

# Computing science requests status as separate department

by Denise S. Sechelski  
Battalion Staff  
The Texas A&M computing science division of the industrial engineering department could become an independent department by next spring.

The request to form a separate department must go through a detailed process of review by various University committees, said Dr. Charles McCandless, interim vice president for academic affairs.

The computing science division will submit its proposal to the University Curriculum Committee. If approved, it will go to the Graduate Council, the Academic Council and the office of the president.

If the proposal passes those steps, the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents will vote whether to send the request to the Coordinating Board in Austin.

"It is quite a lengthy review," McCandless said. "The process generally takes around a year to a year and a half."

The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System is the highest authority in Texas over higher education. The board periodically reviews all degree programs offered by state universities and tries to assure that the programs meet students' needs.

Dr. Dan D. Drew, computing science division head, said consultants from the Coordinating Board studied the program and suggested to the Board of Regents that a separate department be created.

"We don't expect any problems with the administration or the faculty over the change," Drew said. "Everyone on the faculty is pleased about it." No faculty changes would result from the switch, he said.

The degrees offered by the computing science department would remain the same if the change is made, Drew said. The division offers programs for bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

The new computing science department would not receive a large increase in funds, Drew said. The department would receive some extra money for secretaries and office equipment.

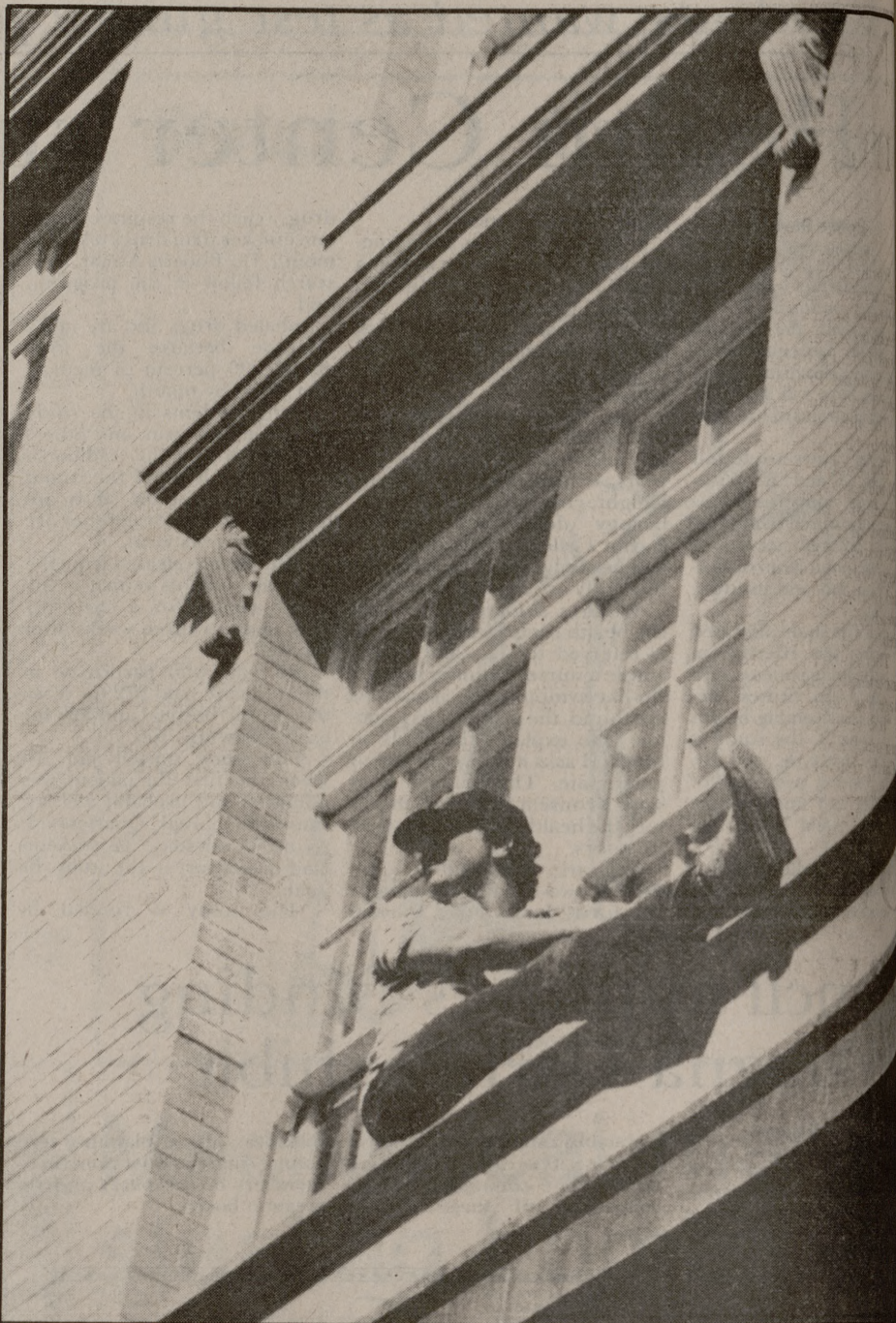
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A bird's eye view

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Nuclear engineering junior Kevin Lange enjoys a bird's eye view from his perch on the second story of the Academic Building. Lange is from Greenville.

