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staff photo by David Fisher

Caught in the middle

Jennifer Bedgood, a junior business major from Commerce, can't help but laugh from the sudden attack by Snoopy and Woodstock, characters in Charles Schulz's Peanuts cartoon. Woodstock, a costumed Alan Quintero, and Snoopy, alias Chris Wilson, were publicizing this Saturday's muscular dystrophy Dance-athon which is being held to raise money for the battle against M.D.

A&M may start DWI program

by Maureen Carmody

Battalion Staff
Education is better than punishment for driving-while-intoxicated offenders, a Texas A&M safety education professor says.

Dr. Mauri Dennis said he has applied to the Texas Commission on Alcoholism to approve an educational program at Texas A&M for people who have been convicted of DWI.

"Many people don't know their legal (drinking) limits or the laws," Dennis said. "And you don't punish away ignorance. This program is set up to try to overcome this ignorance."

He said the program was not a punishment for being charged with DWI, but rather an addition to it.

Dennis also said he supports a few of the new proposals of Sen. Bill Sarpalus, D-Amarillo, including tightening probation laws and eliminating deferred adjudication. Under this system, a DWI offense is taken off an offender's record if he is not convicted of another DWI offense within a specified time.

He added that making laws too strict has a tendency to backfire.

"There is research that shows that when laws are made too strict the conviction rate goes down," Dennis said.

"You're not going to have a jury who will send a young man or woman up to Huntsville for four years for a first offense DWI. They're going to think: 'I'm not going to ruin this person's life.'"

Educating the public is more beneficial than making laws more strict, he said. His program is set for two hours a night for four nights, with the first two hours serving as an introduction to the course, Dennis said.

"This first part is called 'Introduction to the Nature of the Problem,'" he said. "Our main task here is to eliminate hostilities."

At this point, people are angry because they have to be at the session and are paying for it, too, he said.

The second part is called "Effects of Alcohol on the Driving Task." It will teach both the physiological and psychological effects of driving while intoxicated.

The third phase, "Problem Drinking and Alcohol Problem," treats the aspects of problem drinking.

"Although this is not a course on alcohol abuse, one third of the people arrested for drunk driving have alcohol problems," he said.

The final phase is entitled "Personal Actions to Avoid Future DWI Behavior."

Reagan wants jobs package; discusses EPA controversy

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, while heralding "encouraging news" on the economic front, says too many Americans are still unemployed and hopes Congress can agree on an emergency jobs bill for him to sign next month.

Reagan outlined for the first time the highlights of his \$4.3 billion jobs-recession relief package at his nationally broadcast news conference Wednesday night.

He rejected Democratic suggestions he had "changed his mind" and now realized the "harsh realities" of the recession, and insisted "it funds no make-work" projects.

The president said the compromise would include:

—\$4 billion in accelerated construction resulting in 470,000 jobs directly or indirectly.

—\$2.9 billion to fund through the end of 1983 supplemental unemployment benefits after expirations of regular and extended benefits.

—\$300 million for "humanitarian relief" for those in serious distress because of unemployment.

Reagan said the compromise is consistent with the administration's long-term economic recovery programs. Insisting it is not a quick fix, he said "instead we are speeding up projects that are already planned and needed."

In an opening statement, Reagan

described as "encouraging news" an increase in industrial production in autos and steel and a big jump in housing starts in January.

"As a result of the economic program already in place, the recovery is already beginning to flex its muscles, but far too many Americans are still unemployed," he said.

On other major subjects, Reagan said he retains full confidence in Anne Gorsuch, the embattled director of the Environmental Protection Agency, in the face of investigations by six congressional committees.

Reagan said the Justice Department would look into allegations of wrongdoing and declared he will not insist on withholding documents

from Congress that deal with such illicit activity.

He also said he would not withdraw his nomination of Kenneth Adelman to head the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, despite indications it may not clear the Senate. Reagan said a defeat would undermine U.S. arms control efforts.

Reagan confirmed U.S. military units had gone on exercises in Egypt and the Mediterranean at the same time as an apparent Libyan buildup along its border with Sudan, but said it was "not an unusual happening" and something "that we've done before."

Lebanese attack Israeli vehicles

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Gunmen ambushed a pair of Israeli military vehicles, killing two soldiers and wounding two others in the second attack against Israeli forces in two days, the Tel Aviv military command said today.

The attack Wednesday near Ayn Zhalte, 12 miles southeast of Beirut, came as Lebanese troops took command of Christian east Beirut for the first time in eight years.

The Israeli command said the gunmen fired Soviet-made, AK47 Kalashnikov rifles from a car parked with its engine hood open — as if stopped for repairs — in an ambush of two passing Israeli military vehicles.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others slightly wounded in the rear vehicle before the attackers drove away and escaped, the military command said in an announcement from Tel Aviv.

"We're speaking about terrorists, not Lebanese civilians," an Israeli spokesman said. The attack occurred in an area of the Shouf Mountains

controlled by Druze Moslem militias, he said.

Israeli soldiers Tuesday killed two guerrillas who attacked an Israeli roadblock at Monte Verde, 3 miles east of Beirut. No Israeli casualties were reported.

Renegade Lebanese Maj. Saad Haddad's forces extended their Israeli-backed mini-state in southern Lebanon Wednesday from Sidon on the Mediterranean to the Bekaa Valley.

The expansion of Haddad's Israeli-armed forces raised fears of a partition of Lebanon unless the country agrees to Israeli-manned early warning stations in south Lebanon and some measure of normalization in diplomatic relations.

Haddad began his sweep across Israeli-occupied south Lebanon by establishing a new garrison in Sidon on Monday, on the eve of the army's move into east Beirut.

