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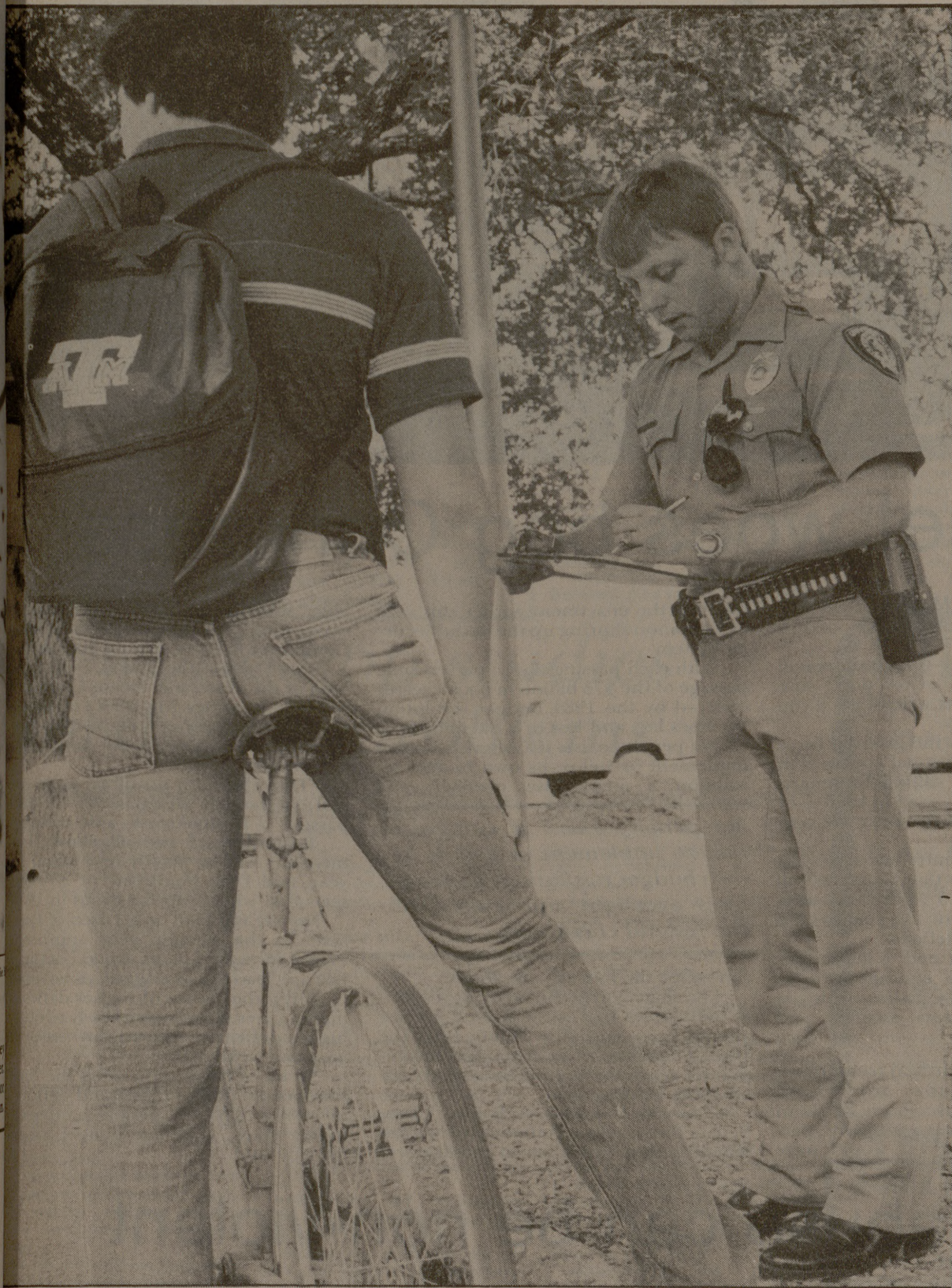


photo by Paul C. Koska

STOP!

The University police have begun ticketing bicyclists who don't obey stop signs. Patrolman Gene Wilganowski spent Wednesday morning writing tickets for

violators who ran stop signs at the intersection of Ireland and Ross streets. The fine for each ticket is \$4. Police ticketed 25 bicyclists Wednesday.

