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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Teachers' merit pay favored by majority

By JERRY OSLIN  
Reporter

A recent Gallop Poll published in Phi Delta Kappa magazine showed that 89 percent of the people in the United States favor teacher competency testing and 65 percent favor merit pay. But several Texas A&M education professors disagree with these "reforms" and the Texas Legislature's attempt to enact them into law.

"There are a lot of problems any time you try to legislate education, particularly when that legislation is intended to please constituents as opposed to really improving the quality of education in the schools," said Dr. William Rupley, associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction (EDCI).

"They (the legislature) have a plan A for the schools, but what if it

doesn't work?" said Dr. Viola Florez, an EDCI professor. "They haven't thought about that. They don't have a plan B."

Dr. John Stansell, also an EDCI professor, said one problem with the reforms is that they take all the decision-making authority away from the local schools and take the professional judgement away from the teachers and put it in the hands of the legislature.

Stansell said he doesn't think competency tests are necessary.

"Teachers have been tested and have proven themselves in the courses they took and in student teaching," he said. "The (competency) test is something that is not needed because it's not going to tell us anything we don't already know."

Rupley said he supports competency tests if they're used to help a

weak teacher become stronger by finding out where he needs help.

"If you just use it to decide who you're going to retain and who you're going to fire, you're assuming that one test of the person's behavior is pretty accurate and infallible," he said.

Stansell said merit pay can work; however, it can be dangerous. It's dangerous whenever and wherever there is any suspicion in anybody's mind that people aren't being treated justly, he said.

Stansell said career ladders can work, but it could raise many questions.

"It gets inevitably political because those people who are in a position to do the evaluating have a great deal of power over a person's salary and professional standing," he said.

## Organs can be donated by signature on license

By BRAD WHITTEN  
Reporter

Medical science breakthroughs now make it possible to replace a variety of malfunctioning organs. But a great need still exists for organ donations to replace defective organs in thousands of people in this country.

Paul Roof, 25, was a junior biomedical engineering student at Texas A&M when he fell from a horse and suffered a fatal head injury. All of his organs were donated and his heart saved the life of a man awaiting a transplant.

Bill Robinson, 22, was a senior journalism major and editor of The Battalion when he was killed in a car wreck. His kidneys were given to someone who needed them.

Both Roof and Robinson had signed the back of their driver's license, giving permission for their organs to be donated when they died. They felt strongly about organ donation.

"Since 1954, thousands of kidney transplants have taken place," said

Dr. David Brannon, co-director of the Bryan Phrenology Clinic. "Techniques for transplanting kidneys and corneas are currently the most advanced, but progress is being made in overcoming transplantation problems connected with the liver, pancreas, heart, bone and other tissue."

James H. Hayes, executive director of the South Texas Organ Bank said, the problem lies in finding donors.

"In order to harvest the organs, a person must be considered brain dead," Hayes said. "That is, the person has been in a prolonged coma with no brain activity and does not respond to external stimuli. He can't breathe on his own, his pupils are dilated and he has no cough, gag or swallow reflexes."

Hayes said the greatest number of donors are car accident victims who have received a blow to the head. Their organs still are healthy and their respiratory and circulatory functions can be maintained on a machine.

"If you have someone who is brain

dead, the next step is obtaining permission to find a donor and perform a transplant," Hayes said. "If a person has signed the back of his driver's license or a donor card his next of kin must still give permission after his death. That is why we urge people who would like to donate their organs to talk it over with their relatives and let them know that this is what they want."

The Anatomical Gift Act legalizes organ donation and specifies who may give written permission. The order of priority is as follows: spouse, adult son or daughter, either parent, adult brother or sister, a guardian or any other person authorized to care for the body at the time of death.

"Finding a recipient for the donor involves matching over 25 different variables, such as blood and tissue types," Hayes said. "We have a computer, and if a match can't be found locally or nationally we can look for one on an international basis."

