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THE BATTALION TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1981

## Battalion

1141

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**MSC BARBER** 

Business Communication Services 209 University East 846-5794 165ttn

reviewer to speak

Eric Gerber, movie critic for The Houston Post, will speak on "An Oscar Preview: Insights on the Academy Awards" at 7:30 tonight in Rudder Theater. The program, sponsored by the

MSC Aggie Cinema Committee. is free and open to the public.

"He (Gerber) will be discussing the last year of film," David Mucci, the chairman of Aggie Cinema, said.

'He will talk about certain trends in films and maybe about films that didn't get nominated (for an Academy Award) but he thought should have," Mucci added.

Gerber, who has been movie critic for The Houston Post for 10 years, graduated from the Univer-sity of Houston where he received

his bachelor's degree in journal-ism and his master's in English. The native Houstonian also studied at the University of Film

Study at Amherst, Mass. Besides working for The Hous-

## True-false exams often the trickiest objective tes

## **By CARLA SUTTER**

Battalion Reporter You walk into class five minutes late because you overslept from studying until 4 a.m. Your hands are sweaty. You wonder if you will remember everything you crammed into your head last night. The teacher hands you a test and as you look it over you groan — it's all true-false.

True-false tests can be the trickiest tests given,

said Dr. Donald G. Barker, professor of educational psychology at Texas A&M University. Writing good true-false questions requires know-ledge and skill and may only be an indirect indicator of what the student should learn in the course, said John R. Hill of Florida State University in his book Measurement and Evaluation in the Classroom".

A true-false test is an objective test. Other objective tests are multiple choice, matching and short answer. The term objective means that no human judgment is used in grading the test and very few scoring errors or disagreements with the student should occur, said Hill.

Multiple choice tests are probably the most common tests at Texas A&M, Barker said. The multiple choice tests are easier to grade, he said.

"While objective tests are accurate and reliable in the grading process, they usually don't tap a student's higher cognitive levels like essay tests do," Barker said.

Barker said essay tests are given more frequently in upper level courses and graduate courses because the classes are smaller.

'We wouldn't use multiple choice tests if we didn't have to, but class size demands that we do," said Dr. Rod O'Conner, professor of chemistry. "When the chemistry department gave its Chal-

lenge Exam (a comprehensive problems test) at the end of the semester for students who wanted to improve their grade, it took 45 man hours to grade 300 papers with four professors grading," O'Conner

"We would prefer not to give mu tests, but it's not possible because of the tim volved," he said. "A&M would go broke trying

for enough graders." Nancy Hall, 21, an industrial engineering m said she would prefer a problems test to anothe test. "In a problems test you're applying what

earned, it's not just rote memory," sh While testing the student's knowledg ary reason for giving tests, it's not the only Barker said. Tests are also a motivational and tional process for the student, he said. Tests student a reason for studying and learning, h "Students also like to know the answe

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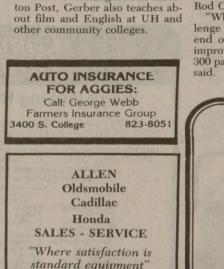
at the time it's given, and if they can find they correct answer, it can be a positive reinforcem the student," he said.

Many students feel, however, that teacher care about the tests they give. A senior med COLI engineering major said one of his teachers g most impossible and bizarre tests. "He'd we thing in class and test us over another and the 'Who cares? If you flunk you can take the over," he said. MSC CHRI

The amount of tests given is also important, E said. said. "If tests were given more frequently wouldn't be as much anxiety," Barker said. only two tests are given a semester, it puts load on the student, because there is so much asis put on each test in the grading process. A good number of tests would be four or in PC

Open book and take-home tests can be putte use on certain occassions, Barker said. "A sho dent could show his power independent of time said. "However, the measurement isn't that: since everyone isn't responding to the same to 18 cer The questions may be the same, but the setting be said

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