as that."

Left-turn lane confusing

By NANCY ANDERSON
Battalion Reporter

Aggie motorists returning this fall might be confused with the new left-turn lane on Texas Avenue in front of Culpepper Plaza, but help is on the way.

The lane has parallel lines from Dominik Drive to the Shell station, but in front of the Three C Bar-B-Q entrance they taper to form a traffic island. It sounds simple, but south-bound drivers find it isn't so.

One complication is a white, leftward-pointing arrow. Located in the middle of the lane just beyond the main mall entrance, it directs drivers to turn from the narrow end of the lane, instead of the

island.

According to George Boriskie, a Highway Department traffic engineer, the arrow has been burned off twice, but the heat causes it to reappear.

The other is the lack of yellow horizontal stripes within the tapered end which would define the island.

The Highway Department is planning to correct the situation soon, Boriskie said. It is just a matter of drivers becoming familiar with and using the markings, he added.

Work crews will be painting in the missing horizontal stripes, accurate arrows and the words, "left turn only" on Monday, said resident engineer Bill Bodman.

Bodman said he is not aware of the recurring arrow, but if he sees it, it will be burned off again.

The lane is part of a six-lane expansion designed to improve Texas Avenue traffic flow. Due to established businesses and a lack of funds, the Highway Department had to "improvise internally," which meant merely rearranging traffic lanes, said Boriskie.

The Highway Department also recommended that the City of College Station close the Three C entrance, but Boriskie said he doesn't know if the city will act on the recommendation.

Heavy use slows computer

By CINDY COLVIN
Battalion Reporter

It's "Happy Hour" in the RCC (remote computing center). Many students are waiting to use the keypunch machines, printers and terminals, and it won't get much better, said Cecelia Coones, information representative for the Data Processing Center.

The center, restricted to use by undergraduate students, is in the basement of the Cushing Library.

"The use of the computer is growing more and more popular among the different colleges on campus," said Dan Galvin, assistant director of operations. "The heavy users are students in computer science and engineering." Galvin said that many offices on campus use the computer also.

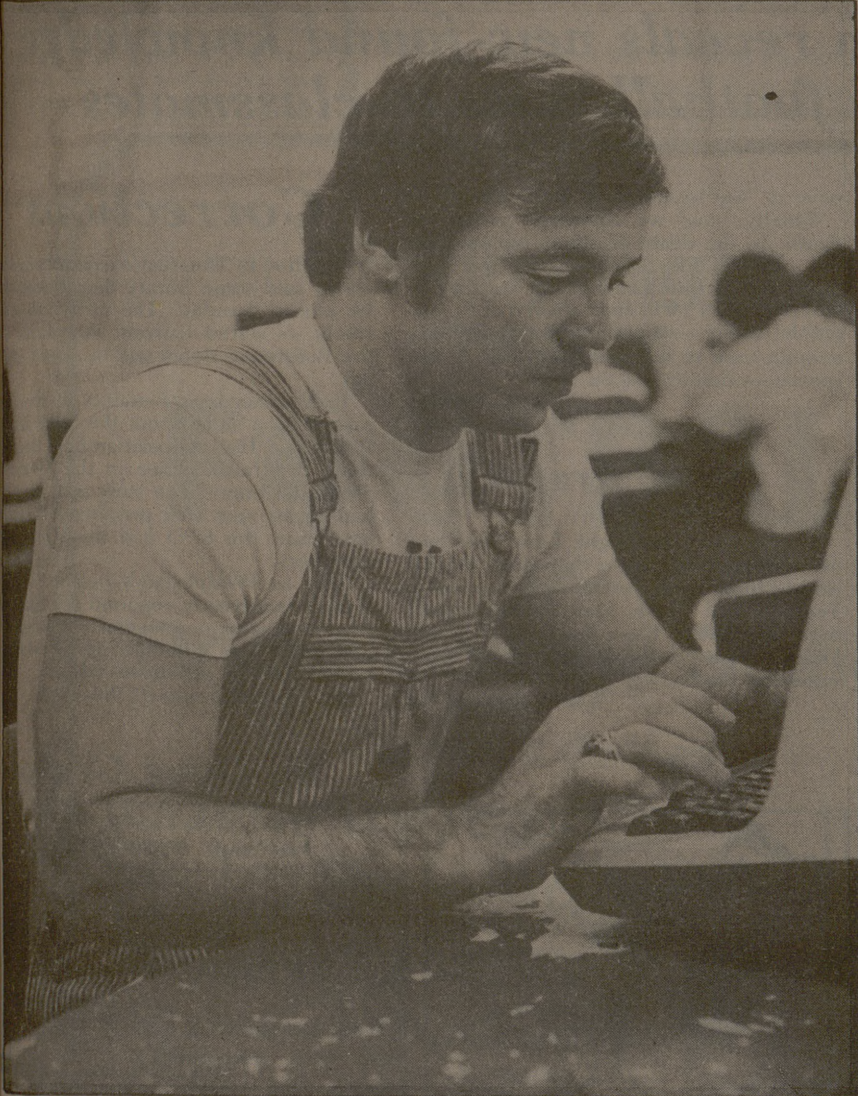
"The heavy use at peak hours is causing a delay in response time, (from the computer to the user)," Coones said.