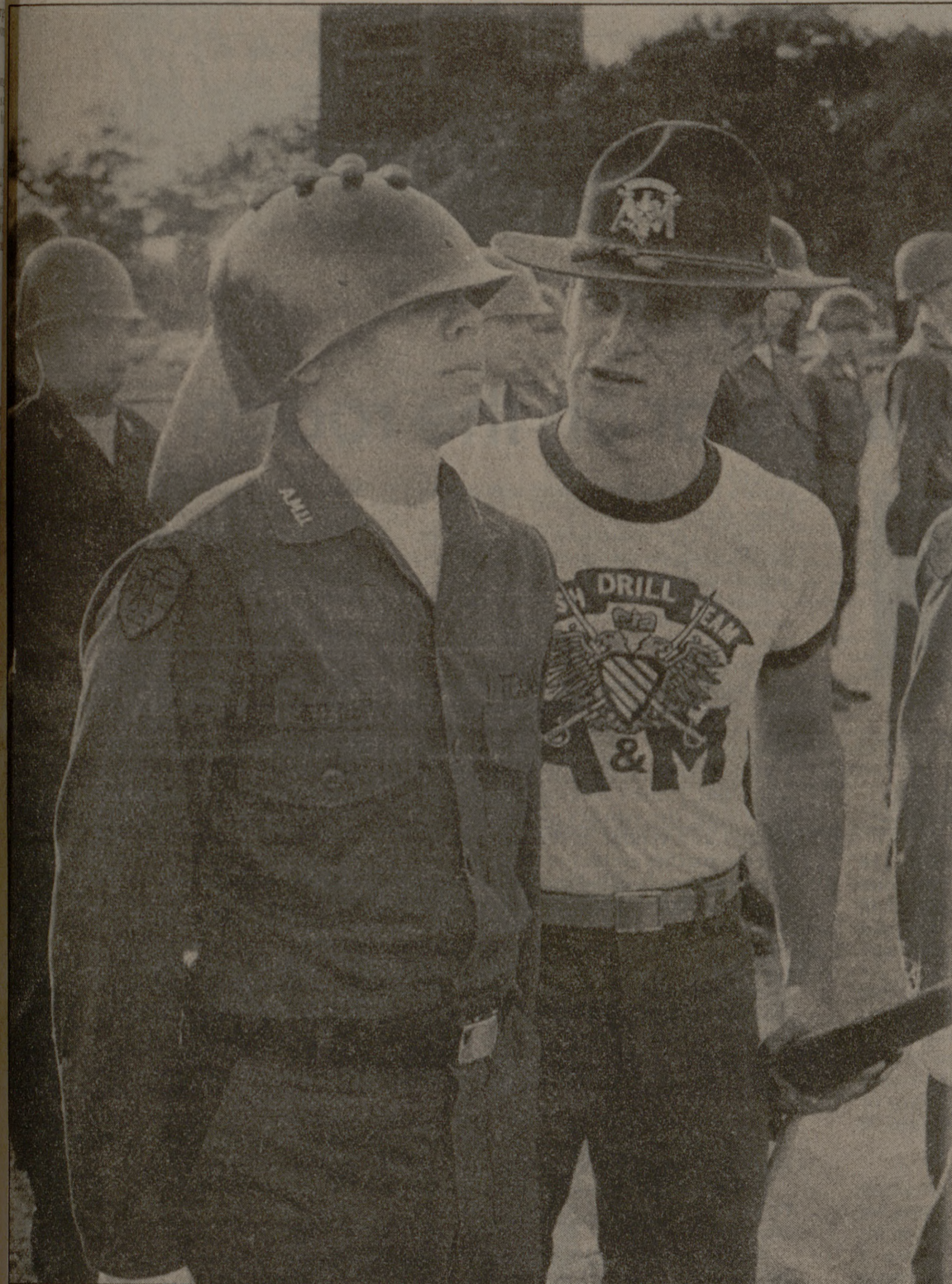


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

### Wake up in there

Colby Vokey, right, a sophomore geology major from Dallas, checks to see if Fish Kilner, a computer science major from

Houston, is sneaking a nap while at attention during the Freshman Drill Team workout Tuesday afternoon.

## High tech plane lands at Easterwood

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Staff Writer

No stewardess hands out complimentary bags of dry-roasted peanuts. No in-flight movies are shown. No air-sick bags are in the pocket on the back of the seat.

The Lockheed High Technology Test Bed (HTTB) is a different type of airplane.

It's 120 feet long, 35 feet high and has a wing span of 130 feet. It can fly at 120 nautical miles per hour (138 miles per hour). It's painted pitch black and almost looks like it's pregnant.

But the HTTB is not pregnant. It is being developed into a flying laboratory for evaluating advanced air-

lift and other aerospace system concepts.

The HTTB stopped at Easterwood Airport Tuesday afternoon as part of its tour to several campuses. Before stopping at Texas A&M, the HTTB stopped at Mississippi State University, the University of Tennessee and Ohio State University.

"We're trying to acquaint the academic community and to enlist interest and support," George Takis, spokesman for the project, said.

In the future, Takis said, Lockheed hopes to offer teachers and graduate students the opportunity to get first-hand experience in a flying laboratory.

