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Deans OK proposal to cut Q-drop time

By ANGIE JONES
Battalion Reporter

A proposal to reduce amount of time a student has to Q-drop to 25 class days was unanimously approved on Monday by the deans that comprise the Academic Program Council.

Dr. John Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, said "The deans and associate deans thought the students ought to be making up their minds sooner about whether they should stay in a course or get out so that they could devote more time to their classes."

The deans originally proposed a 20 or 21 day limit on Q-drops but they went along with the student senate's suggestion of a

25 day limit, Prescott added.

The current Q-drop policy allows a student to drop a course within the first 12 class days of a semester (four class days of a summer term) with no record of the drop on his record. From the twelfth day through the fifth class day following the reporting of mid-semester grades (the end of the third week of a summer term) the student can drop a class and receive a grade of "Q" on his permanent record. It represents a drop without penalization.

Edwin Cooper, dean of admissions and records, said the new proposal would allow a student to drop a course without penalty the first 12 days of a semester as before. Following this free period, and

with the approval from the dean of the student's college, a student may drop a course through the 25th class day of a semester or the ninth day of a summer term with a "Q."

Cooper, who submitted the proposal to the APC, said "it (the proposal) must now go forward for approval to the Academic Council which will have the final say." A meeting is scheduled for October 11 and the proposal will be on that meeting's agenda.

If approved by the Academic Council, the proposal will go into effect at the beginning of the 1980 fall semester, Cooper said.

It just came all at once'

Houston reacts to storm

United Press International

HOUSTON — A tornado, concealed by a torrential thunderstorm and offering a deafening roar as its only warning, slashed through an affluent neighborhood Tuesday, damaging at least 100 homes and townhouses in a mile-square area.

A constable reported one person was injured but no one was killed by the tornado, which struck the Lakeside Estates area of southwest Houston at about 4:30 p.m.

Brick walls were pushed through houses, trees were uprooted, roofs were blown into streets and yards and autos were flipped like toys.

"It just came all at once," said Belinda Faulkner who was at home with her 8-year-old granddaughter. "It was so fast. The doors flew open. I grabbed my grandbaby. I'm telling you, if she had been sleeping she would have been killed."

Bricks from a wall across the side of the house crashed through the picture window, covering the baby's bedroom where the child had been sleeping minutes earlier. Faulkner said the storm struck so quickly that she didn't react until the tornado had passed.

Nearby, Kathy Winger was at home with her three sons.

"The noise gave me about three seconds' time (warning)," she said. "I yelled at my boys and told them to go to the bathroom. We all four got in the shower. It stood up (survived)."

Her home was 80 percent destroyed,

only its outer walls standing.

At its widest point, the tornado struck seven houses across. Elsewhere it roared down the middle of one street, plucking the roofs off \$150,000 residences, punching a hole through one two-story house from front to back.

"I was standing in the kitchen with my daughter," said another woman who survived. "All of a sudden I heard this horrible noise. I ran and stood in front of the dining room window and it was raining so hard you couldn't see out."

"Then it was just like a train going over the top of my house. I heard this noise and what I thought was hail but it must have been the wind taking off the shingles. I heard a big crash and all the plate glass from my window was blown out. I've got 2-by-4s scattered in my front and back yard."

A neighbor, Tom Parker, said he was talking on the telephone when the twister struck.

"It sounded like a freight train coming through here. It was scary," he said. Power was out to a wide area of the Lakeside Estates subdivision and some of the damaged homes had leaking gas. Firefighters and police searched from house to house to make sure no one was trapped.

One child, Won Ohm, daughter of Dr. Ki Ohm, suffered a cut foot as a result of flying glass. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Police said more persons could have

been injured if the tornado had hit an hour later. It occurred during the beginning of

the rush hour before most persons had time to drive home. About 5:30 p.m., almost an hour after the twister struck, high winds damaged several mobile homes on the north side of town but there were not reports of injuries. Floodwaters from day-long rains inundated streets across the city.



Rain phantom

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Slicker-shrouded spectres swarmed over the Texas A&M campus Tuesday as students both afoot and on bicycles tried to fend off early fall showers which drenched College Station.

No cause found yet for DC-9 accident

United Press International

BOSTON — The National Transportation Safety Board Tuesday tried to determine how a DC-9 Air Canada jetliner tail cone fell into the Atlantic Ocean at 25,000 feet, leaving a gaping hole in the plane's fuselage.

The accident, reminiscent of a scene in the movie "Airport," forced an emergency landing. One minor injury was reported to the 43 people aboard.

Flight 680 took off from Logan International Airport about 12:20 p.m. Monday. It was about 60 miles toward its Yarmouth and Halifax, Nova Scotia destination when the incident occurred, said Mike Ciccarelli, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman.

"It was a miracle no one was sucked

out," Ciccarelli said. The tail cone fell off and an emergency escape door in the bulkhead blew out, leaving a door-size hole in the rear fuselage, he said.

"Flight attendants had to hold on tight and thank goodness nobody was near there. A liquor cart which was in the area was blown out of the airplane," Ciccarelli said. "The cockpit door was bent off its hinges."

