## Local / Features

## Astronomy prof expects students to work for 'A'

By TIM FOARDE

Battalion Reporter Easy A's in a three-hour stargazg course come with hard work in

his part of the galaxy.

Dr. John P. Lestrade, who aches Physics 306 (Basic Astroomy), is committed to making

"They don't understand the value of being educated just for the purpose of knowing things. They just want to get the grade and get

and even entertaining, but students who expect to do well in the Lesti ourse must go a step beyond star-

birth and death of stars and the planets are covered in the course, as well as thorough coverage of basic astronomy.

Lestrade believes there is value in truly learning the material in any college course just for the sake of being educated. He uses this philosophy in the way he teaches trade said. his astronomy class.

'If a student wants to get out of this course with an A, B, or C, he will learn the material," Lestrade said. He said there is a basic problem with 'the way students approach many of their courses.'
"They don't understand the

value of being educated just for the purpose of knowing things, Lestrade said. "They just want to get the grade and get out. That's the class interesting, informative not the purpose of a university,

Supernovas, black holes, the school in Ireland, spends extra th and death of stars and the time in his office to help students

having problems in the course.

His office walls are decorated with posters of Saturn, Jupiter, and Irish proverbs, but he has many other areas of interest. "As a student I hated literature and history, now they fascinate me," Les-

He encourages students to broaden their interests and learn the material in all their courses.

Lestrade pointed out two advantages of learning astronomy, even though it may not seem relevant to one's goals or

"When you study physics you learn to think logically," Lestrade said. "It really does straighten out your mind as far as the quantitative process of working out prob-

Lestrade, who traces his admiration of self-improvement to his experiences at a difficult high

amount of milk can be a problem they should," Lestrade said.

that requires logic," Lestrade

Lestrade said many teachers in

Lestrade said it is unfortunate that students lack the motivation

"When you study physics you learn to think logically. It really does straighten out your mind as far as the quantitative process of working out problems."

to learn, but he said the blame must be shared by teachers. "Stu-

the science department at Texas A&M care more about their research than teaching students. "On the one hand they will criticize the athletic department and say, 'There is no place on this campus for football, this is a university, it's for teaching.' And on the other hand they will say, 'I don't have time for office hours, I have to go do my research.

Lestrade said university instructors should do both teaching and research, but the tendency is drifting away from teaching. "It's getting to the point where we only have people who do research and they cannot teach," Lestrade said.

He said the reason many instructors cannot teach is that they don't want to teach. "If their job depended on it, they would become very good teachers," Les-

Lestrade said he likes doing

research, but his first priority is being a good teacher. He said students have two different concepts of good teachers. "There is the kind where people say, 'He's good. He doesn't know much, but you can get an A from him.

Lestrade said another kind of teacher is his idea of a good teacher. "... then there is the kind where they say, 'Wow, that guy really knows his stuff and makes you work for it.' That's the kind of good I want to be.



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## Woman boasts 90 granddaughters

By SHELLEY EMSHOFF

Battalion Reporter The residents of the Brazos Valey Geriatric Center sit hunched n their wheelchairs, slowly nodling their heads and mumbling to themselves. The tile floor and inyl furniture add no warmth to he depressing scene. Walking lown the hall, the pungent odor is not masked by the smell of anti-

The atmosphere changes enterng Eva Ashcraft's room. The walls e lined with brightly colored untings and pictures of her famiy. It looks as if a portion of her previous home has been estabished in the little room.

"I have plenty to be happy abat," said Ashcraft. "I have a lovey family and 90 granddaughters. Ashcraft, a nicely dressed 70-

year-old woman with a radiant added face, is the grandmother for Delta Ash Zeta Sorority. She was chosen by the center's recreational director. Pointing to pictures of each of the girls in the sorority, she said, "I always thought sorority girls were a bunch of high hats, but these girls are the nicest group

Ashcraft said that the recepionist told her that she had been chosen to be Delta Zeta's grandmother and that she had company

I've ever met.

oming to see her. Her soft green eyes became arger as she said, "I thought one or two people were coming, but I ooked down the hall and, my lord, there were at least 25 girls oming to my room, singing 'Getting to Know You'.

She said that at least two girls come to visit her each week. They know my favorite color is yellow, so they usually bring me a yellow rose or something real cute," she said.

Ashcraft and her husband are able to share a room, which makes her feel more at home. "Daddy loves those girls who come to visit," she said as little wrinkles came across her smiling face. They love him too and want to adopt him as their grandpa," she added.

Ashcraft pointed to pictures of her son and daughter. "Jack and Judy didn't want us to live out nere, but I had a stroke and Daddy broke his hip, and we just couldn't manage alone," she said. "I always said I would never live with my children and interfere with their lives, and I mean just that," she

Ashcraft said that her children decorated the room to be just like

home. "One year the children came here for Christmas and we had it right here in this room," she smiled and said. "We had a ball just being together.

Looking at a picture of her son in uniform, Ashcraft said he was an Aggie. "I love the Aggies, said. "They're the best bunch of

kids around. She said, "When my little Mag-gie granddaughters aren't here,

there is always a group of Aggies here singing and visiting.

Asheraft said, "I love to meet people and that's one of my favorite reasons for being a grandmother for Delta Zeta.

Ashcraft explained that there are many activities to be involved with at the center. She said she loves to go to the parties and different functions. Church services are held twice a week.

'My granddaughters were proud of me when I became the Valentine Queen for this year,'

a beer bust and a belly dancer performed. She slapped her hand on her knee and said, "There's nothing slow about us here.

"We've always got something going on, but it's best when the

She said that recently they had Aggies and the granddaughters come to visit.'

Looking back at the picture of the sorority, Ashcraft said, "I just hope that when this young generation gets as old as I am, they will be treated as nice as I am by this lovely group of granddaughters.

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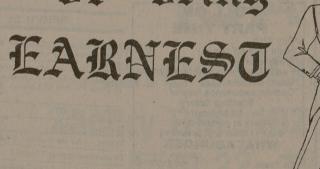
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