

Local

Grad students get help from Academic Services

BY STEPHANIE WILLIAMS
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University's Academic Services Division is a central resource for student information and assists graduate students in obtaining financial aid.

The programs of general studies and academic counseling were combined two years ago to form the Academic Services Division to counsel undecided majors as well as graduate students.

"General studies typically accommodates freshmen and sophomores," said Mary Phillips, academic services counselor. She said that by the time students are classified as juniors and seniors, they have decided on a major field of study.

Students who decide to study a major field not offered at Texas A&M are provided with pre-professional counseling through the General Studies Program, Phillips said, until transferring to another university.

Academic Services also provides a resource room located in Harrington Tower with information on financial aid for graduate students.

"These services have been around for a long time," she said, "but the scholarships have only been available for graduate

students one year."

Seniors wanting a graduate scholarship need to apply early because the complete process takes from six to nine months, Phillips said. Undergraduate scholarships are not handled by academic services.

A variety of graduate scholarships are available:

The Marshal Scholarship is offered by the British government for a degree in unrestricted fields from any university in the United Kingdom. This scholarship is highly competitive, Phillips said. Students must have a grade point ratio of a 3.75 to apply. Applications are in 100 Harrington Tower; Oct. 22 is the application deadline.

The Hertz Scholarship is offered to students in applied physical sciences and is awarded on the basis of undergraduate performance, recommendations and an interview with a representative from the Hertz Foundation. Applications are in 125 Teague Research Center.

Fulbright Grants are for U.S. students who want to live and study in a foreign country for one academic year. The scholarship includes full, partial and travel grants. Applications are in 257 Bizzel Hall.

The White House Fellowship provides U.S. citizens an

opportunity to work with the federal government in assisting the vice-president, a cabinet member, or the President's staff. Applications are in 100 Harrington Tower; application deadline is Dec. 1.

The Hugh's Aircraft Fellowship applicants must be qualified to pursue graduate work in electrical, mechanical, aeronautical, aerospace or systems engineering, mathematics, physics, computer science, engineering science or engineering physics. The grade point ratio required by applicants is a 3.0. Applications are available in 100 Harrington Tower and must be submitted before Feb. 1, 1982.

The National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship is awarded for studies leading to master's or doctoral degrees in the mathematical, physical, biological engineering, social sciences and in the history and philosophy of science. Applicants must fill out a screening card in the graduate college office to receive applications. The deadline for submitting applications is Nov. 26. Resource files and directories are available in 100 Harrington Tower, along with a limited amount of scholarship applications for those students interested in graduate school.

Beauty aid used as treatment

Aloe vera popular folk remedy

Back in the days when snake oil and other elixirs were hawked by medicine show promoters as the "cure of cures" or "the secret of eternal life," many people would swear that their blindness, limping or whatever was actually cured by drinking some vile potion.

Sometimes the person's ailment did clear up—not because of the elixir, but because of the power of suggestion, says the Texas Medical Association. But most of the time these folks went back home after paying their dollar and found that nothing had changed—except that they were a dollar poorer.

Today, people spend much more than a dollar on quack cures, studies show. It's big business. People are still buying snake oil and other modern equivalents for all sorts of major and minor ailments.

There is a middle-ground of quackery, however, which presents quizzical problems for the public. These are the drugs or products that have some legitimate uses, but are often over-sold as

cure-alls. Aloe vera, a centuries-old beauty aid and first-aid treatment for cuts and burns is one of these, says the TMA.

Aloe vera is a plant belonging to the lily family. Certain species of it are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as a natural flavoring in food. And the aloe gel, which is extracted from the plant, is a common ingredient in cosmetics.

Aloe vera is also a popular house plant, often used as a "folk medicine" remedy for cuts and minor burns, especially in the Southwest. There are no official scientific studies which prove the effectiveness of aloe vera for this purpose, but it is generally considered harmless.

But, the seemingly harmless plant can be quite dangerous, if used for the wrong purposes. For example, the aloe plant provides a very powerful laxative, which both the American Medical Association and the American Pharmaceutical Association say should not be used because its results are unpredictable and sometimes violent.

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Indian ruins facing modern massacres

Remains of a band of prehistoric Indians who survived the arid wilds of southwestern New Mexico may not survive modern grave robbers who bulldoze 900-year-old ruins to sell what they find, says a Texas A&M University archaeologist.

Things are changing, though, said Dr. Harry Shafer, who has conducted archaeological field schools in the region for the past four years.

Ranchers and landowners once reluctant to admit outsiders through their gates now ask professional archaeologists to examine sites before they fall victim to pillagers. Local interest in the mysterious group of farming Indians called Mimbres has prompted conservation efforts, he said.

About 80 percent of the sites in question, located near the Mimbres River east of Silver City, have now been hit by pot hunters, making most scientific study useless, Shafer said.

The Mimbres probably settled in the river valley for which they are named sometime in the sixth century, and mysteriously moved out of their adobe homes and into oblivion around 1125 A.D., possibly because their population outgrew the resources to feed it, he said.

The major thrust of Texas A&M's research — supported by the Federation of Aggie Mothers' Clubs, the Earthwatch conservation group and the University's College of Liberal Arts — has concentrated on the Mimbres' more peaceful endeavor of irrigated farming.

Shafer said the use of irrigation shows a certain complexity to the Indian society's ability to adjust to life in such a harsh environment. Irrigation indicates at least some close cooperation between villages, he said.

The Mimbres reached a population of about 4,500 at their peak, perhaps contributing to their deci-

sion to leave the valley, Shafer said. The growth may have caused the villages to fall in domino fashion as resources ran out and people from one site moved to another, swelling the ranks there.

Shafer said what seems to be a high infant mortality rate and a large number of deaths over a short period suggest the Texas A&M scientists' theory is right, but such deaths might have been perfectly natural for the time and place.

"It's been a disastrous situation in many ways," he said. "I don't think we will ever be able to learn fully what we need to know because of the destruction. What has been lost is totally irreplaceable."

"Archaeology is destruction, too, but it is systematic. Later we can theoretically reconstruct the site. We can make models and show them to the public. We generate information and distribute it. With pot hunters, just the reverse is true," said Shafer.

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