Cabin pressure dropped within seconds and passengers were told to use their oxygen masks.

Robert Babineau, 31, of Barre, Mass., said, "We heard a big bang. Part of the plane was missing. I was in the 16th row, and I could see all the blue sky you want." "It sounded like a bomb," said Berty Martin of Syracuse, N.Y. "There was a

hole where the tail column was supposed to be."

"After we heard the bang, everything started blowing around," said Ellen John, 25, of Taunton, Mass. "The food just flew in every direction. I was scared."

The pilot was directed by the FAA radar center at Nashua, N.H., to make a 180-degree turn back to Logan, where he made a safe landing at 12:54 p.m.

One flight attendant suffered a bump on the head when she fell during the accident. The plane carried 38 passengers and five crew members.

One unidentified passenger said, "Lunch was being served when it happened. There was a loud noise and the oxygen masks dropped down. We looked

back and saw the hole and some luggage flying by."

The cone on DC-9's is 10 to 12 feet long and forms the tail end of the fuselage. Inside it is a bulkhead that forms the rear of the airplane, and set inside the bulkhead is the emergency escape door which was torn out.

Ciccarelli said it had already been determined no explosives were involved in the accident.

"Offhand I can't recall having this malfunction happen before," said Ray Deffry, a spokesman for McDonnell Douglas Corp., which manufactured the aircraft. "But it's almost impossible to make any analysis with the limited information we have so far about the incident."

Food wholesalers, good location needed

Grocery co-op program feasible here

By CAROL HANCOCK
Battalion Reporter

The research has been done and the plans have been drawn up. The only things keeping Texas A&M University from starting a food co-op is the lack of food wholesalers and a good location.

A food co-op enables its members to buy groceries directly from a wholesaler. By eliminating overhead, a co-op can sell food for 5 to 40 percent less than grocery stores.

Since 1971, Texas A&M student government has been looking into the food co-op idea.

After much inquiry into other university food co-ops, Brad Smith, student government vice president for student services, said a co-op at Texas A&M would be patterned after the co-op at Texas Tech University. Texas A&M's co-op would be a pre-order system, Smith said, which would cut down storage costs and chance of spoilage.

Members would order and pay for food on a Thursday, a week in advance. One full time manager would then put in the orders and pick them up the following week, and have them ready for member pick-up within the next few days.

The manager's other jobs would be updating computer price print-outs, separating orders and paying vouchers and receipts. Texas Tech's manager receives about \$75 a month, Smith said.

The charge for membership would be about \$3 per semester, plus three hours of work, he said. Membership would probably have to be limited to Texas A&M students, faculty and their families.

The types of food the co-op would offer would depend on what the members want, Smith said. Everything from vegetables to canned goods could be offered, he said, with the exception of dairy products.

Wholesalers already have been found for some items. Finding distributors for chips and natural foods wouldn't be too difficult, Smith said.

During the spring and summer the co-op could possibly get its fruits and vegetables from the University agriculture department for good prices, he said.

Getting wholesalers for the other items remains a problem. "Most wholesalers only distribute to large stores," he said.

It's possible, however, to order through a small convenience store owner, paying 5

percent over wholesale price to the store owner to cover ordering and short-term storage expenses, Smith said.

If a location for the co-op is found, more would be done in looking for distributors, Smith said.

A place on campus with a parking lot close by would be ideal, he said, but A&M has no spare buildings currently available. The main prospect now is the area around the married student housing.

The food co-op idea is worth more effort

than what has been put forth in the past, he said.

"It may be a lot more trouble to buy food through a co-op, but it's much cheaper," he said. "Cheaper prices add up."

Smith couldn't say when the co-op might get under way but he is hoping by the spring semester the co-op will be set up.

The cost to establish a pre-order co-op is around \$3,000.

Bootline survives, but under strict rules

By EILEEN WALL
Battalion Reporter

Listen up, Ags!

There will be a bootline at the University of Houston football game, according to Head Yell Leader Pete Greaves. There had been rumors that the line might be abolished.

Greaves said there have problems with the line at the past few games, but the tradition of greetig the players after halftime is to continue.

Bootlines will, however, be more organized and will operate under some stricter rules.

First, bootline will be held only at home games. Past policy dictated it be held at all home games and at away games when the host team and coach agree to the line.

Second, Greaves said, bootline is a senior privilege. Only members of the class of '80 should be on the

field. Non-senior dates, he said, should remain in the stands.

Third, children will not be allowed to participate, he said, and added that this has been a big problem in the past.

Finally, he said, announcements will be made at the University of Houston game on how the seniors are to line up. They aren't going to zig-zag all over the field, he said.

The bootline rules are going to have to be self-enforced by the students, he said. "We're going to strictly enforce the no-children policy, but for the most part, we can't tell who are seniors."

"Bootline is something seniors have waited three years to be in," Greaves said. "Underclassmen should respect this and stay in the stands. I'm sure that's the way they'll want it when they're seniors."



Image in the past

Modern figures are reflected in the glass of an antique picture inside the old Eloia Theatre in Calvert. See this week's Focus, in Thursday's Battalion, for more pictures of Calvert, a town which seems suspended in the past.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.