

Chain letters going through the campus

By Karen Wallace
Staff Writer

Another plague has joined the flu epidemic at Texas A&M. Only this time it's a quieter, less painful tormentor. This plague is a pesky chain letter.

Although many people have been irritated by the chain letter circulating the campus, more people are hindering the situation by responding to the letter and sending twenty copies to friends, John Stanislaw, manager of the mail service, said Wednesday.

A chain letter requests a person to send copies to a specified number of people in order to receive good luck. If the warnings in the letter are ignored, bad luck supposedly results.

Those who respond to the letter keep the chain going. Hence, a chain letter is born.

The letter circulating now, titled "With Love All Things Is Possible," says that whoever sends a copy to 20 people will receive good luck within four days. Examples in the letter say people who sent responses received thousands of dollars a few days later.

However, whoever ignores the warnings and doesn't send copies will have bad luck and possibly die, according to the letter.

Stanislaw said people respond because the letter scares them into believing bad luck will occur if they ignore the letter.

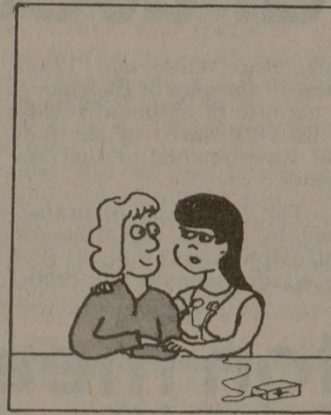
"These people are superstitious and believe the warnings in the letter," he said. "It scares them enough that they even pay the postage for twenty letters."

"Think about the person who is depressed or confused," Stanislaw said. This person responds from the fear that things could actually get worse than they already are.

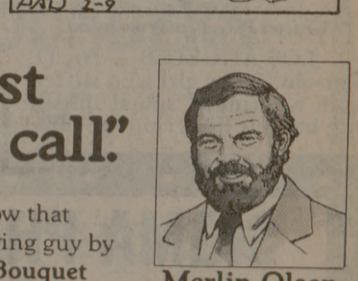
Besides being a nuisance to the mail service and to recipients, chain letters also are against University policy, Stanislaw said.

"The campus mail service is for campus business such as payrolls, schedules and leave of absence requests," he said. "Chain letters slow down the mail service."

R.I.



by Paul Dirmeyer



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Student Senate OKs lab user fee

By Ed Alanis
Staff Writer

Wednesday night the Student Senate approved a bill recommending that students pay a \$1 user fee for all students having lab tests performed at the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

The fee would generate an annual income between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Although it would not pay for the lab tests completely, it would provide some much needed relief for Health Center costs.

Students currently support the Health Center through student service fees and the \$15 health center fee, but due to rising medical costs more funding is needed. The user fee may be an alternative to apportioning more of student service funds to the Health Center.

After research and debate, the Senate reasoned that the \$1

fee would not prevent students requiring lab tests from having them done. Health Center administrators say the user fee will reduce waste and increase efficiency. The bill will be submitted to University administrators for consideration.

The Senate also approved a bill recommending that the fee for faculty use of intramural facilities be raised. The proposal is to raise the fee to \$10 per semester and an additional \$10 per semester for each faculty dependent. The goal of the bill is to make all users of the facilities pay the same rate.

Representatives from RHA and Hart Hall gave a report on proposed Operation Mop-up, a campaign to provide financial relief for the more than 100 students that suffered water damage in dorms over the Christmas break. Since the University has no liability for the

damage, donations are going to be collected and apportioned to victims on an equal basis.

In other business:

- The Academic Affairs will begin consideration of a bill recommending that professors be required to provide in writing to students the basis for final

grade determination.

- The Student Services Committee is researching the feasibility of placing large maps of the campus (similar to those in shopping malls) in various locations for the benefit of visitors and new students.

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