

Internationals find English demanding

By CATHY SMITH
Reporter

English class. Some people love it. Others hate it. Americans sat through an hour of literature or grammar or spelling or reading, every school day for 12 years.

What would those Americans say to 30 hours of English each week? An hour of grammar, an hour of composition, an hour of reading, an hour of listening skills, an hour of oral skills, an hour of language lab — five days a week?

If these Americans weren't Americans, but instead were foreign students wanting to improve their English to get into American universities, they'd swallow their complaints and work like mad to do it and do it right.

Two hundred international students are doing just that at Texas A&M's English Language Institute. They have earned the right to study there by passing an English test with a minimum score of 350 out of 673, and by meeting financial standards.

The ELI is one of many university-sponsored programs across the country that teach foreign students English.

These people aren't at the ELI to learn conversational English — they're involved in an all-out attack on the English language. They already speak some English but must increase their proficiency to survive in American academia.

Soesanto Santoso, 20, had six years of English in Indonesia, but never became fluent. He had English classes but spoke his native language the rest of the time. He wants to enroll in engineering here.

ELI students cannot take classes at, nor will be admitted to, a university until

they have scored 550 out of 673 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language. Some are accepted to Texas A&M on the condition that they take part-time classes at the ELI. Most of these students have scored about 515 on the TOEFL and need to improve their composition skills.

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The TOEFL is an English proficiency exam for people whose native language isn't English. It consists of listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and reading comprehension and vocabulary sections. Students must score 350 on the test to be admitted to the ELI, then must raise their scores to 550 to enroll in the university.

Another requirement for admission is confirmation of financial resources. All students must have a signed statement indicating that there will be a minimum of \$4,500 available to the student for each 4½-month session.

Once accepted to the institute, a \$2,500 deposit is required before the semester begins.

Tuition and fees are \$1,606.50 per semester. The \$2,500 is deposited at the fiscal office until the student arrives for the term. Fees come out of the deposit and the student is given the remainder.

This way, the student is assured of funds for deposits, rent and food the first weeks here. The \$4,500 is sure to cover the necessary expenses throughout the semester.

Expensive, yes. But most international students aren't on their own. Some foreign universities and other organizations will sponsor students.

The average TOEFL score for those admitted to the ELI is 430 for undergraduates and 460 for graduates, says Dr. Virginia Streiff, international student academic coordinator. That's above the 350 required to get in, but remember, they need a 550 to get out.

Once admitted, diagnostic tests are given to determine strengths and weaknesses. Then students are placed at levels according to their needs.

Classes are divided into beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Within each level the classes are rated A, B or C — A being the highest level. Beginning students usually take two or three semesters to raise their TOEFL scores, advanced usually need one.

Among other classes, Santoso takes beginning grammar, level A, and advanced oral skills, level C. This is his first semester at the ELI and that 550 seems far away.

Streiff says that in a university setting, where foreign students live and study in an English-speaking environment, a student can easily gain 100 to 150 points on the TOEFL the first few semesters here. Getting those last few points is harder, though, she says.

Students are tested and graded just as if they were taking regular university classes.

Pre-law

(continued from page 1)

But plans to implement the proposal were dropped when the College of Business Administration came up with a new idea: a Department of Legal Studies, combining the legal courses offered by the University into one department.

The idea was debated for two years, an agreement couldn't be reached, and the proposal was dropped.

When the Department of Academic Services was established in 1979, it took on the responsibility for pre-law counseling through its General Studies Program.

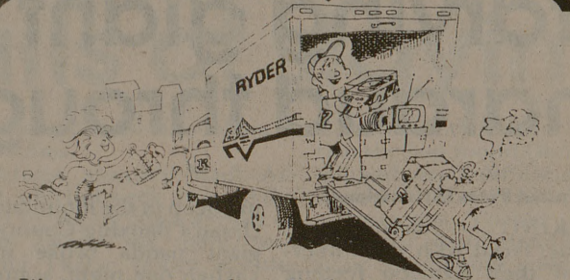
McCandless said the administrators wanted to centralize pre-law counseling by putting it under a University-wide facility.

But Garland Bayliss, director of Academic Services, said pre-law advising is still fragmented.

One advantage of the current system is that there's a central place to go for information. But Jessup keeps a low profile — most students and many faculty members still don't know there's a pre-law coordinator.

Texas A&M knows it needs lawyers. But at a state-supported University that has grown in almost every dimension, the services available to pre-law students are as ineffective — and as inadequate — as they were 30 years ago.

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Doggett calls for revision of present U.S. tax code

By CASEY RAMSEY
Reporter

Texas Sen. Lloyd Doggett, a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, called Tuesday for an overhaul of the federal tax code to eliminate unfair loopholes for wealthy citizens and corporations.

Doggett said the average citizen is unable to use federal tax loopholes that allow wealthy individuals and corporations to avoid paying large portions of their taxes.

He said the present tax

code has not been very good for the average hard-working citizen.

"Only 2.8 percent of the tax benefits of the 1981 tax law changes went to small business," Doggett said.

The senator said he favors extensive simplification of the U.S. tax code and the incorporation of the Texas Sunset Act. The Sunset Act, which Doggett sponsored, calls for legislative review of state agencies with legislative approval necessary for continued operation. Doggett said tightening up tax loop-

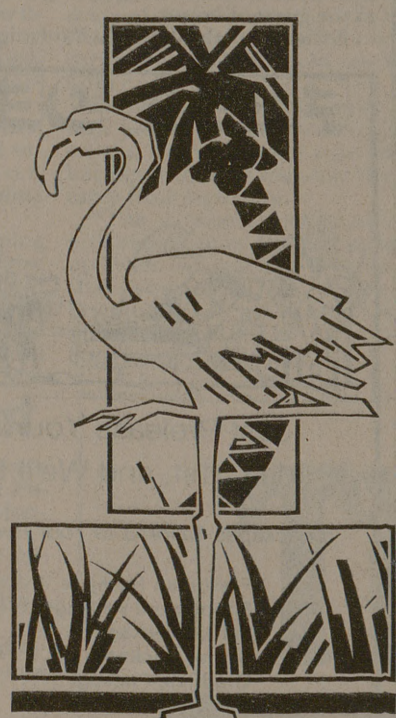
holes and simplifying the tax code could provide additional revenue without raising taxes for middle and low income families.

He said large corporations benefit most from the federal tax loopholes. Although the federal corporate tax rate is 46 percent, the average actual taxes paid by all U.S. industries is only 20.5 percent, he said.

"I believe corporations and wealthy Americans should carry their share of the tax burden just like working men and women do," he said.

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<p>BRYAN BRYAN CENTER 3006 29th Street, #1</p> <p>Mon. 9:30 a.m. Tue. 6:30 p.m. Wed. 9:30 a.m. Fri. 9:30 a.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>COLLEGE STATION LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER 315 North College Main</p> <p>Thurs. 5:15 p.m.</p>
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