

# Local / State

## Flight instructor courses to be offered

By JERI JONES  
Battalion Reporter  
The Texas A&M University Engineering Extension Service and the Texas Aeronautics Commission are conducting a flight instructor recertification and refresher course in Houston May 20-22.

The course is for certified flight instructors seeking to renew their certificates, commercial pilots working toward flight instructor ratings and teachers of aeronautical subjects, Jim Noel, professor of engineering and coordinator of the program, said.

The 24-hour course, which will be held at the Ramada Inn located at 777 Airport Blvd., begins at 8 a.m. May 20 and continues through 5 p.m., May 22.

A \$30 registration fee can be sent to the TAC. The course will include lectures, quizzes, panel discussions and handouts.

It is not necessary to preregis-

ter, Noel said, but refund of registration fees will only be made if notification is received before May 18.

The course was designed by the TEES for certified flight instructors to renew licenses that expire every two years.

A certified flight instructor whose license has not expired will have his license revalidated by a Federal Aviation Administration officer at the end of the course.

If an instructor's license has expired, the pilot must pass a check ride with an FAA officer in the air before his license will be renewed.

A certified flight instructor is the only person who can perform in-the-air flight instruction.

To become a certified flight instructor one must first have 250 hours of flying as a commercial pilot, Noel said.

After this, one must pass a check ride with a general aviation

district officer from the FAA.

The check ride tests the pilot's ability to teach in the air and to recover the plane if the student gets into trouble.

A certified flight instructor must learn to think and react quickly, Noel said.

Instructors for the three-day refresher course include Bob Runnels, professor of meteorology; Richard Thomas, director of the Center for Strategic Technology;

Tom Taylor, professor of chemistry and Noel Taylor is a certified flight instructor.

The TEES and the TAC have been conducting these seminars every two months for three years in various Texas locations.

"We recertify 90 percent of the flight instructors in Texas," Noel said.

Noel said these programs reach 1,200 to 1,500 pilots every two

years.

TEES initiated the course because of the need to extend education to others outside the University system, Noel said.

"Texas A&M is an aviation-oriented school," he said.

Texas A&M has the largest university-owned airport, an aerospace department, a flight mechanics lab and an industrial education class that teaches students basic ground flight instruction.

## Reagan speech gets praise from Texans

United Press International  
DALLAS — Texans generally praised President Reagan's first televised speech since last month's attempt on his life, and some expressed support for the economic package the administration hopes will end inflation.

"Everybody realizes that we have to do something drastic," said Houston accountant Shirley Brown in a poll taken after the Tuesday night speech. "I'm willing to gamble on anything at this point; it couldn't get much worse at this point."

"His attitude seemed sincere; he seemed to have a lot of faith in his plan. He said it's a long-range plan and he isn't promising any miracles overnight, which I think is a realistic attitude. It would be very difficult to turn the economy around in a few months."

"His comments about wanting a large defense budget were pretty much expected. I'm real pleased to see he was supporting the space program. I think he was smart to support it. A lot of people favor it."

Texas Sen. John Tower said: "The president has sounded an impressive rallying cry to the Congress for support of a program the vast majority of our people want — a program that will set us on the road to economic recovery."

Another Texas congressman, Tom Loeffler, said the American people have "popped the whip."

He said, "The president has set the course and thrown us a perfect loop. It is now up to Congress to cut the slack out of the rope. I very strongly support the bipartisan

budget resolution and will fight any scheme that weakens our defense capability, increases our spending and raises our taxes."

But not everyone was won over by the president's genial manner. Houstonian Joan Doerner had a very different reaction to Reagan's speech.

"I think the whole thing was just full of dull generalities. He kept saying, 'This is not a sick society,' she said. 'If you have to keep saying it, it's probably sick.'"

Doerner also criticized his plans to cut spending on social programs and increase defense spending. "If you start cutting down on money that would go for health, education, welfare, food and jobs, this society will get sicker," she said. "Violence will increase, and I think that is a symptom that the society is sick."

"I am for defense cuts, rather than cutting on human needs. Building up defense usually leads to war."

She also disputed Reagan's statement that stimulating American businesses would increase jobs.

"He kind of implied that more money means more jobs and it doesn't. It usually means more machines," she said.

"I always think of Rome when I see Reagan, because this country's sort of on the decline like Rome was. He's sort of a Nero figure to me. He's like the Roman emperors who didn't recognize the problems of Rome. I think we're like Rome, we're just coming apart at the seams."



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