

# Local

## Health center

(cont. from Page 1)

decrease" in waiting time at the center, but it would enable addition of new services.

Student Body President Smith said one of the "easy ways" to get more money for additional doctors would be to increase student fees. But he said he did not know how much this would cost, and is reluctant to tell students they will have to pay more.

"If you are going to raise student fees there has got to be worthwhile benefits," Smith said.

When asked about the Florida re-

port, Smith said, "I don't know. I haven't seen it yet, but surveys like this can be very misleading."

"When my committees give me their report I will ask for all the information on it so I can fight for it."

Tracy Cox, head of the student finance committee, said the possibility of student funding caused him to study the issue.

All of the \$15 per-semester health fee and 14 percent of the \$33.50 student services fee is used to fund the center, Cox said. "We're still looking into this matter, but it seems now

that an increase of \$3.75 a semester in the student services fee would cover the salaries of six new doctors," Cox said.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said, "We will be receptive to almost anything they (student government) want to do in this area."

Even if the University can hire more physicians, Goswick said, there is still a need to reduce unnecessary use of the center.

"I hate to say that any student comes here too much, but there are those we know by name," Goswick said. "We never would want to make students feel like they can't come here with a medical problem, but there are those who are habitual users of the center."

One way student use could be reduced is to eliminate class excuses, which Goswick said takes too much time away from students with need for medical attention.

"We see between 300 and 400 students a day, and many of these are students who come in for no other reason than to get class excuses," Goswick said.

"I think they (excuses) are demeaning to students, totally useless

and take time that would be better spent on patients."

Eric Langford, student government vice-president for student services, said a bill to abolish class excuses has been sent for action and may be "law" by fall, 1981.

The proposed change to abolish class excuses would require instructors to request a report of student illness from the center.

Goswick said this could reduce student health center use by half.

Koldus said the class excuse proposal, sent to the rules and regulations committee, would help the center, and he does not see any problems in instructor-student relations if the policy change is approved.

"I don't think we need to dwell on student use, but rather services we can provide," Goswick said. "We have enough beds to handle almost any problem and a good staff... But we are going to have to have more money and physicians."

Goswick said the most physicians the center could use "from a facility standpoint" would be three because of limited outpatient facilities in examination, therapy and treatment rooms.

"We need more space for new

physicians to work."

The addition of a wing to the center is also being studied by the student senate, Goswick said expansion is "a must," but rates its chances as remote because of the five-year master plan.

Goswick said the five-year plan for University expansion is handled by the campus planning office and gets its name because any building must be approved by the administration and placed on the plan, which sets priorities for University expansion over a five-year period.

Expansion of the center is not on the five-year plan.

Glenn Dowling, director of campus planning, said the plan is administered by the steering committee and the planning committee.

Any expansion of the health center would have to be approved by Koldus, the steering committee, the planning committee and the campus planning office, Dowling said.

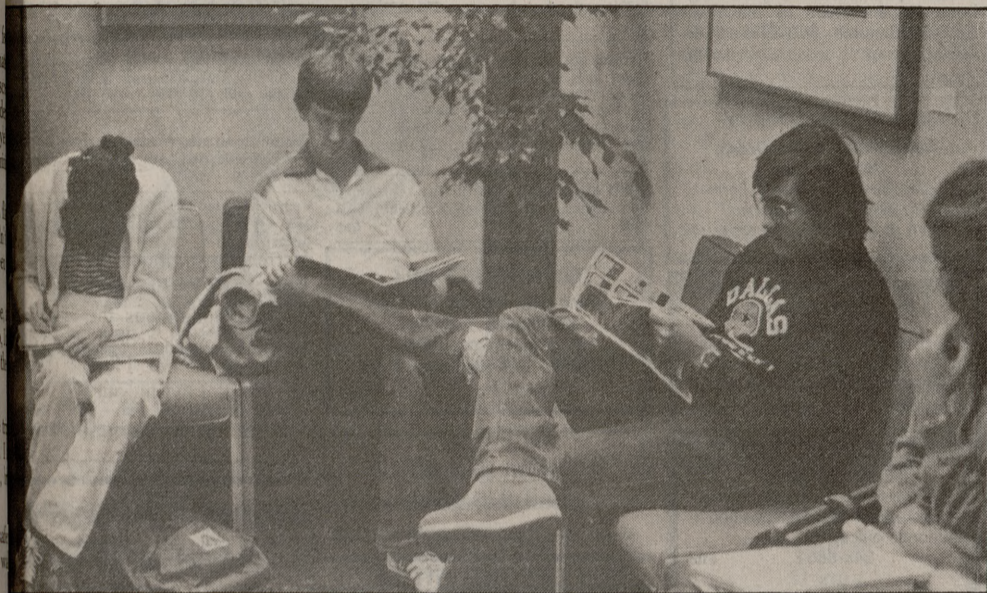
Before any construction can begin, funding must be approved by the board of regents.

