

# Local

## 'Spring fever' will take its toll on A&M students

By JANE C. BRUST  
Battalion Staff

Sunshine and warmer temperatures have ushered in the spring season. Every day Texas A&M University students are basking in the sun and tossing footballs through the air.

Many students seem to be contracting that annual "disease" known as spring fever that forces them away from their books and out into the sunshine.

"It's been winter and people have been shut in; they want to get out," said Dr. Larry Roe, assistant director of the Personal Counseling Service.

"Students have been here for the fall semester, and they've

been in school about three months this semester. They have their mid-term grades and there's a lot bearing down on finals. This could make you not want to study.

"They can see the end of the semester, and it's easier to have thoughts of the lake or the beach.

"I know there's a part of me that comes alive in spring — things are prettier and I'm excited about being outside."

Toward the end of the semester, students can become bored with school or they can feel overwhelmed by work to be finished before finals. Roe said peer pressure is a contributing factor to academic laziness because students see other students enjoying

themselves outdoors.

"There could be a conflict between roommates if one has managed his time well and is not cramming — he has time to enjoy spring. If the other hasn't managed his time well, he has to study," Roe said.

Those students who are not feeling the pressures of finals may be feeling pressures from graduation.

"We're seeing some students now who are graduating with marginal grades," he said. "They don't have a job, and things are descending upon them — they have no idea what they are to do."

End-of-the-semester pressures can also affect personal relationships, Roe said. He said the relationship itself may be all right but other pressures can work against it.

Rising temperatures can be one big factor. Roe pointed out that people describe being angry as being "hot."

"I know I'm irritable and less patient when I'm hot," he said. "The weather could be against you, there's peer pressure, and cramming is not ever good."

"Whatever stress you are under can place stress on a relationship. Once the stress of the semester subsides, a couple can do more things together."

Roe said the single most frequent kind of problem coming

into the Personal Counseling Service concerns stress management. He said the fair weather can have a positive effect if students have time to enjoy the available recreation facilities.

"Students feel stress from relationships, from school, and they can no longer manage it," Roe said. Symptoms of stress include insomnia, appetite disturbances and depression.

"There's also the feeling of being less effective, less is being accomplished," he said.

Roe said it's the nature of the University, with demands and competition, to create the stress. He said, however, the stress may

not always be negative because the pressures can help students become more productive individuals.

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## Aggie debaters go 3-5 in nationals

By COLETTE HUTCHINGS  
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M University varsity debate team returned from the four-day National Debate Tournament with experience under its belt and high hopes for next year.

Texas A&M won three rounds and posted a 3-5 record in the tournament, which began April 11 at California Polytechnic University. Although the team did not make the elimination rounds, debate coach Wayne Kraemer said he believes the results were not bad.

"Given the overall results and the quality of the teams we debated, we did pretty well," he said.

Texas A&M beat Suffolk University of New Jersey, California State University of Sacramento and James Madison University of Virginia.

Mike Shelby, the four-year veteran on the team, said the team's most disappointing loss resulted from a split decision to Harvard University.

"We thought we had that one won," Shelby said. He said even the Harvard team members gave their congratulations.

The only other Southwest Conference team to participate in the tournament, Baylor University, also had a 3-5 record.

The overall winner of the tournament was the University of Pittsburgh. Dartmouth College placed second.

Shelby, a graduating senior, said the most difficult part of the debates was not knowing anything about new evidence presented by the opposing team.

Kraemer said that next year the team should have more depth and experience.

Another advantage, Kraemer said, is that Ruby Daniels, Shelby's sophomore partner, will be on the team next year.

He added that participating in the National Debate Tournament gives Texas A&M more experience and helps the team's reputation.

## 3,000 scholarships open for qualified students

By SUSAN DITTMAN  
Battalion Reporter

Nearly 5,000 students are attending Texas A&M University this year on scholarships. Dr. B.G. Johnson, assistant director of student financial aid, says.

The University makes between 3,000 and 3,500 scholarships available to students while the rest are made up of funds, sent in from other sources such as foundations and A&M Mother's Clubs, which are distributed by the University, Johnson said.

"We have probably eight or nine applications to every scholarship available," he said.

Many of the scholarships don't specify many — requirements, Johnson said. "We are quite fortunate in that the donors (of the scholarships) ... have not put restrictive or hard-to-fill requirements" on the awards, he said.

"We try to encourage students to apply so we can consider them for anything they are eligible for," Johnson said.

Johnson said most of the scholarships are awarded under one of two programs: the Opportunity Awards Program, which is for incoming freshmen, and the Spring Awards Program, which is for undergraduates.

Scholarship recipients are chosen by the University Scholarship Committee, which is headed by Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, and made up of faculty, staff and students, Johnson said.

He said most of the awards are made in the spring so the students can count on the funds to help pay their fees for the upcoming year.

Johnson said it is sometimes hard to distinguish the difference between scholarships and grants.

"Scholarships are normally based on something other than

financial need," he said.

Grants, on the other hand, are based on need regardless of the student's grade point ratio so long as the student maintains the University's required GPA, Johnson said.

The gray area between grants and scholarships appears when an award calls for a student with good academic standing but who also has financial need, he said.

Many available grants are not

distributed because students who fit in the category of having financial need don't apply for them, Johnson said.

Often the reason is because their parents do not want to disclose their income, he said.

Instructions for applying for scholarships, grants or other financial aid can be found in the Texas A&M Undergraduate Catalogue or at the Student Financial Aid Office in the YMCA Building.

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