

# STATE AND LOCAL

Slouch

By Jim Earle

School districts offering incentives

## Prof: Shortage of teachers exists

By D'ANNA HEIDEMAN  
Reporter

Promises of clean erasers and a good supply of chalk are teaching incentives of the past. School districts now will have to offer bigger and better incentives to attract top educators.

Dr. William Peters, head of the educational curriculum and instruction department at Texas A&M, says that while a teacher shortage has always existed in the Southwest, the problem now is nationwide.

Peters attributes the shortage to better career opportunities for women and low teaching salaries.

A shortage in special teaching areas also has become a concern, Peters says.

"There always has been a shortage of math and science teachers, but we now are seeing a severe shortage of

*"There always has been a shortage of math and science teachers, but we now are seeing a severe shortage of English, bilingual education, special education and elementary-level teachers." — Dr. William Peters, head of the Texas A&M educational curriculum and instruction department.*

English, bilingual education, special education and elementary-level teachers," he says.

"This is a good time for the teaching profession. The decline in public school enrollment now is reversing itself because we're experiencing a small baby boom."

A&M is one of the few universities that has seen an enrollment increase in its curriculum and instruction department, Peters says.

"We expect one of the largest enrollments this fall and as a result, we will be reviewing our entrance policies," he says.

Recent legislation has increased teacher salaries, but Peters says he still thinks teachers are underpaid, and salaries will have to increase to attract prospective teachers.

However, he adds, it is possible for teachers to earn salaries in the mid-\$20,000 range. Some school dis-

tricts even offer bonuses to teachers for never being absent and for teaching in certain high-need areas.

One attractive incentive for future educators is for school administrators to invite teachers to help make decisions involving curriculum changes.

"Administrators have recognized the need for classroom management and discipline, which has improved the teaching environment," Peters says. "Also, principals are operating more as instructional leaders and paying more attention to the teaching-learning process."

Teaching has recently become recognized as a true profession, he says, and this is helping entice those interested in becoming educators.

"Teachers are getting more support from parents, who now are seeing them as vital," Peters says.



"Can you beat that? My chili unstopped our sink!"

## Miniature machine saves infant's life

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A new miniature children's heart-lung machine developed in San Antonio saved the life of newborn Derrick Barlow, the first infant ever placed on the device.

"Everything's come out all right," said Debra Barlow, 28, the child's mother. "And he's going to be fine."

The Killen baby was put on the machine after he suffered chemical pneumonia at birth at Fort Hood on June 29. Doctors said the baby swallowed fecal material in the womb, a common birth accident.

The device, called an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation unit, is the first one made small enough for treating a baby during emergency air transport, officials at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center said.

It was developed by the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and Wilford Hall.

"This baby would not have survived without ECMO," said Col Robert F. DeLemos, head of maternal and child care at the hospital.

The Barlow baby was moved by air ambulance to Wilford Hall July 4 and was connected July 7 to the machine. The device takes blood from the body through major neck blood vessels, infuses it with oxygen and then pumps it back into the body.

The infant was taken off the device Friday and was reported in "satisfactory and improving condition" Thursday.

Similar instruments are in operation at a handful of medical centers, but none are portable, a problem for Wilford Hall, which receives patients from all over the world.

The ECMO was transported on the airlift from Fort Hood to Wilford Hall, but was not necessary during the flight for the Barlow infant.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Texas Republicans in Congress put down suggestions Thursday that they are split over a possible primary fight for governor between a stalwart of the party and a recent, high-profile convert.

"My actions should not be construed as anti-Kent Hance, but pro-Tommy Loeffler," said Houston Rep. Jack Fields. "I'm glad that Kent has switched over, and if he is in the gubernatorial race, I'm glad that it's going to be a contested primary. I think it brings excitement."

Hance, a former Lubbock congressman who narrowly missed gain-

ing the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate last year, switched parties in May at the behest of the Republican Senate winner, Phil Gramm. Gramm switched parties in 1983 when he was Hance's colleague in the House.

Gramm "would feel some obligation to help (Hance) out" if he runs for governor against incumbent Democrat Mark White next year, said Gramm's press secretary, Larry Neal.

"I think there is an understanding that I am not always going to agree with the senator, he is not always going to agree with me," Fields said. "I feel the same respect from him on this decision."

Loeffler, a four-term congressman from Hunt, has been a loyal soldier in the Republican army in Washington and is considered by his GOP colleagues to be an able legislative and political technician and definite leadership material.

But colleagues say he is weary of the long wait for power in Congress and wants to return to Texas and spend more time with his young family.

On the day that Hance switched parties, standing side-by-side with Gramm in the Capitol, Loeffler was on the road in Texas, raising money for a potential governor's race.

## Governor's race creating split in GOP

Neither Loeffler nor Hance has announced and Republicans have been careful to praise all possible contenders for the top statehouse job.

The difference of opinion came to light when Fields and fellow House members Bill Archer of Houston and Tom DeLay of Sugar Land signed a fund-raising letter on behalf of Loeffler.

