

Texas A&M

The Battalion

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staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Come sail with us

Gerry Norvell, an aerospace graduate student from Universal City recruits students for the Texas A&M Sailing Club. Norvell is giving

his pitch to Bill Jenson, a mechanical engineering junior from Houston. The club will have a meeting tonight at 7 in 301 Rudder.

Dean recommends reforms

Shortage of teachers felt

by Yvonne Czuzick

Battalion Reporter

Evidence shows that a decreasing number of people are choosing teaching as their careers and at the same time, the National Commission on Excellence in Education is calling for "quality in teaching."

"Why there is a decline and what can be done to stop it are questions which constantly are being studied."

"Reform the school, create the conditions for professional practice, pay teachers a decent salary and develop other career long incentives which will attract and keep the kind of teachers-scholars that are needed and we will be able to improve teacher education," says Dr. Dean Corrigan, dean of the college of education.

But so far a successful effort has not been made to increase the number of quality teachers.

Nationally, enrollments in teacher education programs have declined by 50 percent between 1972 and 1980. In 1972 enrollment was 317,254 compared to the 1980 figure of 155,485.

Certain subjects are feeling the decline more severely than other subjects. For instance, between 1972 and 1980 the number of math education majors dropped by 76 percent and the number of science majors dropped by 64 percent.

In 1982 every state reported a shortage of math and science teachers. Of all the math classes needed, 25 percent were not offered because there weren't enough teachers and of the classes that were offered, 26 percent were taught by unlicensed teachers.

Besides the shortage of teachers, quality of teachers seems to be another problem.

Data from the Texas Education Agency says that 1,233 math and science teachers were hired in Texas with no experience in 1980-81. That figure represents 23 percent of the 5,277 newly hired secondary teachers.

Another surprising figure is that a total of 5,698 emergency permits were issues in Texas, 502 to math and science teachers. To qualify for an emergency permit in Texas, the applicant must be at least 18 years old and have at least 90 hours of college credits.

The new requirements set by the State Board for licensing—such as pre-testing of basic skills, testing in the subject field one intends to teach in and graduation from an approved teacher education program—can be passed over by teachers employed on emergency permits.

What's happening to all the education graduates?

The National Center for Educational Statistics advisory group says nearly 40 percent of teacher education graduates did not apply for employment in education. A majority of the 40 percent said they did not apply because they considered the labor market for teachers unfavorable when compared to other options.

Low salaries is a common complaint heard from teachers. In 1980-81 the average starting salary for a beginning teacher in Texas was \$11,346.

Nationally, the average salary for all teachers was \$17,400. This figure is about \$8,000 below the intermediate standard budget, a figure set yearly by the U.S. Department of Labor as the amount of income required for a family of four to live in a middle-class fashion.

"Increases in teacher salaries and the conditions for professional practice must be improved in order to attract top college students to teacher edu-

cation and to stop the current flight of career teachers from their classrooms," Corrigan said.

Corrigan recommends that the following actions be taken by the State.

- Establish a merit-based fellowship/scholarship program to attract the most capable high school graduates into teacher education.

- Create a fund for excellence in teaching that would accept contributions to provide support for research and development.

- Establish differentiated staffing patterns that would restructure the teaching profession, making it possible for good

teachers to move in and out of a variety of roles and responsibilities.

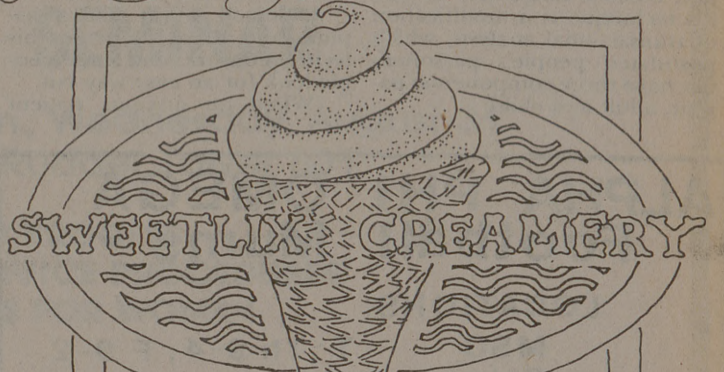
- Eliminate emergency permits as they exist now in Texas.

- Improve quality controls. Existing standards should be improved such as admission requirements, reviews prior to student teaching and evaluation after a period of supervised classroom experience.

Corrigan said the shortage of teachers should not be used as a reason for lowering standards.

Teacher education is an issue that is constantly being studied by groups such as the National Center for Educational Statistics Task Force and the Commission on Excellence in Education.

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Parents run risk giving cow's milk to infants

EVANSTON, Ill. — Parents who give whole cow's milk to babies under the age of six months are risking the development of an iron deficiency in their children, two Syracuse, N.Y., doctors say.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says cow's milk is acceptable during the second six months if the infant receives enough iron from other sources.

Drs. P. David Sadowitz and Frank A. Oski of the State University of New York and Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse said there have been major changes in infant feeding practices during the past decade with more

babies being breast fed and then receiving iron-fortified formulas.

They said whole cow's milk generally is less likely to be introduced into the diet during the first six months of life.

But Sadowitz and Oski said that is not the case for low-income families in urban settings.

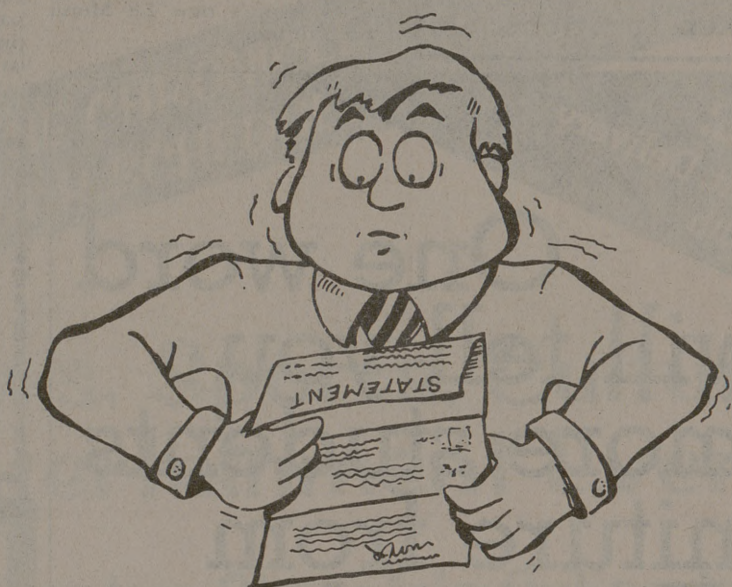
"Iron deficiency remains a nutritional problem for infants in an urban setting and is largely a result of the early introduction of whole cow's milk into the diet," the doctors reported in the academy's journal, Pediatrics.

Sadowitz and Oski tested a group of 280 infants — ages 9 months to one year — at a clinic during a 12-month period in 1980-81 for evidence of iron deficiency.

They found 7.6 percent were iron-depleted, 19.7 percent irondeficient without anemia and 8.2 percent iron-deficient with anemia.

In 29.2 percent of the infants, whole cow's milk had been introduced into the diet prior to six months of age.

Sixty-two percent of these infants showed evidence of some iron inadequacy, contrasted with only 21.8 percent of those with iron deficiencies who were fed cow's milk after six months of age, the study said.



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