

Position open — minority affairs

by Kim Schmidt
Battalion Staff

A new administrative position, deemed to help minority students with problems and concerns, has been approved and will be initiated as soon as someone is hired for the position, a University official says.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services, said the duties of the position will be two-fold.

"As coordinator of minority students, the duties would include advising, counseling minority students and working with minority student groups," he said. "But this is only one of the entire focus of the position."

The job also includes responsibilities associated with the student activities program and its seminars and clinics, Koldus said. The position is similar to those of the international student adviser and the handicapped student adviser, he said.

Initiating the position is the first step to improve minority conditions and possibly to increase minority enrollment at Texas A&M, Koldus said.

The position is extremely important because there has been a lack of minority staff members to whom minority students could relate, he said.

Koldus said he became more aware of the need for that type of position after reading the report issued in 1979 by the President's Committee on Minority Conditions. Although Koldus said he recognized minority concerns before this, it was after reading the report that he decided something finally had to be done.

"If the institution had a great many minority students and staff members,

then you would have a natural opportunity for students and staff to relate to each other," Koldus said. "When you don't have this you need to make an adjustment."

Gerald Wright, the System affirmative action officer, has met with University officials to discuss concerns of minority students. Wright said he agrees that an adjustment in dealing with minority students needs to be made. The fact that minority students come to him with their problems instead of to a University employee is an indication that the University needs someone to handle minority affairs, he said.

Wright said he feels the new position could fill this need and be beneficial and effective if approached in the correct manner.

"If it is properly administered, if it is built with the in-house concern and intensity the University is capable of, if it is built with the mechanisms of awareness and seriousness, then I think it will be effective," Wright said.

But he said if the position is not administered in this way and becomes simply a token or showpiece with minority concerns falling on deaf ears, he sees no reason for it.

"Let's make it (the position) a true part of the administration to assist in alleviating some of the problems," Wright said.

Some of the problems and concerns minority students have expressed to Wright include the lack of such activities geared toward their interests as concerts and art exhibits, the holding of "slave auctions," flying the Confederate flag and the lack of administrators who are aware of the students' concerns and needs, especially in relation to dormitory living, he said.



A cavalry salute

staff photo by Barry Papke

Parson's Mounted Cavalry parades in front of a crowd at the polo field Sunday afternoon. The mounted salute to Aggie parents and guests was one of the many activities held during the ninth annual Parents' Weekend.

Cadet falls from dorm

Fredrick Regini Campbell, a freshman cadet from Killeen, is in good condition after falling from a third floor window of Dorm 7 at midnight Sunday.

Maj. Richard M. Pitts said Campbell had been drinking before he fell. Pitts said Campbell's fall was cushioned by falling through a tree.

He said that Campbell has no broken bones and was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital for observation.

Pitts said the emergency care team from A.P. Beutel Health Center and the University Police did an excellent job of administering first aid to Campbell immediately after the accident.



staff photo by Guy Hood

"It's like this guys ..."

Surrounded by his cadet players, Gary Kubiak, former quarterback for the Texas A&M football team, gazes at the field in Friday's annual Elephant Bowl. Kubiak was one of the coaches for the Army-Navy team that played against the Air Force-Band team in the event that was part of Parent's Weekend activities.

Sexual harassment a problem at A&M, University official says

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on sexual harassment of students at Texas A&M.

by Kelley Smith
Battalion Staff

Sexual harassment doesn't happen just at work or on the streets. It can be a problem at school, too — and it is a problem at Texas A&M, the University affirmative action officer says.

While less than 20 cases of sexual harassment are reported here each year, Margaret Smith, affirmative action officer for Texas A&M, estimates that the actual number of instances is much higher because many go unreported.

"Yes, we (at Texas A&M) do have a problem," Smith said. "To me, even one case is a problem."

Smith, who handles sexual harassment complaints, is concerned that many students do not report sexual harassment because of embarrassment, guilt or not knowing where to go.

"There is a place to go," Smith said. "It is illegal and the University is committed to correcting the problems students have with professors and that employees have with supervisors."

The University complies with federal guidelines that define sexual harassment as discrimination. It involves not only physical attacks but also any type of verbal innuendo, staring, off-color remarks or "accidentally" brushing against parts of a person's body.

"You could say the same thing to 10 female students; nine may think nothing of it, one is extremely offended," Smith said. "That's why sexual harassment is a tricky area."

When a student feels he or she has been harassed, Smith must act on the complaint even if she would not have been offended by the professor's actions.

"I have to take action and help them out because their perception is that they were harassed," she said. "Professors and supervisors need to

be more sensitive about their actions and what they say to people. Whether they kid around or not, it's not funny to somebody. It's better to be careful than face a complaint."

