

Bill postpones accreditation

By MARY ANGELA LEBLANC
Reporter

Students seeking teacher certification in Texas have an obstacle.

While at one time Texas A&M education students could observe classes and student teach all in one semester, a new bill is splitting that process into two semesters.

House Bill 72, passed in July, requires 45 hours of class observation by the student, followed by 12 weeks of student teaching. A&M had previously combined the two requirements into one semester.

The bill takes effect in September 1985 and will affect all students seeking teacher certification at that time. A&M plans to have summer session courses to assist those students who will be affected by the bill, said Dr. John Chevrette, chairman for field experience in the Department of Health and Physical Education.

"It hasn't created as many problems as we thought," Chevrette said. "We're making it as easy for the students as possible."

Carol Hickman, a senior physical education major from Kingwood, said she realizes the physical education department is trying to make an effort to help the students with the situation.

Hickman said she will be graduating as planned in December 1985 because she will be taking the courses offered this coming summer.

"The reason it upsets me is that you go through the University for three and a half years and you've made plans around the degree plan," Hickman said. "I had not planned on being here this summer. I had planned on working full-time this summer."

Hickman said she may not get the job she had planned on because she is only going to be able to work half the summer. She said she wished a grandfather clause was in the bill that would effect the teaching program beginning with the incoming freshmen.

Gary Clare, a senior physical education major from San Angelo, said he does not plan on taking the classes offered during the summer. Clare said he understands that the administration is doing all they can to help, but this setback will cause him to graduate in May 1986 instead of December 1985.

"They should have given us more time to fit the change into the degree plan," Clare said. "I will have to stay around another semester just to take six hours."

Gonzalez sworn in as first Hispanic justice

United Press International

AUSTIN — Former Corpus Christi appeals court Judge Raul Gonzalez was sworn in Monday as the first minority member of the Texas Supreme Court in a ceremony heralded as "a very proud day" for Mexican-Americans.

"I know I have very big shoes to fill," Gonzalez said to Justice Charles Barrow, who is retiring to become dean of the Baylor School of Law. "I will say to you what I said to Gov. (Mark) White: I will do my best."

White administered the oath of office to Gonzalez in the Supreme Court chamber as a crowd of about 200 people, most of them Hispanic, cheered. Gonzalez's mother and wife then draped the traditional black judicial robe over his shoulders, and he took his place on the bench.

Gonzalez, 47, while being the first minority justice, is also the court's youngest justice. He was a state district judge and assistant U.S. attorney in Brownsville, and served three years on the 13th Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi.

"You're getting today for the first time a new culture, a new background, a new way of thinking," Judge Reynaldo Garza of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said as he introduced Gonzalez. "For us of Mexican-American descent, this is a very proud day."

Garza praised Gonzalez as a hard worker who "loves the law and wants to follow it and wants to make sure everyone else does."

Performance Lab evaluating fitness

By LINDA ROWLAND
Reporter

The Human Performance Laboratory at Texas A&M is a research and service facility extensively equipped to test all aspects of human fitness.

Testing at the Human Performance Laboratory is available to faculty, students and the community.

The lab often is used by people who want to start a fitness program. It also helps those who are going into serious training for races or competition, said Dr. Charles Shea, chairman of the Human Performance Laboratories.

"It is a good way for them to figure out where they are fitness-wise before they begin," he said.

The Human Performance Laboratory has been at A&M for six years. Three years ago it moved into custom-made laboratories at 276 East Kyle.

The lab staff includes three exercise technologists as well as one biomechanist who studies human motion; a motor learning technologist who studies muscle coordination and a motor developer who looks at the athletic progress of children.

The body composition test weighs a person underwater to determine the ratio of lean to fat in the body with "reasonable accuracy," Shea said.

The blood profile analysis indicates nutritional imbalances which could affect weight and fitness. From these results, a diet is devised for maximum performance, he said.

Another common test is the pulmonary function evaluation. Shea said it checks lung capacity and can detect damage from allergies, smoking and other breathing conditions.

Submaximal and maximal stress testing measures the heart's condition by monitoring vital signs while a subject rides a bicycle or a treadmill.

Following testing, a thorough consultation provides an individual with a program dictating a level of physical activity and a diet which will improve fitness without impairing health. Clients are personally advised, because each situation and each individual is different, Shea said.

The Human Performance Lab also offers more extensive human fitness testing, Shea said.

"If you want a fitness evaluation, check here first," Shea said. "The lab is also very popular with students and faculty interested in losing and gaining weight."

