

# local state

## Greek system debate tonight

by Michelle Powe  
Battalion Reporter

The value of social fraternities and sororities at Texas A&M will be debated at 7 tonight in 701 Rudder Tower.

Two Texas A&M students will participate in the debate which is sponsored by the Texas A&M debate team.

Teresa Barr, a junior agronomy major from Maryland, will argue that social fraternities and sororities at Texas A&M are detrimental to the spirit and traditions of Aggieland.

Karen Pirtle, a sophomore accounting major from Houston and a member of Chi Omega sorority, will defend fraternities and sororities.

After both women have spoken, members of the audience will be allowed to express their opinions. The audience will be divided into two sections. Those in favor of fraternities and sororities will sit on one side of the room and those opposed will sit on the other side.

Anyone who changes his mind during the debate can get up and move to the other side.

At the end of the debate, the audience will vote on the issue of Greeks at Texas A&M by voice count. When the debate is over, people will be asked to leave through certain doors depending on how they voted. This will allow the debate team to officially tally votes.

## DA: Witnesses feel guilt for not reporting deaths

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — District Attorney Sam Millsap says hospital witnesses testifying to a grand jury investigating infant deaths feel guilt because they failed to come forward earlier.

The grand jury heard testimony two weeks ago from a doctor and a nurse, both of whom were employed by the Bexar County Hospital District when the mysterious deaths occurred.

It reconvened to hear testimony from other witnesses Tuesday.

"There's a certain amount of guilt that they didn't come forward earlier to tell the things they heard," Millsap said.

"It's not so much a cover up (but being involved) in the process of something unfolding and not recognizing its significance," Millsap said the witnesses would not be identified because of possible harassment "from

people who have interests in this matter who are adverse to the state.

"Their (witnesses) concern is about privacy," Millsap said. "Their concern is our concern. With all the attention there's a certain natural reluctance to become involved."

The special grand jury is looking into the possibility that homicide was involved in the deaths of infants and children at Medical Center Hospital's pediatric care unit from 1978 to 1982.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Nick Rothe declined to specify the number of deaths the grand jury was investigating.

According to hospital records, a total of 2,064 patients were admitted to the unit during the period in question. Of that number, 122 infants and children died, indicating a survival rate of about 94 percent.

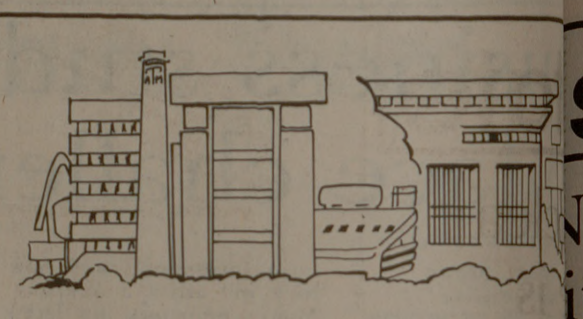
An internal hospital investigation, reportedly prepared by Pediatric Department Chairman Dr. John Mangos, indicated that only 10 to 13 deaths were questionable. But other reports have stated that the grand jury was investigating up to 42 suspicious deaths.

Mangos refused Tuesday to confirm or deny that he conducted an in-house investigation, citing a promise of secrecy to the grand jury.

Attorney Bill Chenault, who represents a registered nurse who testified before the grand jury two weeks ago, said that no wrongdoing on the part of hospital personnel had been established so far.

He also said he believed the grand jury had narrowed its investigation to only three questionable deaths.

Millsap said the grand jury will reconvene next Tuesday.



## Around town

### Cadet receives Phi Eta Sigma award

Brian Terrell, a junior agricultural economics major at Plainview has been presented the Phi Eta Sigma Outstanding Sophomore Award. The \$300 award is presented each year to second year college students enrolled at Texas A&M with high academic and leadership qualifications.

Terrell currently has 63 semester hours and a 3.937 GPA. He is a member of the Corps of Cadets, is in the College of Agriculture and is Speaker of the Student Senate.

Applications for membership in Phi Eta Sigma are being accepted for any freshmen with at least 13 semester hours and at least a 3.5 GPR. Qualified persons should contact Dr. C. F. Lard.

### Zachry to speak tonight in Rudder

H.B. Zachry, distinguished Texas A&M alumnus, will speak at 7:30 tonight in Rudder Forum on how economics of the past and economics of the future relate to modern construction.

Zachry's speech, "Today's and Tomorrow's Economic Relations to Construction," is sponsored by the Construction Management Association and is open to all students.

Zachry received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M in civil engineering in 1922 and operates H.B. Zachry Engineers and Architects, a company which is based in San Antonio. Zachry Engineers and Architects Center is named after him.

### Prof to speak on language origin

Dr. Lee Percy, professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin, will speak tonight at 7:30 in 204B Sterling C. Evans Library on the origin of the word language in ancient Greece.

The speech is sponsored by the Texas A&M Department of Modern Languages and the Department of Philosophy.

The speech is free and open to the public.

### Sports Event scheduled for Saturday

The Vietnamese American Student Organization will host the 1983 Sports Event this weekend.

To kick-off the weekend's activities, a Welcome Party will be held at Rumours, located behind the post office at Memorial Student Center. Opening ceremonies will be Saturday morning at 8 a.m. All indoor sports will take place in East Kyle from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. followed by an awards ceremony and a dance at 6:30 p.m. on the second floor of the MSC.

The outdoors sports will be held on Sunday. For more information contact the Vietnamese American Student Organization.

If you have an announcement or item to submit for the column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed Mall or call Tracey Taylor at 845-2665.

## Hot check fees don't stop abuse

by Kimberly Hix  
Battalion Reporter

Increased returned check fees in the local area have not helped merchants curb the number of bad checks they receive, but one Texas A&M official says the University's fee is effective.