Graduate admission proposal approved

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

The Academic Council approved a proposal Wednesday to upgrade requirements for admission to the Graduate College. The proposal focuses on increasing the grade-point ratio requirement.

Under the new requirements an applicant with a GPR of 2.0 must have a Graduate Record Examination score of at least 1400 to be allowed admission to the Graduate College.

Under the existing requirements, a student who has a GPR of 2.0 need only score 800 on the GRE to be admitted.

The current admissions requirements have been in effect for 15 years, despite two efforts to upgrade them, one in 1974 and another in 1980.

Students who have completed an advanced degree or have completed a significant number of hours toward an advanced degree will be required to have a minimum grade-point ratio of 3.0 for postbaccalaureate course work completed, regardless of GRE score, to be considered for full admission to the Graduate College.

The proposal encourages all departments to establish admission requirements above the minimum, particularly for doctoral applicants.

The council also approved curriculum changes in biomedical science, industrial engineering, and recreation and parks degree plans Wednesday.

The changes in the biomedical science degree program include:

- An addition of three credit hours in chemistry, with a change to chemistry courses that will be less biologically oriented.

- A change in required biochemistry courses to provide greater biological orientation and biochemistry competency.

- Elimination of English 203, Introduction to Literature, from the degree plan, and addition of English 301, Technical Writing.

- A choice between Business Analysis 217 — Business Data Processing Concepts, and Statistics 302 — Statistical Methods, because of the increasing need for college students to learn to use computers effectively.

- A new orientation course to be added to the first semester of the program to inform new students of the vocational opportunities offered in the field of biomedical science.

The changes in the degree requirements for a bachelor of science degree in safety engineering include:

- The addition of English 203, Introduction to Literature.

- The addition of Computing Science 202 — Introduction to Computer Programming, which will replace Computing Science 203 — Introduction to Computing.

- Six revised descriptions of departmental courses.

- The addition of three new courses: Safety Engineering 311 — Scientific Principles of Industrial Hygiene, Safety Engineering 412 — Evaluation of Industrial Environments and Safety Engineering 420 — Industrial Ventilation.

The council also approved the change in status of Recreation and Parks 305 — Management of Urban Parks, from a required course to an elective course.

The group approved changes in the professional curriculum and pre-professional requirements in veterinary medicine. The changes are the first in ten years, and are said to address the issues and educational requirements of the 1980s.

The new professional curriculum plan would have a coordinated discipline area approach to the first two years, an innovative organ system approach to the third year and a modified block system for the fourth, or clinical year.

The minimal preprofessional requirements will increase by 17 semester credit hours — from 66 to 83 — to include biochemistry, microbiology, entomology, feeds and feeding, speech and computer science.

In other action the council:

- Approved 34 new courses.
- Approved the withdrawal of 43 courses.

- Approved two new degree programs: A doctor of philosophy degree and a master of science degree in medical sciences.

- Approved the change of the name of the Department of Building Construction to the Department of Construction Science.

- Approved the proposed 1984-85 academic calendar.

- Approved the candidates for graduate and undergraduate degrees, which will be awarded Aug. 13.

Skills tests 'not valid'

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

Texas education majors didn't perform too well on a basic skills test, according to an article published in the Houston Chronicle. However, that's not so, says Dean C. Corrigan, dean of the College of Education.

The mean scores from an experimental test given to 1,269 Texas education majors in April were published earlier this month. The students represented 59 of the 64 college and university education programs in Texas.

Sixty-three Texas A&M education majors participated in the experiment.

It was reported that both students and Houston school teachers performed poorly on the test.

"The newspaper reports were

worthless," Corrigan says.

He says the test scores say nothing about the performance of the participants or the efficiency of the college because the number of students taking the test from each university differed so greatly.

For example, 60 of Texas A&M's 400 education juniors took the test, while 14 of Rice University's 212 education majors participated.

By the Houston Independent School District's standards, 62 percent of the Houston teachers failed the reading portion of the test, 46 percent failed the mathematics test, and 26 percent failed the writing test.

The maximum score on each test was 190. The HISD failing mark for its teachers was 178 on the reading test. Texas A&M mean score on the reading test was 177.4, while the Rice University mean was 179.

According to HISD standards 59

percent of all the students failed the reading test, 44.4 failed the mathematics test and 26 failed the writing test.

However, no pass or fail mark has been set for students.