Last year, the Data Processing Center installed 30 new terminals in the remote computing center. These terminals are known as ACT-V terminals, and are equipped with a television screen so that the user can preview the information before printing.

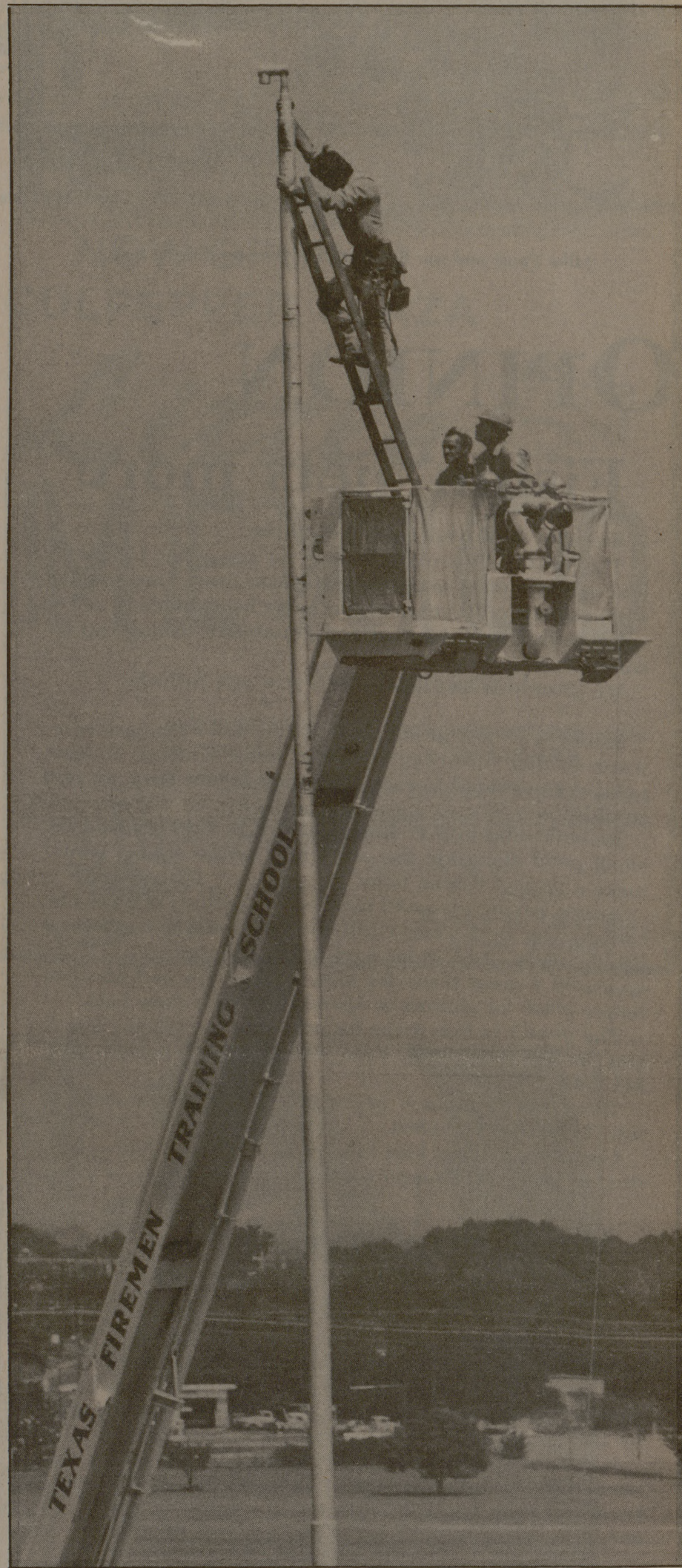
Dr. Pete Marchbanks, assistant director of services for the Data Processing Center, said, "All the student needs to do now, when using the new terminals, is to prepare a program, enter the data and edit it, submit the program to the main computer, and preview the output before submitting the program to the printer."