The commander of the Phalange Lebanese Forces, Fadi Frem, warned Wednesday Syria would attempt to maintain its occupation of Lebanon if Israel created its Lebanese security zone by force if peace talks fail.



staff photo by Bill Schulz

1983-84 Corps Commander

Preston Abbott, a junior petroleum engineering major from Longview, accepts congratulations from freshman cadets on his appointment as 1983-84 Corps Commander Wednesday. Abbott will take command of the Corps from out-going Corps Commander Mike Holmes, a senior electrical engineering major from Grand Prairie, at Final Review in May. Brian Terrell, a junior agricultural economics major from Plainview, will replace Ronnie Taylor, a senior finance major from Troy, as Deputy Corps Commander.

PUF referendum date still uncertain

United Press International
AUSTIN — Disagreement over when to submit to voters a proposed constitutional amendment that would set up a fund for schools not sharing in earnings from the Permanent University Fund is preventing the Senate Education Committee from voting on the measure.

Introduced by Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, the measure would enable schools outside the PUF to divide at least \$125 million annually, with the amount appropriated each year based on fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index.

Parker said Wednesday he would prefer his proposal, originally intended to go before voters in a statewide referendum in November 1983, not be submitted to voters until November 1984.

"That would allow us to get through this biennium without having to guess how the public will vote and how to come up with a formula to divide the money if it passes," said Parker, chairman of the Education Committee.

The House gave unanimous committee approval earlier this week to a

similar proposed amendment. It calls for an April 30 submission to voters.

The distribution formula for the funding would be subject to periodic legislative review and the schools would be able to bond against the dedicated fund.

Presently, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University share in earnings from the PUF and they are limited to using the money primarily for new construction.

The committee hearing on the bill drew favorable testimony from several higher education officials, but

evoked a warning from Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner of Higher Education.

He said former Gov. Preston Smith, chairman of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, has asked for an attorney general's ruling on whether proposed amendment would remove the Legislature's ability to review in advance how dedicated funds would be spent.

Parker's amendment would extend coverage under the PUF to all schools within the UT and Texas A&M systems and ease restrictions on how the money could be spent.

Congressman named whip in first term

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Rep. Ron Coleman, D-Texas, has been appointed an at-large majority whip by House Majority Leader Jim Wright, an unusual appointment for a freshman congressman, Coleman's office announced Wednesday.

Coleman, 41, is one of 17 at-large whips appointed this week by Wright, also a Democrat from Texas. A former state representative from El Paso, Coleman represents the 16th Congressional District.

"We have researched it and we can't find another instance where a freshman in his first year has been appointed a majority whip," said John Jackley, a spokesman in Coleman's office.

As an at-large whip, Coleman will meet with other at-large and zone whips each week to determine Democratic strategy for floor legislation and will help poll the delegation to help on problems with bills.

"This gives him a pipeline. He's going to be able to take the problems of the district to the speaker and the majority leader on a weekly basis, something few congressmen and most freshman can't do," Jackley said.

Technical writing teachers may lack practical experience, professor says

by Angel Stokes

Battalion Staff
An article by a Texas A&M technical writing professor has brought attention to possible teacher incompetency here as well as nationwide.

In the article, Robert Scott Kellner, assistant professor of English, said there is a cycle in education in which teachers without "real world" experience have become authors of textbooks for other teachers without real experience. This helps explain the decline in academic standards at universities across the country, he said.

"Too many teachers in college have never been out of college," Kellner said. "They get their bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. and immediately start telling students what to expect from the real world when they themselves have never worked in the real world."

The article, "The Degeneration of Technical Writing: A Question of Teacher Competency," was published in the September issue of the American Business Communication Association Bulletin. Kellner — who has worked as a technical writer for Honeywell Inc., IBM and the U.S. Navy — received the Award of Merit from



Robert Scott Kellner, assistant professor of English, discussing his article on technical writing teachers.

the Society for Technical Communication for his article.

Graduate students here are allowed to teach not only lower-level writing classes, but also upper-level technical writing classes, Kellner said. Since up to 50 sections of technical writing may be taught in an average spring semester, it is difficult to find enough qualified instructors.

"All too often, departments do what is expedient at the expense of



academic standards," he said.

Approximately 25 percent of the technical writing classes in the spring are taught by graduate students who have no practical experience, he said.

"Some of these graduate students have only a bachelor's degree, not even a master's," he said. "If I were an undergraduate student, I wouldn't stand for that. I think it stinks."

Dr. David H. Stewart, head of

the English department here, said he would not comment on Kellner's article until he has reviewed it.

At a recent department meeting, Kellner said, he was the only person who voted against allowing graduate students to teach technical writing.

But graduate students are not the only problem in the program, Kellner said. Many technical writing instructors lack full-time work experience in technical writing, first-hand knowledge of the day-to-day writing transactions of American industry, undergraduate or graduate study in technical communications, and academic study or work experience in science or technology, he said.

Kellner's suggestions for improving the program include: having technical writers come as visiting instructors to give weekly seminars to teachers who have no field experience, having instructors from other departments — especially the sciences — discuss the needs for technical writing and requiring all undergraduate English majors to take technical writing.

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forecast

Clear to partly cloudy skies today and a high of 66. Light southeast winds at 5 to 10 mph. Becoming mostly cloudy tonight with a low near 46. Partly cloudy on Friday with a 20 percent chance of showers and a high near 67.

almanac

United Press International
Today is Thursday, Feb. 17, the 48th day of 1983 with 317 to follow.

Those born on this day include American novelist Dorothy Canfield Fisher, in 1878, and actor Hal Holbrook, in 1925.

On this date in history:
In 1801, the U.S. House of Representatives named Thomas Jefferson as third president of the United States. Aaron Burr, who tied with Jefferson in the Electoral College, became vice president.