

Assistant dean thinks P.E. shouldn't affect student GPR

by Karen Schrimsher
Battalion Staff
Texas A&M's grading system for required physical education courses should be changed from the grade-point system to a credit system that would not affect a student's grade-point ratio, says an assistant dean of the College of Business Administration.

required P.E. course. This credit would not be computed in the student's GPR.

"My observation is that P.E. is not an academic course and that a person who does poorly should not be penalized academically," he says.

Gillespie says that by the same token, a student should not be allowed to use his physical prowess to raise his GPR.

However, undergraduates are allowed to take up to four course hours of required P.E. on a S/U basis.

"I know of very few students who do that," he says.

Gillespie distributed a copy of his recommendation among associate deans and found that many faculty members support the idea. He says he has the support of the executive committee and faculty of the College of Business Administration.

Many students take P.E. courses to fill required free electives, and some take extra P.E. courses that are not included in their degree requirements, Gillespie says.

Many students do this in order to improve their GPR, and, in some cases, to save themselves from scholastic probation, he says.

"I have too many students who use P.E. as an avenue to

raise their GPRs," Gillespie says. "Were it not for P.E., a marginal student might be in greater academic jeopardy."

"It's a common strategy. I don't blame the student. If you are a marginal student, why not take a P.E. course? Taking P.E. courses over and above the degree requirement will still show up on the GPR."

Gillespie says if P.E. grades must be applicable to the GPR, the classes should have the same grade distribution as that of other University courses.

"Well over 95 percent of all students who take P.E. courses here make As and Bs," he says.

Gillespie says he is not against P.E. courses.

"I have no quarrel ... health and academics go hand in

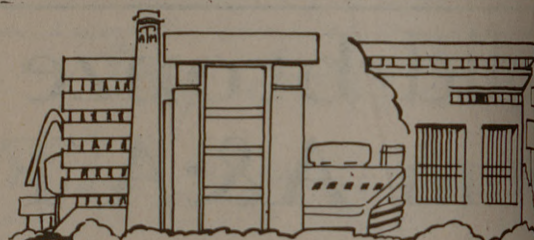
hand," he says. "If students want to take extra P.E. courses (on an S/U basis) it would not make an impact on the GPR, and it could still be taken as a free elective."

Gillespie's plan is not only for the College of Business Administration, but for all the colleges in the University.

"We could change the system just for this college, but that would be cumbersome," he says.

The Academic Operations Committee is scheduled to discuss the recommendation today. If approved, the recommendation will be submitted to the Academic Programs Committee and the Academic Council.

If all the committees approve the recommendation by Sept. 1, Gillespie says, the change will be printed in the 1984-85 Texas A&M catalog.



Around town

Senior citizens Fun Day Thursday

The annual Senior Citizens Fun Day will be held Thursday at College Station Central Park on Krenek Tap Road open to anyone 55 years or older in the Brazos Valley. Live entertainment and drinks will be provided. Activities include dancing, softball, fishing, horseshoes and walks. The activities will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. Participants should bring a lunch.

Foster elected to board of directors

Joe B. Foster, Class of '57, was elected to the Board of Directors of Tenneco Inc., a diversified energy firm. Foster, who has bachelor's degrees in petroleum engineering and business administration from Texas A&M, executive vice president of Tenneco. He is responsible for the company's energy and minerals exploration operations. He joined Tenneco as a petroleum engineer after graduating from Texas A&M, and became president of Tenneco Oil Exploration and Production in 1978. He was also president of the parent company, Tenneco Inc. Foster also is a member of the Board of Directors of Interfirst Bank of Houston, vice president of the Petroleum Council, and a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

If you have an announcement or item to submit for a column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed Hall or contact Cheryl Burke at 845-2611.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department on May 2.

- THEFT: Two side-view mirrors from a white 1982 Datsun pick-up parked outside Lounge D.
- \$180 in cash from a locker in the women's locker room at Sbi-

- sa Dining Hall.
- Bronze bust of Dr. McDonald valued at \$100 from the fifth floor Academic and Agency Building.
- INDECENT EXPOSURE: A male on the second lounge of the Sterling Library.

Suitor kills girlfriend

HOUSTON — A spurned suitor shot and killed his teenage girlfriend and wounded a man who tried to help her, then turned the pistol on himself, police said.

Police said Edson R. Dias-filho, 26, went to the fashionable southeast Houston townhouse where Fernanda Cruz, 16, lived with her family about 10 a.m. Monday and shot the girl twice in the head as her mother and two sisters watched.