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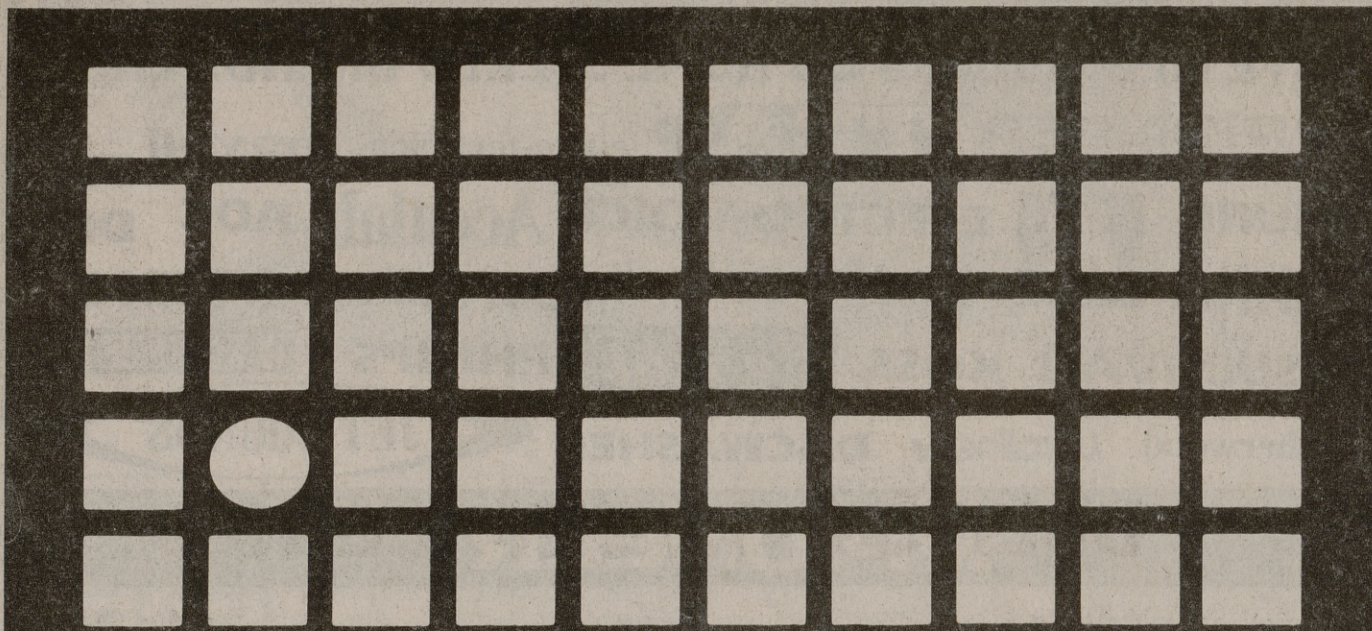
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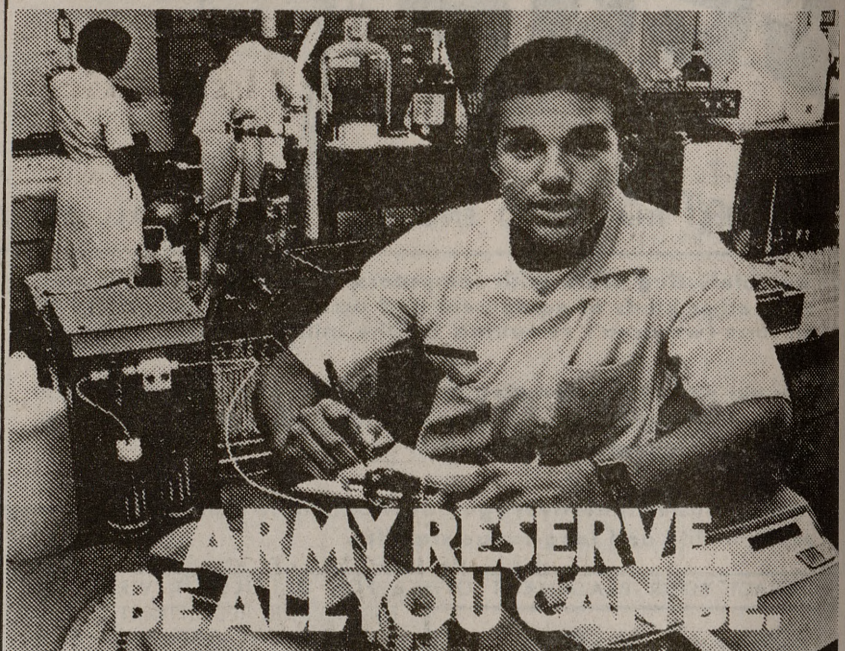
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