The terminals save some time for the students, he said, because users will be able to correct their programs while the information is still in the terminal.

The computer is already connected with a maximum number of terminals, Coones said. But the Data Processing Center is waiting for approval from the University and the State Auditor's Office for the purchase of a new computer, Galvin said. Once the purchase has had final approval, installation will begin, he said.



Doak Elledge works with Wylbur, one of the computer terminals, in the Data Processing Center. Battalion photo by Sam Stroder



...but what a view

Texas A&M University workers Robert Wright, Curtis Holder and Richard Stone have quite a view of Texas A&M from the top of the flagpole in front of the Administration Building. But the Physical Plant workmen weren't there for the view — they were replacing the flagpole's cable.

Photo courtesy of Malcolm Moore

Woman arrested in connection with theft of bike, parts at A&M

By JETTIE STEEN
Battalion Reporter

A woman was arrested Wednesday evening in connection with the theft of a bicycle and bicycle parts after police received a call from the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets guard room, where cadets had detained the woman.

David Duncan, cadet captain of outfit N-1, said he received a phone call about 9:20 p.m. Wednesday that there were two suspicious-looking persons around the bike racks near the quad.

"I went out to see what was going on and all I saw was one person, and she was bending over a bike that was already missing a front wheel and she had a pair of pliers out fiddling with the gears," Duncan said.

"I asked her what she was doing and when she wouldn't give me any definite answers I told her I'd have to take her to the guard room and call the police."

University Police Chief McDonald said a woman with two bike wheels and a new bicycle in her possession was arrested. The young woman, an employee at Sbis Dining Hall, was taken to Brazos County Jail.

McDonald urges students to keep their bikes locked at all times, register them

with university police and report them if stolen. He said engraving bicycles will help and the police station provides engravers for that purpose.

McDonald pointed out also the importance of keeping dorm rooms locked at all times. There have been two reported robberies in the past three weeks at the corps dorms. The first happened during freshman orientation week. The latest in-

cident was Wednesday night during Aggie Band practice.

A cadet told police he saw a 6-foot-2-inch black male, approximate age 22, leaving Dorm 11 while most of its residents were at band practice. Three rooms, all reported unlocked, were robbed and a total of \$54 was taken. No suspect has been apprehended.

Chromosome defect blamed as a cancer cause

United Press International

BOSTON — Scientists for the first time have traced a hereditary human cancer to a chromosome defect, enabling doctors to identify individuals who face a high risk of developing the disease, the New England Journal of Medicine reported Thursday.

Several types of cancer are known to occur in families with predictable frequency, which suggests they may be passed from one to generation to another like other hereditary traits such as hair or

eye color.

Doctors at the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, studying a family with a history of a rare form of kidney cancer, found specific sections of two chromosomes — the molecules that determine hereditary characteristics — had become interchanged in many members of the family.

Most of the individuals who had the chromosome defect developed the rare cancer, said Dr. Robert S. Brown, one of seven physicians conducting the research.