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The Battalion

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'Degree only' policy eliminated this year

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

John was supposed to graduate in the fall semester. He had completed all his course work, but he missed the deadline to apply for graduation.

In past years, John would have to re-register in the University for "degree only" — registered but not taking classes — to graduate in the spring.

But now, because of a University policy change John does not have to be registered in the University the semester which he goes through commencement.

Effective this semester, the policy stating that students must be officially registered in the University the semester or summer term in which their degree is conferred has been changed.

Students who have completed all their academic requirements for graduation will no longer be required to register for degree only. They must, however, pay the diploma fee and make formal application for degree before the stated deadline during the semester or term they plan to graduate.

Today is the final day to apply for degrees awarded in December.

Undergraduate students who fell

into the "degree only" situation in past years usually fell into two categories, Registrar R.A. Lacey said.

Before the new policy went into effect, undergraduate students who had completed all course work, but had applied for graduation after the deadline had to register the next semester as degree only to go through commencement.

Other undergraduates, who found themselves in the degree only situation, were those not passing the required classes at the time graduating seniors' grades were due. If those failing students took the final and passed the class at the scheduled time, they also were eligible to graduate the following semester.

With the new policy, students will no longer have to pay the \$15 degree only fee, but will still have to apply for graduation and pay the \$15 diploma fee.

Students are responsible for applying for graduation before the deadline, Lacey said. Undergraduate students can apply for their degrees in Heaton Hall and graduate students can apply at the Graduate College in the Teague Research Center.

The Graduate College has had to change some of its registration procedures to accommodate the policy

change, Dr. Leo Berner, graduate dean, said.

Graduate students who are in programs that require a thesis, dissertation or record of study must register for a minimum of four semester credit hours in a 691 (research) or 692 (professional studies) class if they have not submitted their thesis, dissertation or record of study prior to the first day of classes.

Those graduate students who have already submitted their theses, dissertations or records of study must assume the responsibility of applying for their degrees.

Students in non-thesis programs must apply for their degrees and pay the application fee before they will be approved to take their final examinations.

Though he understands why the coordinating board made their ruling, Berner said he does not like the change.

"We could lose track of the students," Berner said. "We don't have any way to keep track of them."

The degree only policy has been in effect for more than 20 years, Lacey said, but he does not know the reasoning behind the policy.

The policy was discontinued after

See DEGREE, page 16

Fraternity strikes it rich with own Aggie oil well

By DOUG VORWERK
Reporter

One of the best ways to raise money for a new fraternity house is to strike oil. Sigma Chi fraternity has done just that with their Aggie Sigma Chi Oil Well 1.

Sigma Chi President Chris Tiblier said he doesn't know how much money the fraternity will get, because the workover rig — which pumps the oil out and can regulate the flow of oil — was only set up on Tuesday. He said the other wells in the area are producing 200 to 500 barrels of oil a day and he hopes the fraternity's well will produce as much.

"We should have production fig-

Sigma Chi President Chris Tiblier said he doesn't know how much money the fraternity will get, because the rig was only set up on Tuesday.

ures in about a month," Tiblier said.

Inexo, a Houston-based company, began drilling two weeks ago and struck oil at the end of last week. Welx is handling the workover rig.

Sigma Chi owns 10 acres on Dowling Road. The fraternity members are considering building a new

house, but they haven't decided whether to build it on their 10 acres or on the newly-zoned fraternity row in College Station. The new house would house 45 men — the one they have now sleeps nine.

William Powell, president of the Aggie Sigma Chi House Corporation, said if the well produces as expected it will be a "dream come true, financially." He also said more money will be made because they will not flare the gas that is found with the oil, but sell it.

Sigma Chi's national headquarters is excited about the well and people are curious about it, Tiblier said.

"At all our parties last week, people were lined up along the fence to watch the rig work," he said.



Photo by PETER ROCHA

Senior Rings

Students were able to pick up their senior rings at the Pavilion Thursday morning.

The lines were longest at the beginning of the day and in between classes.

Program teaches convicted DWI offenders

By KIM JENSEN
Reporter

A recent review by the Texas Commission on Alcoholism (TCA) rates Brazos County's alcohol safety education program at Texas A&M as "one of the better programs" in the state in dealing with driving while intoxicated offenders.

The program was conceived in

January 1983 by Dr. Maurice E. Dennis, Texas A&M's safety education coordinator, 85th Judicial District Judge W.T. McDonald Jr. and Brazos County chief probation officer Dan Richard Beto.

During the program's first nine months of operation, Dennis said, 604 students enrolled, with a 91 percent completion rate.

He said that the program is self-supporting and the students must pay. The course costs \$40 plus \$15 each month for two years of probation counseling.

One DWI conviction usually costs the offender \$1,200 in legal fees and fines, Dennis added.

Dennis said drinking and driving is a hard thing to get a handle on in a

university community like Bryan College Station. He said studies show that 85 percent of Texas A&M students drink and it is hard for them to separate drinking from driving.

Dennis worked with the drunk driving education program at Florida State University before coming to Texas A&M in 1976. After teach-

ing a class in alcohol and traffic safety here, he felt the "real-life experience" of working with DWI offenders would be helpful to graduate students in the safety education department.

Dennis also wanted to put his expertise to work instead of lecturing on theorems and principles.

"The program we have con-

structed is designed to rehabilitate convicted DWI offenders as part of their probation process," Dennis said.

Participants attend a nine-hour course taught by TCA certified instructors and can keep their drivers licenses if they complete the class within 180 days of their arrest.

See DWI page 6

Candidates battle on religion's role

United Press International

Walter Mondale accused the Reagan administration Thursday of embracing zealots on the "extreme fringe" who want to use government power to impose their religious beliefs on the nation.

While the Democratic challenger blasted the intrusion of the Moral Majority and religious right into government, President Reagan said the Constitution guarantees there will be no state religion.

The battle over the role of religion in American government, which has been simmering since Reagan attended a prayer breakfast in Dallas the morning after he was renominated, escalated sharply as the two candidates separately ad-

ressed the national convention in Washington of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish service organization.

The speech was Reagan's only political appearance of the day, while Mondale sounded the same theme in an address later to a Baptist convention.

Before leaving Washington, Mondale met with House and Senate Democrats who are concerned that he must step up his campaign against Reagan in order to win the November election.

"The unique thing about America is a wall in our Constitution separating church and state," Reagan said. "It guarantees there will never be a state religion in this land, but at the same time it makes sure that every

single American is free to choose and practice his or her religious beliefs or to choose no religion at all."

But Mondale said Reagan wanted to tear down the wall when he told the Dallas prayer breakfast that religion and government "are inseparably related."

"The queen of England, where state religion is established, is called Defender of the Faith," Mondale said. "But the president of the United States is the defender of the Constitution, which defends all faiths."

"No president should attempt to transform policy debates into theological debates," Mondale said.

"I am alarmed by the rise of what a former Republican congressman calls 'moral McCarthyism,'" he said

referring to comments in Dallas by former Rep. John Buchanan of Alabama. "A determined band is raising doubts about people's faith. They are reaching for government power to impose their own beliefs on other people."

"And the Reagan administration has opened its arms to them."

Mondale said he believes in an America where government does not dictate religion. A force could be unleashed, he warned, that would divide the nation.

"Today, that force is being wielded by an extreme fringe poised to capture the Republican Party and tear it away from its roots in Lincoln," he said.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• Aggies urged to celebrate "Grandparent's Day" by "adopting" an older person. See story page 3.

• Problems with the shuttle bus system are being worked out. See page 7.

World

• More than 1,360 have died in Philippines from Typhoon Ike. See story page 3.