

Peer adviser program helps freshmen adjust

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

Where do students under 19 years old go at night? Do you really have to study at college? Where do you get football tickets? These are just a few of the questions that incoming freshmen and transfer students ask Texas A&M peer advisers.

Peer advisers are upperclass students who volunteer to work with small groups of new students at the summer orientation conferences. Approximately 400 students attend each of the 18 conferences. The students are divided into groups with six to 10 members. Two peer advisers are assigned to each group to answer the students' questions.

David Brown, a senior finance major from Victoria, has been a peer adviser for two years. As an adviser, he said, he

tries to stress the friendliness of the campus.

"Basically, I try to relax them," he said, because when freshmen come to school, they are in awe of the place.

Brown said that one reason he became a peer adviser was because he remembered the fun he had as an incoming freshman at a peer adviser session and also because he liked that type of work.

Jan Winniford, a coordinator of the program, said that peer advisers are encouraged to focus on the social life of students, not to give academic advice.

Questions the students ask are different with each group, but most are about studying and how many hours to take the first semester.

Stephanie Marshall, a junior journalism and business major

from Little Rock, Ark., said most of the questions she is asked are about traditions and how to get involved with campus activities.

She said she became a peer adviser because she remembers how many questions she had as a freshman.

The sessions are held the first day of each conference, Winniford said, and last from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

The Peer Adviser Program has been in existence for about five years, she said, but has grown in the past two years.

Applications are available in the spring, and advisers are chosen after an informal interview, she said.

An adviser needs to have good communication skills, knowledge of the campus and a 2.25 grade-point ratio, Kasiraj said.



staff photo by Peter Rocha

David Brown, a senior finance major from Victoria, answers questions during a peer adviser

session. Brown is among 300 volunteers who discuss student life with freshman at orientation.

Brucellosis, TSU library issues of special session

by Scott Griffin
Battalion Staff

State Rep. Bill Presnal said Monday the three issues to be considered in the Legislature's special session include the brucellosis epidemic, a new library for Texas Southern University and reactivation of the Texas Employment Commission.

In regard to the brucellosis epidemic, Presnal said the state will have to comply with federal standards in order to avoid a quarantine. "Texas cattlemen can't afford a quarantine," he said.

As far as the TSU library is concerned, Presnal said the state has about \$15 million dollars in extra revenue and that a portion of this money would go to the school for the facility.

Presnal added that the Governor may call for a second session to deal with the issue of teacher payraises, but that the session probably wouldn't be held until January.

A different problem for this year's Legislature, Presnal said, was that lawmakers had less money to work with.

"We had to deal with a unique

set of circumstances that we have not dealt with in my eight terms in the legislature, and that's declining revenues," Presnal said.

Presnal attributed the decline in revenue to the fall of oil prices and said Texas may have some unique problems in the future that other states may not experience because of its heavy dependence on oil for revenues.

Presnal added that out of 26 bills he sponsored this year, only two were vetoed by the governor.

Bogus deputy sentenced

United Press International
COLDSPRING — A man who served as a San Jacinto County reserve sheriff's deputy even though he was not commissioned has been sentenced to 10 years probation after pleading guilty to impersonation and burglary.

Ronnie Greer, 24, of Shepherd was sentenced by State District Judge Joe Ned Dean to the 10-year probation term and ordered to pay \$1,750 restitution. Greer pleaded guilty last week to impersonation of an officer and the Jan. 6, 1982 burglary of a Coldspring pharmacy.

Investigators said Greer and another man were inside the pharmacy when deputies arrived in response to an alarm. The two told authorities they saw two other men inside and were investigating, authorities said.

Also indicted in the burglary was former Deputy Gary Parker, son of former Sheriff James C. "Humpty" Parker.

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Fire in Fort Worth hotel forces evacuation

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Officials say a fire which forced the evacuation of 100 guests at a downtown luxury hotel started in a sixth floor maid's closet. No injuries were reported.

Don Henderson, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, said although the fire

never spread from the sixth floor Sunday, the guests were moved as a precaution. Henderson said the fire spread smoke through the floor, triggering smoke alarms about 1:30 a.m. Moments later, a guest pulled the fire alarm, he said.

The cause of the blaze has not been determined.

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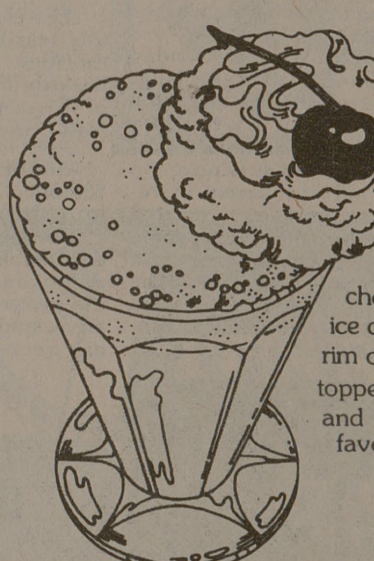
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