Dowling said the five-year master plan is a guideline that could be altered if "expansion in any particular area is found to be a priority matter" by the administration.

"This whole expansion thing gets very complicated," Goswick said. "I have been proud of the fact that this has not been a high cost service to the students and I hope it can continue, but maybe that kind of thinking is just living in the past."

I've been very outspoken that the health center needs to be expanded, and it will take money to do this. I also realize there are priorities, but operating something like this is a big money deal and we need more."

Goswick said he could not promise student senate members the added doctors would make a "significant



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Students are forced to find ways to amuse themselves while waiting for a doctor at the A. P. Beutel Health Center. Waits of two hours and more are not uncommon.

### Help for final exam jitters

## Seminar to give testing tips

By SHERRY A. EVANS

Battalion Reporter  
A seminar on test anxiety will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder, hosted by the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Government and the Academic Counseling Center.

"Too many people are afraid of taking tests," said Tom Gowan of the Academic Affairs Committee, "so we're having the seminar right be-

fore finals to give people a little extra help."

Staff members of the Academic Counseling Center will cover topics such as test anxiety, test taking and study skills.

Gowan hopes the seminar will improve students' attitudes and impress upon students the need to avoid procrastination in studying for their tests.

Gowan is also a member of the

panel which reviews cases of students who may be forced to leave Texas A&M University because of poor grades. Many cases reviewed for poor grades are the result of students selecting the wrong majors as freshmen, Gowan said.

Although anyone may attend, the seminar will be directed toward aiding freshmen in decision-making and showing them ways to improve their study habits for next semester.

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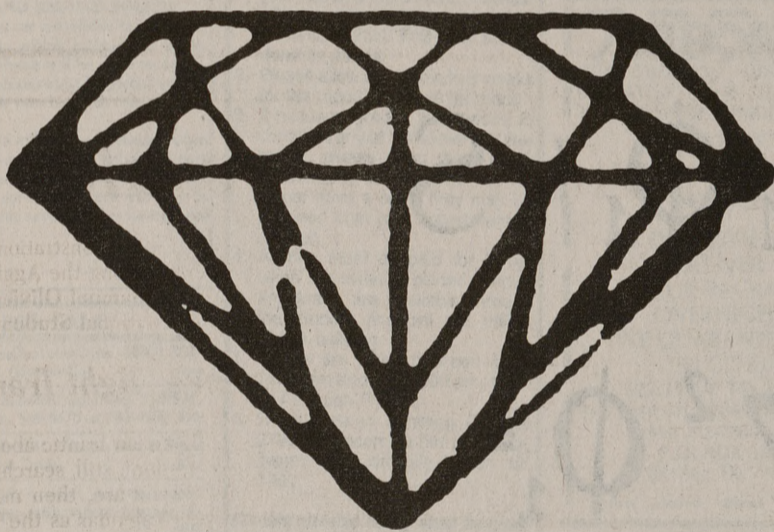
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