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The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High 68	High 70
Low 42	Low 52
Rain none	Chance of rain . . . none

Budget, officers OK'd by council

By KATHY O'CONNELL
Battalion Staff

MSC Council members Monday night approved recommendations by the Budget Review Committee for 1981-82.

The total recommended budget for next year's MSC Council and Directorate programs is \$1,323,599, a five percent increase over last year's \$1.25 million programming budget.

The council will request \$204,442 (15.4 percent) of the budget in student service fees at Finance Committee hearings Thursday. Keith Shurtleff, council vice president for finance, said the council is requesting a 14.6 percent increase over last year's student service fee allocation.

The other funds in the budget are to come from generated revenue, which includes ticket sales from the various programs and donations from outside sources.

Shurtleff said the Finance Committee asked the council to keep its student service fee request to within a 10 percent to 14 percent increase. He said the request would have been considerably less; however, MSC Political Forum asked for a significant increase in its budget because of the rising cost of bringing top quality speakers to campus.

Student service fee request — \$25,949, up \$9,000 (53 percent) from last year's \$16,949 — is justified because students are wanting to hear better speakers and this costs more. "If Political Forum is to present quality speakers," he said, "then more money will have to be budgeted."

Another reason the budget is higher,

he said, is because council approved the "Madrigal Dinners" as a new council project. Keith Bland and Kim Griffiths presented the proposal to the council and discussed the reasons for making the dinners a council project.

They think the Medieval Madrigal Dinner would be "an excellent way to usher in the Christmas season and be a welcomed tradition the students and community will look forward to year after year."

The dinners are to be held three consecutive evenings and will include entertainment, a craft fair, menu and costumes representing the Renaissance Era.

The council also discussed the role of non-voting members. There had been concern among members about the lack of attendance from four of the six non-voting council members. These include representatives from the Corps of Cadets, Off-Campus Aggies, Residence Halls Association, the Graduate Student Council, class councils and The Battalion.

Brien Smith, Married Student Council representative, said "every thing the council does affects the other groups and they should be present at the meetings."

At the Feb. 2 meeting the council approved a proposal to include the Married Student Council as a non-voting member. Smith presented the proposal.

Council President Ernen Haby suggested a committee be established to study the purpose, objectives, organizational structure and programming efficiency of four directorate committees. This suggestion was made based on the

findings of the Budget Review Committee when it reviewed budget requests.

These committees are Committees for Awareness for Mexican-American Culture, Arts Committee, Black Awareness Committee and Recreation.

The Program Study Committee will investigate the four committees and present a report to the council at the March 2 meeting.

The council approved Nominating Committee recommendations for the 1981-82 council officers:

— Kirk Kelley, vice president student development and Lisa Brubacher, director of personnel;

— Craig Hanks, vice president of programs and Brenda Svrcek, coordinator of programs;

— Paul Fischer, vice president of operations; Louise Morgan, director of MSC services; Bob Pfluger, director of non-MSA services;

— Doug Noah, vice president of development; Eugene Alford, director of development fund raising; Steven Wong, director of development finance; Scott Zesch, director of development public relations;

— Todd Norwood, vice president of finance and Julie Klabunde, director of funds; and

— Cindy Heep, director of promotions.

The new table of organization shows these vacancies to still be open: vice president for public relations, director of advertising/publicity, director of accounts, director of budget/planning, director of procedures, two coordinators of projects and three coordinators of programs.



Beatlemania

Richie Gomez looks and sings like former Beatle George Harrison in Monday night's MSC Town Hall presentation of "Beatlemania." For a review of the performance, see Thursday's Focus.

Made-to-order research papers have some risks

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series looking at the problems of cheating and scholastic dishonesty at Texas A&M.

By MARJORIE M. MCLAUGHLIN
Battalion Staff

"Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do."

— The Aggie Code of Honor

The advertisements are pinned to cluttered bulletin boards all over campus: "Research papers on every subject."

The number and nature of subjects available through the mail is formidable. One California research firm, operating since 1970, has a catalogue with 10,000 listings, ranging from supermarkets to ancient Greek and Roman literature. This company claims a staff of professional writers create thousands of papers annually.

A phone order can be filled "within two minutes and be in the mail within four hours," according to the catalogue, and 24-hour-delivery is possible if the paper is shipped by express messenger.

At \$4 per page, these ready-made papers are not cheap. For a price, even original papers and dissertations are available. But apparently to some college students throughout the country, the convenience of buying a research paper is worth the cost.

What students don't figure into the price of mail-order research papers is the price of getting caught committing plagiarism.

"I feel strongly about this," said Dr. David Stewart, head of the Texas A&M English department. "It is a form of theft — trying to steal grades."

The 1980-81 Texas A&M University Regulations (sec. 34-1) state that instructors must report apparent scholastic dishonesty in writing through the head of the department to the dean of that particular college.

Professors have the option of either lowering the student's final grade or failing him.

Stewart said he couldn't recall any cases of mail-order term papers in the English department in the past five years. Most plagiarism cases handled in his department are cases of people borrowing other people's research papers, or copying papers out of library books.

He said that often, freshmen are honestly confused about what constitutes plagiarism, having been taught in high school that the way to write a research paper is to copy material out of library books.

He said that a handout is given to all freshman English students, outlining what constitutes plagiarism.

Katherine O'Keeffe, assistant English professor, said instructors try to assign restricted topics to make it harder for students to buy ready-made papers. But, she added, students with enough money can pay for someone to do their research.