Shea said it is essential to maintain a certain level of fat in the body. A woman's body cannot be healthy if it is composed of less than 12-15 percent fat, but 22 percent fat level is ideal. Men can function on a much lower level of fat, but even their ideal body fat composition is 16-18 percent, Shea said.

"It is not something you can just eyeball or estimate, it requires testing," he said.

Women, especially, suffer severe complications with hormonal imbalances, if their body fat level is below minimum, Shea said.

Shea said he has seen more people interested in weight gain recently.

"Too skinny is just as bad as being too fat," he said.

Cost for evaluations depend on each individual situation, Shea said. For instance, a test on a 35-year-old man would demand the presence of a certified physician, while a test on a 19-year-old would not.

The Human Performance Lab recently tested members of the Bryan Fire Department, the Bryan Police Department and Bryan city administrators.

"In the first of a continuing set of evaluations, about 250 people were

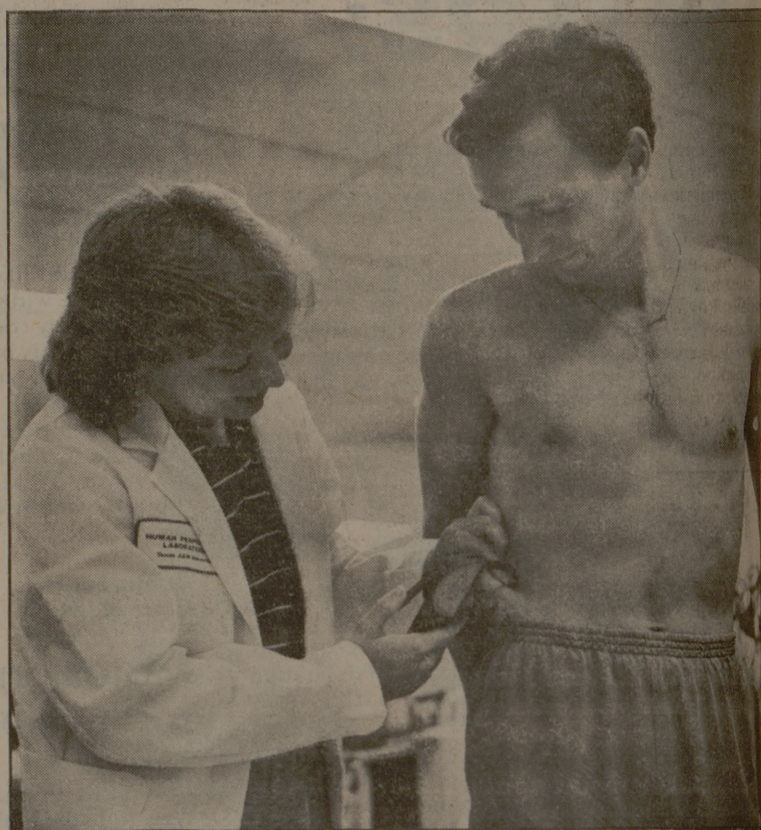


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Cindy Epps performs a skin-fold thickness test at the human performance lab in East Kyle to determine the overall fitness level on Doug Crowell, a graduate student from Massachusetts.

run through a complete battery of tests," Shea said. "We certainly want our fire and police departments to be fit. This way they can discover their capabilities."

Shea said the Human Performance Lab also works closely with A&M athletes, although they have no regularly coordinated program yet.

"We are looking at a regular program for the future," Shea said.

Reagan-Mondale debate triggers Texans to register

Voter registration hits all-time high

United Press International

State officials estimate 7.5 million Texans registered to vote before the weekend deadline. The state has 11 million to 12 million eligible residents.

Democrats claimed Monday they registered more than 400,000 voters, many of them Hispanics who flooded registration offices Sunday

night after the debate between Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan.

"I definitely decided to do this after listening to the debate," said Esperanza Schlaf, who registered at Democratic headquarters in El Paso.

Dwayne Holman, Texas coordinator for the Mondale-Ferraro campaign, estimated the party signed up 480,000 voters. Tens of thousands

more were garnered by the Texas Women for the 80s and Human-Serve.

Officials reported all-time records in South Texas.

Hidalgo County officials estimated their total would be 133,000, an increase of about 27,000 from the last presidential election in 1980.

"It's a record and that's exactly

what we want," said Noe Perez, head of the voter registration office. "Now let's all go out and vote."

In Corpus Christi an all-time record of about 144,000 is expected, up from 130,488 in 1980, said Anna Garza, voter registration supervisor for Nueces County.

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