He also shot Sergio Alvarez Martinez, 24, the boyfriend of one of Miss Cruz' sisters, three times in the abdomen after the man tried to stop him from entering the house. Martinez was in good condition Tuesday at Rosewood Hospital.

After the shootings, police said the suspect went upstairs

and locked himself in a room where police found him a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Mrs. Cruz and her daughter ran from the house and for help. They were not injured.

Miss Cruz, the daughter of a Brazilian oil executive, Cruz, died at the scene, police said.

Detective W.T. Dias-filho apparently was broken off their relationship because Miss Cruz had broken off their relationship. He said the suspect threatened Sunday to kill the girl.

Police tried for several hours to contact Dias-filho, but he locked himself in the room. Because of the man's limited English, they used a Portuguese translator to help with the attempt at negotiations.

Texas city wants nuclear dump site

ANDREWS — The residents of this Texas Panhandle town say the U.S. Department of Energy should call off its search for a site for a nuclear waste dump. Andrews is volunteering. "I wouldn't have any problem with it (the waste dump)," said Gene Cummins of the Andrews Chamber of Commerce, who was particularly interested in the "hundreds of jobs" which the installation would create.

Three years ago the city tried, without success, to convince the DOE to build the nation's first high-level radioactive waste repository in the salt domes beneath Andrews County.

James Roberts, editor of the Andrews County News, wrote a column in April asking county officials to again lobby the DOE. "I wish they would consider it," he said. "But no one is

pushing it."

The DOE has announced five sites are in the running for the final decision, expected in 1987, including two sites located just north of Andrews County. The Swisher and Deaf Smith sites. The other sites under consideration are in Utah, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The dump — expected to cost about 2,000 acres — would receive an estimated 1.5 million pounds of radioactive waste annually.

The two Texas sites under consideration have come back, their location on the Ogallala Aquifer, the underground river used for drinking water and irrigation in the Panhandle farms. Roberts said the aquifer does not run through parts of Andrews County.

Now you know

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The new Mrs. America is a shy, 31-year-old aerobics instructor from Waverly, Tenn.

Mrs. Tennessee, Susan Goodman, was crowned Friday at the seventh annual Mrs. America Pageant by last year's winner, Rhonda McGeeney of Texas.

Linda Fleishman, 26, Honolulu, Hawaii, was first runner-

up, Donna Philips, 32, New York, N.C., was judged runner-up.

"My feet hurt," the 1982 Mrs. America told pageant officials as she walked off-stage winning her title. "I'm really thrilled."

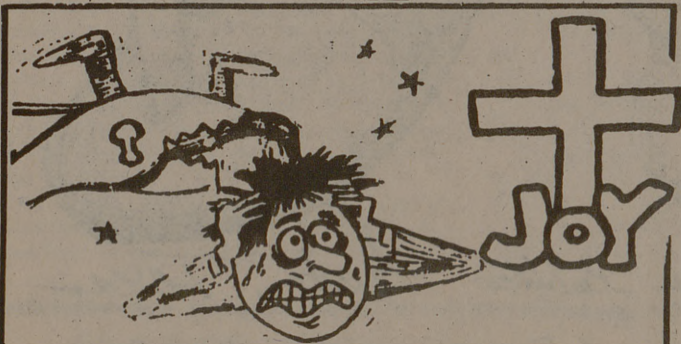
The former French English teacher won a \$2,500 cash, a new kimono, a mink coat and a year-long schedule of appearances.

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League suggests fuel tax rise to fix roads

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Texas Municipal League supports doubling the state motor fuel tax and increasing vehicle registration fees in order to generate money for repairs to roads and bridges.

Under the league proposal, the fuel tax would be doubled to 10 cents per gallon and the registration fee would rise \$25 per vehicle.

Corpus Christi Mayor Luther

Jones, president of TML, said Monday the increases would cost the average motorist about \$6.50 per month.

"That is cheaper than the repairs you need after driving on some of these streets," said Jones, who labeled increased transportation as the league's "highest priority" this session.

He said the increases would fund two companion proposals now pending in the House and Senate to provide \$600 million

yearly for state highway use and \$100 million per year to cities for repair of municipal streets.

"Hundreds of municipal bridges and thousands of miles of city streets need to be fixed right now, today," Jones said.

Jones said a survey by the league, which represents 850 Texas towns and cities, showed 12,000 miles of municipal streets in Texas currently in need of major repair.

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