"We want to work very closely with the schools," Takis said. "It's our hope that we can offer to take graduate students with us so they fly in the craft and gather their data."

"It will benefit both the students and ourselves because we're gonna learn something too," he said.

The purpose of the High Technology Test Bed (HTTB) is to extend advanced technologies to aid tactical airlift development.

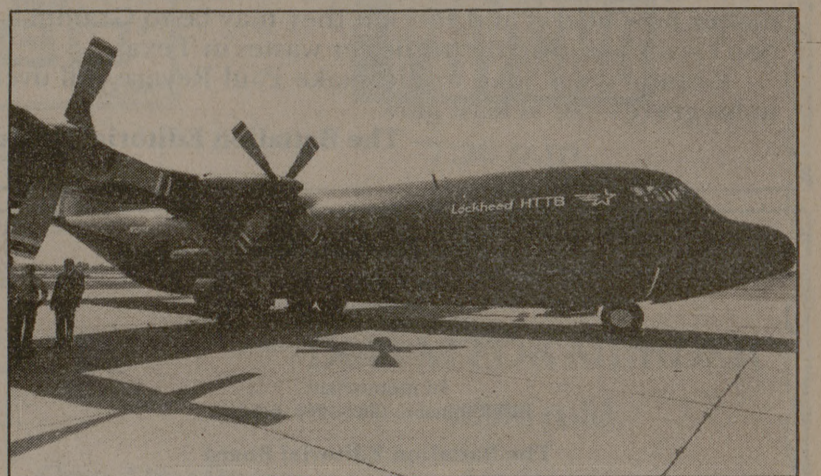
The HTTB was developed to test aerospace concepts in their intended environment which will limit the risks taken. Takis compared the process to that of doing homework before taking the test.

"This is the classroom in which af-

ter learning the lesson, you can apply it," Takis said.

As the program has unfolded, Lockheed has received widespread interest and support, Takis said. Already Lockheed has received proposals for three experiments to be conducted on the HTTB.

During the next two months, the HTTB will undergo some renovations. When it comes out of the shop in November, the HTTB will have new dorsals which will extend the tail up the body on top of the plane and dorsals which extend the tail on the sides. These will add aerodynamics and control improvements.



Lockheed's new experimental aircraft, the High Technology Test Bed, was on display at Easterwood airport Tuesday.

## U.S. welcomes Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko

United Press International

NEW YORK — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived in New York Tuesday under heavy security for a visit that will include meetings with President Reagan and Walter Mondale and an address to the U.N. General Assembly.

Gromyko arrived on a special Aeroflot flight from Moscow at Kennedy International Airport and was greeted by Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, and the Soviet ambassador to

the United Nations, Oleg Troyanovsky.

The ambassadors and Troyanovsky's wife, who carried a bouquet of red roses, boarded the plane to greet the foreign minister. A 10-car motorcade then whisked Gromyko to the Soviet U.N. mission in Manhattan.

The foreign minister had no comment at the airport.

Gromyko was to meet with Mondale, the Democratic candidate for president, in New York on Sept. 27,

and with and Secretary of State George Shultz before traveling to Washington the next day for talks with Reagan.

Mondale pledged to be "tough" in his talks with Gromyko and vowed not to attempt to conduct foreign policy on behalf of the president.

"I want that meeting to be successful, as do all Americans," Mondale said.

Gromyko was expected to visit the United Nations in time for the assembly's general debate. The debate

is scheduled to follow an opening address to the 39th session delivered by Reagan on Monday, Sept. 24.

Gromyko will address the General Assembly Tuesday as head of the Soviet delegation to the three-month political session. He has spoken to the assembly almost every year since he assumed his post in 1957.

Diplomatic sources believe Gromyko will focus on the U.S.-Soviet relationship in his speech and very likely attack the U.S. administration,

something he has done in the past without fail.

His return to New York was marked by effort from both Washington and Moscow to revive U.S.-Soviet relationships, which dropped to a low since the Soviets walked out of the intermediate nuclear weapons talks in Geneva last year.

Reagan said he invited the Soviet official to the White House to ease "suspicion and hostility" and secure a "safer world" by trying to control

nuclear weapons proliferation.

Mondale said it was "pretty pathetic" that Reagan was not meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Konstantin Chernenko, but wished the president well in his talks with Gromyko.

In an address Monday, Mondale said, "I cannot help but think of the needless baggage Mr. Reagan brings to that meeting — a history that runs from self-defeating name-calling to hair-raising joke telling."