Corrigan said the test will not give valid results until it has been deemed a valid test. He said that in 1986, teachers will be tested not only on basic skills, but also on their major teaching field.

The basic skills test was given to aid in the development of a standard test that will be administered statewide. By 1984 sophomores who wish to study education must pass the test before they can enroll in education courses.

The purpose of preliminary testing is to develop a fair test. The written portion of the test will have to be completely revised because of the findings of the April testing, Corrigan says.

Accreditation

College of Education receives high marks for programs

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

The College of Education has been granted full accreditation and given high marks for all of its programs by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

NCATE representatives evaluated Texas A&M's education programs on the basis of an extensive three volume institutional self study and numerous faculty interviews. The programs are rated according to a number of standards set by NCATE.

The council's Accreditation Action Report, issued last month with the announcement of accreditation, gives the College of Education high marks in all categories for all programs. The

council representatives found that the college had met all its standards, and in many cases exceeded them substantially. NCATE could find no weaknesses in any of the programs.

The council was particularly impressed with the college's "Centers of Inquiry" learning and research method — a means of grouping students and faculty together for the intense study of educational problems and innovations in teaching method.

Currently inquiry groups are studying such subjects as computer technology, reading, test psychometrics, improving college teaching and the educational problems of the aged. One group designed a microcomputer teaching lab.

The report states, "The 'Centers of Inquiry' concept is a model that might

well be replicated in institutions of higher education throughout the United States."

The report praises the College Committee on Graduate Instruction, calling its control of advanced programs "exemplary." NCATE gave special commendation for "the employment and support of highly qualified and effective faculty."

The college also was commended for its careful and systematic program of self-evaluation. Education students played an important part in the self study. During a survey research class, students surveyed 40 Texas A&M education graduates.

The report states, "Texas A&M has achieved unprecedented goals in the evaluation of the professional performance of graduates and in the de-

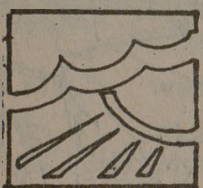
velopment of exceptional long range plans for teacher preparation."

Dean of Education Dean C. Corrigan says it is important to be accredited by NCATE because graduates from an accredited program will be accepted by employers in 39 other states.

An undergraduate program in elementary and secondary teaching in art, music and physical education was given initial accreditation, along with graduate programs in reading and in school psychology. The elementary and secondary education degree programs were reaccredited, as well as the previously accredited graduate programs.

The college was granted seven years of accreditation, the maximum authorization period.

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forecast

Mostly clear skies and warm today with a high of 94. Southerly winds of 10 to 15 mph. The low tonight near 73. Mainly clear skies Friday with a high of 93 and winds remaining southerly near 10 mph.

U.S. flotilla overshadows talks in Central America

United Press International

Presidential envoys from Latin America's Contadora Group and American troubleshooter Richard Stone shuttled through Central America on separate peace missions as a U.S. Navy flotilla neared the coast of the troubled region.

Stone, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, met in San Salvador Wednesday with presidents Alvaro Magana of El Salvador, Belisario Betancur of Colombia and Ricardo de la Esprilla of Panama.

Betancur and de la Esprilla, representing the Contadora Group, also traveled to Honduras and Guatemala

for separate talks with the leaders of those countries.

"We have revitalized our faith that there is willingness," de la Esprilla said before he and Betancur left Guatemala for Panama Wednesday night. "There will be peace in Central America."

But that sentiment was apparently not shared by leftist Nicaragua, whose foreign ministry released a statement Wednesday night by the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Nations demanding that scheduled U.S. naval maneuvers in the region be canceled.

The maneuvers are "contrary to

the spirit of the peace efforts of the region's countries," said the statement, which endorsed separate, but similar peace proposals issued by the Contadora Group and Nicaragua.

Stone flew to Honduras Wednesday after a meeting with Salvadoran legislators, where reporters listening through the door quoted him as saying that the U.S. flotilla headed for waters off both coasts of Central America could "serve for an attack."

Stone's remark was confirmed by two Salvadoran legislators present at the meeting, but was flatly denied by Stone's spokesman and the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador, which had two people at the meeting.



staff photo by Mike Davis

'Bear'ly movin'

Leigh Forrest, a junior journalism major from Houston, took her three bears Bob, Brutwurst and Buford for a moped ride Wednesday on campus.