The increasing number of students and the recent economic recession should result in more bad checks despite the high fees, said Bob Piwonka, student financial services manager.

"But the number of returned checks is running close to the same as before," he said. "That in itself is an improvement."

The fee for bounced checks at Texas A&M increased from \$15 to \$20 last September. Fees for checks not cleared within 15 days increased from \$25 to \$40.

Another increase in the fee is not planned, but if the number of bad checks does rise, an in-

crease may be considered, Piwonka said.

"We're here to provide a service," he said. "It is cashing checks. Stricter rules would be a hassle, which is not fair to the students who don't write bad checks. We just have to penalize those who do."

Local merchants also are looking for ways to reduce the number of returned checks, but say returned check fees are not a deterrent.

Owner of Rother's Book Store, Dennis Rother, said the \$15 bad check fee does not help.

"Most of the checks we get back are honest mistakes — bank errors. Dad doesn't get the money in on time and that type of thing," he said.

There are a few people who continually write hot checks, Rother said. As a solution, he suggested that local stores develop a list of habitual bad check writers.

There's always something happening at

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★ Every Tuesday Night is Spaghetti Nite.

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### CUSTOMER INFORMATION FROM GENERAL MOTORS

## HOW TO STOP DRUNK DRIVING.

TOUGH LAWS MAY HELP, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDES.

Do you know anyone who's in favor of drunk driving? Not likely. And yet many people have driven when under the influence of alcohol, or will do it at least once.

Take a look at some chilling statistics. One out of every two of us will be involved in an alcohol-related accident sometime during our lives. Last year alone, more than 25,000 people died in such accidents; an additional 1.5 million were injured. A disproportionate number of those killed were under 25 years old.

The cost of drunk-driving accidents amounts to over \$24 billion every year in property damage, loss of wages, medical and legal fees. Not to mention the emotional pain to the victims' families and friends.

What is being done about it? Over the years, many different approaches have been tried: mandatory jail sentences, stiff fines, license suspensions, alcohol-rehabilitation programs, and higher drinking-age laws.

No single countermeasure seems to do the job by itself. Tough laws, unless they are supported by equally tough enforcement and the certainty of punishment, don't seem to

work over the long run. Even with all three, probably the most effective single thing we could do is to examine our own attitudes about drinking and driving.

How much do you really know about the effects of alcohol? The facts may surprise you. For example, a lot of people believe that beer and wine are less intoxicating than other drinks. In fact, a can of beer, a glass of wine, or a 1½-ounce drink of 86-proof liquor are all about equally intoxicating.

A lot of factors determine how quickly you'll get drunk. Your body weight, how much you've had to eat, and the number of drinks you have over a specified time all make a difference. That's why it's so hard to know when you've had too much.

A common legal definition of intoxication is .10 percent blood-alcohol level. For a 160 lb. person, it takes about four or five drinks in the first two hours on an empty stomach to reach the legal limit, compared with three or four drinks in the first two hours for someone who weighs 120 lbs. Of course, your judgment and reaction time will be impaired well before you reach the legal limit.

At General Motors, we're very concerned about the effects of drinking on driving. Over a decade ago, we developed a device that tests a driver's reflexes and motor responses before starting the

car. The Department of Transportation is now field-testing that device.

We also strongly favor all efforts that focus attention on the problem such as the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving. Make sure your friends and family know the facts about mixing alcohol and driving. Drunk driving will only stop when we all decide it isn't socially acceptable. Be self-confident enough to admit when you've had too much to drink to drive safely.

Meanwhile, seat belts are still your best protection against drunk drivers. They can't prevent an accident, but they will help save your life during a serious crash — whatever the cause.

This advertisement is part of our continuing effort to give customers useful information about their cars and trucks and the company that builds them.



Chevrolet • Pontiac  
Oldsmobile • Buick  
Cadillac • GMC Truck

## Police beat

The following incidents were listed in University Police Department records for March 7.

- THEFTS:
  - A 10-speed bicycle was taken from the bicycle racks near East Kyle.
  - A Schwinn 10-speed bicycle was taken from the bus stop in parking lot 60.

• A Huffly 10-speed bicycle was taken from a walkway between Fowler Hall and the east parking area. It is a 1977 Honda motorcycle license plate number 381-1000.

## Former dean will talk on oil

by Scott Griffin  
Battalion Reporter

The recent oil depletion and its effect on Texas A&M research will be the subject of a speech tonight by Dr. Earl Cook, distinguished geography and geology professor at Texas A&M University.

The speech is part of this year's University Lecturer series and will be at 8 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.

Cook's speech, "Marooned in Aggieland," will deal with the function of the University in the state's economy and what the recent decline in oil tax dollars means to the school and the state.

Cook, who served as dean of the College of Geosciences from 1971 to 1981, says he has seen a dilemma evolving which ultimately affects Texas A&M the state.

This dilemma, he said, is the fact that high oil prices have state and the University, under the economics of those not producing oil. Cook came to Texas A&M in 1965 as associate dean of the College of Geosciences. In 1969 to 1971 he served as director for the University's Environmental Quality Program.

He now teaches and does research in environmental resource decision-making. Cook has had several articles published in various scientific journals.

Cook has also published a book titled "Man, Energy and Society."

## New method helps West Texas aquifer

LUBBOCK — Preliminary tests indicate that a new air injection technique could provide a feasible way to recover water trapped in the wet sands above the Ogallala aquifer, the manager of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District said.

Dwindling water supplies are a major concern for West Texas farmers and ranchers. By injecting air that pressure into the formation, the water held by the grains. Then, the water released and flow by down to the current water formation.