Harassment at Texas A&M happens in all forms, Smith said.

"We really have a wide range — from remarks all the way to attempted physical assaults. We've actually had situations where the professor will grab a student in a passionate embrace and try to kiss her," Smith said. "But I couldn't say one type is more common."

However, she said, there is a particular type of student that is more likely to be harassed, a certain pattern that most cases follow and a common reaction of students after they have been harassed.

The typical student is one that appears meek, Smith said. Some professors may think a meek person won't have the nerve to report the professor for sexual harassment.

"The problem with that is they may

eventually pick on the wrong person," Smith said. "The professor may pick one who will tell a roommate or someone who knows where to go to report the professor."

While there is a typical harassed student, there is no typical harasser, she said. Professors who harass students are of all ages, Smith said. However, she added, more married professors than single professors harass students.

"The place where it occurs the most is in the professor's office where the professor shuts the door," she said. "The student goes to a professor asking 'What can I do, I'll do anything to bring my grade up to pass the course.' Some professors say 'Well, okay,' and they make a pass."

At the end of the semester when students are most concerned about their grades, the number of reported sexual harassment cases rises. Some professors try to take advantage of the added stress on the students to make good grades, Smith said.

See HARASSMENT, page

Number of casualties undetermined

Bomb hits U.S. embassy in Beirut

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — A bomb blew apart the U.S. Embassy today and collapsed the reinforced concrete floors on employees, killing at least 28 people, including six U.S. Marines, hospital officials said.

The bomb exploded shortly after 1 p.m. Beirut time as the highway outside the Embassy was jammed with midday traffic. It went off either just in front of the mission or just inside the front door, ripping off the entire facade. Some reports said the explosion was caused by a car bomb.

An Embassy employee, who declined to identify himself, said from the residence of U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon that at least half the Embassy's employees were injured. He said he did not know where Dillon was at the time of the blast.

UPI reporter Peyman Pezman said from the scene of the waterfront U.S. Embassy in west Beirut, "The whole facade of the seven-story building is ripped apart. It's a mess of concrete and metal rubble. It is horrible."

Survivors on the top floor of the seven-story building were calling for

help and lowering attache cases of vital papers to Marines who rushed to the scene. The Embassy was on fire.

French peace-keepers and Lebanese army soldiers formed a barrier around the building and began sifting through the wreckage.

Relatives of Embassy employees — most of them Lebanese — collapsed on the glass-covered sidewalks when they saw the smoking wreckage of the mission. Flames leapt out of the ground floor.

The floors in the front of the building collapsed like cards.

"The place is a mess. The street outside the Embassy is littered with damaged cars, glass and debris," one UPI reporter on the scene said.

A reporter outside the American University of Beirut Hospital, where most of the casualties were taken, said he counted at least 15 dead brought to the hospital after the explosion. UPI reporters outside the mission said the blast also set at least 10 vehicles on fire.

Unconfirmed reports said the Islamic Struggle Movement claimed responsibility for detonating the blast.

Prairie View A&M tackles tenure policy problems

by Kathy Wiesepape
Battalion Staff

Prairie View A&M University now faces problems because it has not followed the Texas A&M System tenure policy in the past, the university's president says.

Percy Pierre, president of Prairie View A&M, says the policy requires that professors who have been at the university six years or longer either be granted tenure or be fired. The previous administration at Prairie View A&M did not follow that policy, Pierre said, and as a result several members of the faculty have been at the university more than six years and

have not been granted tenure.

Pierre said he and other System administrators have known about the problem for about six months, but he said it probably will take a long time to settle the issue.

"How we will attack the problem is something that will be decided on a case-by-case basis," Pierre said. "What happened was not supposed to happen. How it will be unscrambled I cannot say."

Adding to the confusion was an article in the Houston Chronicle last week which reported that Pierre had notified a third of his staff that they would be fired. Pierre said that he had

sent out routine notices to each faculty member saying that all contracts would be renewed for the next year. Faculty members who read the article, he said, knew that they hadn't received any notice of firing, and the result was "complete confusion."

When Pierre was named president of Prairie View two months ago, he announced plans for drastic improvements, including upgrading academic programs, facilities and staff qualifications. However, he said, he has not made plans to fire any of the current faculty members.

Pierre said the Chronicle will print a retraction of the inaccurate article.

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forecast

Clear to partly cloudy skies today with a high of 80. Winds from the south at 10 mph. Mostly clear tonight with a low near 51. Partly cloudy and a little warmer Tuesday with a high near 83.