

Liberal arts

(continued from page 1)

different university, she said. While Lutes said she considers this a negative reason for the growth of liberal arts, she thinks it will work out in the long run. "Liberal arts is a natural home for students who have been in other majors because we have such a wide range of courses that meet our requirements," she said. "We're interested that the students have a broad background, not that they all have the same specific background." Lutes said, for example, that a student is more likely to transfer from business to liberal arts than to engineering because he can apply most of his credits to his new degree plan.

If he transferred to engineering, he would have to go back to square one. Most students who transfer into the College of Liberal Arts come from the business and engineering colleges or general studies. Sophomore Annette Smith said she enrolled in the general studies program because she wasn't sure what she wanted to do. She chose A&M because of its academic reputation. After considering a major in geology or journalism, this semester she decided to major in English. "I think that being able to write, communicate and express yourself is important," she said. "Most jobs today are people oriented and, therefore, being able to communicate well with people is very important." Lutes said traffic is in the other direction also, with liberal arts majors switching more to business or education, and with a few switching to science.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Wednesday.

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- A blue AMF 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Legett Hall.
 - UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE: A 1977 Dodge Monaco was stolen from in front of the Meat Sciences Centers.

For example, sophomore finance major Laura Willars transferred from the journalism department. She said one of her roommates was a liberal arts major and had trouble finding a job. Willars began to worry. "I just thought it would be easier for me to get a job with a business degree than with a liberal arts degree," she said. Dr. Vaughn Bryant, head of the

Department of Anthropology, said liberal arts is growing because companies are beginning to hire liberal arts majors for jobs traditionally held by business majors. Liberal arts majors tend to have an ability to think of new and innovative ideas and not just "number crunch," he said.

He said that in the late 70s and early 80s business school enrollment surged, but industry has found business majors stagnating. They can do the problem solving, but they have little creativity, he said. So, the companies are switching back to hiring liberal arts majors.

The American Can Co., for example, revised its college recruiting policy in the late 70s after realizing its senior officers came from a variety of educational backgrounds that were heavy in liberal arts. Judd H. Alexander, senior vice president, said in a Wall Street Journal article.

While continuing to recruit engineers, accountants and MBAs, the company set up a small recruiting program for high achievers from liberal arts.

Alexander said the performance of these liberal arts graduates was outstanding, particularly in unstructured projects. One economics major, given the assignment of auditing entry-level hiring practices, produced an analysis expected to save

the company \$300,000.

Judy Vulliet, assistant director for the A&M placement center, said a liberal arts major can sign up to interview for business, management or marketing interviews if the student has a related minor or work experience.

Last year 40 different recruiting organizations came to interview liberal arts majors and 21 came asking for all majors. Some of those companies were Republic Securities Corp., Procter & Gamble Co., Eckerd Drugs, Frito-Lay and retail stores such as K-Mart, Joskes and Dillard's.

Many students say they chose a liberal arts major because they receive a well-rounded education.

Senior theater arts major Elizabeth Arnett said, "I think my main reason for being in a liberal arts major instead of a pre-professional one is that you get a more rounded education. You get a taste of everything."

Dale Poage, a freshman English major, said an English major can be used for almost any job, while an electrical engineering degree can basically be used for just one.

"English has a lot broader base than a lot of other fields," Poage said. "It has a lot more possibilities to offer. I'm just now finding that out."



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