"It's not only cheating pure and simple, it's also acting against other students in the class," she said, calling the use of such papers, an "economic cheat."

Stewart said there is no set method for proving that a

mail-order term paper has been used, but that most teachers "instinctively" know when the paper is not written by the student who turns it in.

Most teachers assign impromptu papers throughout the semester to learn each student's style.

Often, if a teacher suspects a paper has been purchased, or copied, the teacher might ask the student questions about what some phrase or word means and catch the student that way, Stewart said.

Dr. Henry Dethloff, interim head of the history department, said that he was unaware of any cases in his department, but added that each semester, teachers wonder about some papers. He remarked that if teachers require outlines and sources, mail-order papers shouldn't be a problem.

"It shouldn't happen if a course is run correctly," he said.

By monitoring each stage of students' papers, assistant history professor Dr. Chester Dunning feels that he can be "95 percent sure" that plagiarism problems don't occur in his classes.

Dunning requires that topics be on based on specific class reading assignments. In his advanced classes, he requires preliminary bibliographies and one-on-one meetings with students to discuss their topics, outlines and approaches to their papers.

He then usually changes the approach slightly, narrowing the topic. Complete bibliographies and outlines are required before students begin work on the paper.

Dunning said he has received three mail-order research papers since teaching at Texas A&M, but because less writing

is required in undergraduate courses, the problem is not as prevalent here as at other colleges.

When he receives a plagiarized paper, Dunning fails the student on the assignment. If the problem occurs again, the student fails the course.

"It's a fantastic business that should be stamped out," Dunning said. "I'm all for free enterprise, but I'm also for the integrity of the academic profession."

The Battalion ran an ad for a California research firm last semester. Don Johnson, coordinator of student publications, said that the national advertising agency which handles The Battalion's national ads arranged for placing the research paper advertisements.

After complaints from the faculty, The Battalion notified the agency that the ad would not be run in the future, Johnson said.

"We told them that we had had objections to (the ad's) propriety," he said.

Mail-order research services stand to make large profits, with prices ranging from \$4 a page for already written papers, to \$11.95 a page for graduate custom papers.

But, as Stewart remarked, most students don't get what they expect for their money. He said that the few papers he has seen were about C-quality work, complete with a few misspelled words and grammar errors, designed to look like natural mistakes.

"I have never seen one (paper) that I would fail, but I've never seen one that I would give an A," he said.

Flat land helped disabled building-mapper

By KATHY O'CONNELL
Battalion Staff

To some people getting around campus is nothing. To Roddy Dunnell, it's a challenge.

Dunnell, who is confined to a wheelchair, is active in helping other handicapped students on campus. In fact, he's so active he's mapped and cataloged every building on the Texas A&M University campus that has wheelchair access. The handbook, entitled "Access," was printed through the office of the vice president for student services.

Starting last spring and finishing in the summer, Dunnell said he went to every building, restroom and ramp to see what accommodations are available for handicapped students.

"It was a long hot summer," he said. "The good thing about here (Texas A&M) is that it's flat. Hills are a real pain."

The size of the campus makes it difficult, he said, but there is a special shuttle bus that takes handicapped students from one side of campus to the other.

"Originally, our club, Students Concerned for the Handicapped, was doing it (mapping the campus)," Dunnell said.

"We split it up into seven sections and were each going to take a section. It ended up only one other person mapped a section."

Dunnell said he "figured it was needed" so he didn't mind the extra six sections.

Dunnell said there are about 100 students on campus with handicaps and 10 to 12 in wheelchairs. He said his main concern is to eliminate the barriers facing these students.

"Right now a real big problem is parking — people parking across curb cuts or bicycle riders and skaters that use the curb cuts," he said. "They don't realize that they're made for people in wheelchairs."

"We're in the process of having wheelchair signs painted on all the curb cuts." This should make every-

one realize what the curb cuts are intended for, he said.

Dunnell said wheelchair access at Texas A&M is comparable, if not better, to other schools. He said the University of Texas has good facilities but the hills make it difficult to get around. At the University of Houston, he said, it's crowded and people are inconsiderate, by parking bikes in front of the ramps or near the handrails.

That happens here, he said, but not as often.

Dunnell said another concern of his is reaching "program accessibility." This means figuring out where different classes should be held and if the buildings are accessible.

"For example," he said, "in chemistry lab, the building is accessible, but the tables are too high for a wheelchair. You can pick up a lot by watching, but it's not the same."

Dunnell said he worked with Dr. Rod O'Connor, chemistry professor, and designed a lab table which is now being built.

The senior engineering technology major said he doesn't see his disability as a handicap.

"It's all in your attitude. It's not really a handicap to me, it just hinders me in some things. You can't look back, if you look back you'll start feeling sorry for yourself."

Dunnell's disability resulted from a spinal injury he suffered while platform diving in 1976. He said he went through a period where he felt sorry for himself.

"It hurt my grades bad, but I just couldn't stop. I'm a very straightforward person. I can't stop something once I've started."

Dunnell said his disability is more difficult for his friends to accept than it is for him. "It's mainly harder for my older friends who knew me before I was in the chair. They don't know how to treat me."

Not only is he involved in Students Concerned for the Handicapped, but he is also active in the Associa-



Photo by Becky Swanson

Roddy Dunnell, a senior engineering technology major, practices his bowling form in the MSC bowling alley.