"The overall purpose of the letter was to make people aware that he is in the race and that he is someone who should be considered, because his name identification across the state is not what it should be at this particular point," Fields said.

## Texas musicians write songs to protest nuclear dump site

Associated Press

LUBBOCK — Disgust with the possibility of a high-level nuclear waste dump site in the Texas Panhandle has prompted two songwriters to lash out with lyrics.

"They wanta dig a hole for you, and they wanta dig a hole for me; we're gonna live high off the hog, let's thank the DOE," the song goes. "They wanta dig a hole for you, on the edge of eternity; I wanta know where I'm gonna go, let's ask the DOE."

Frank Ford said Wednesday he and songwriter Ken Precure wrote "They Wanta Dig A Hole For You" to protest what Ford calls a plan by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to disrupt the number one agricultural county in Texas.

The two are residents of the Panhandle city of Hereford in Deaf Smith County, about 100 miles northwest of Lubbock.

Deaf Smith County was named last December as one of three top preliminary sites for the nation's

first high-level waste storage area. Sites near Yucca Mountain, Nev., and Hanford, Wash., also were proposed.

"They came here in 1982 and said they were going to dig a hole (for nuclear waste) no matter what we wanted," Ford told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "That didn't sit well with us. It would seem to me that we just don't have room in the federal budget for this kind of insanity."

In "They Wanta Dig A Hole For You," written under the pseudonym Ben Hadd, Precure mocks information supplied by the DOE that the nuclear waste site will provide benefits for the area.

The battle cry released last week is accompanied by the flipside song, "The Ballad of 'Ol Deaf Smith" written by Ford under the pseudonym Hayseed "Tex" Miller.

The lyrics, sung by Precure, lament the loss of the agricultural tradition of Deaf Smith farmers started

by Texas revolutionary hero Erastus "Deaf" Smith.

"'Ol Deaf Smith is ready for you; you can plot and shout 'til your face turns blue," Ford writes in the song. "Texas ain't your garbage can; you can't dump on Deaf Smith land."

The songs are becoming a hit both in Hereford and throughout the state, Ford said.

"It's been sent to Austin, Washington and throughout the Panhandle, and it's getting some play," he said. "The reaction so far has been universally rave reviews."

Residents in Deaf Smith County and around the Panhandle voiced opposition to the proposed site during public hearings in January and February. Most argued the site would pose danger to the local agricultural economy and the Ogallala and Santa Rosa aquifers.

If built in Deaf Smith County, the site eventually would hold 70,000 tons of high-level waste, which would not reach safe levels for at least 10,000 years, the DOE said.

## Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through July 18:

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
  - Ten bicycles were stolen from various locations on campus.
  - Four wallets were stolen from various locations on campus.
  - A man was caught stealing five flag poles and nine tee markers from the Texas A&M Golf Course.
- THEFT:**
  - Two sets of keys were stolen from Kyle Field.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS:**
  - Two people were caught swimming in the Wofford Golf Pool.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
  - Someone painted pictures on various walls in Kyle Field.
  - The tail light lenses of a 1983 Chevrolet Camaro in Parking Annex 24 were broken.
- HARASSMENT:**
  - Two women in Briggs Hall reported receiving harassing telephone calls.

## What's up

Sunday

MSC GROVE 85: presents "Robinhood" at 8:30 p.m. in The Grove.

Monday

MSC GROVE 85: presents a John Wayne festival at The Grove. "Stagecoach" and "Rio Lobo" will be featured at 8:30 p.m.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

## A&M lecturer enjoys teaching children's literature course

By RHONDA RUBIN  
Reporter



Dorothy Van Riper

Dorothy Van Riper opens a picture book and begins to read to a fascinated audience. She is not a nursery school teacher reading to five-year-old children. She is a Texas A&M English teacher reading to 21- and 22-year-old students.

Van Riper has been teaching English 360, Literature for Children, at A&M for eight years.

She got her master's degree from Duke University, taught English at the high school level and then came to A&M to teach freshman-level courses.

She admitted she knew nothing

about children's literature when she first was asked to teach the class.

"When I was told the course was in the offing, I immediately

began to teach myself children's literature and sat in on the class that was then being taught," she says.

"I also read avidly, made myself an authority, and fell in love with children's literature."

Van Riper says she tries to use the same techniques when reading to her class as when reading to a child.

"I try to use the same techniques, because teachers will teach as I teach," she says.

However, some students have told Van Riper they didn't like her teaching style. She says she thinks one reason is that a few students would rather take notes.

"I run a classroom the most

dangerous way that can be done . . . through discussion," she says.

Van Riper says the class is not for education majors only and tries to get as many students to take it as she can.

"During the week of pre-registration, I wear a T-shirt that says, 'English 360 Children's Literature,'" she says.

Choosing which books will be read for this class is no different than for any other English class because, she says, she keeps up with new titles and subscribes to several magazines which contain critical reviews.

Van Riper says she is not happy with the way children are being introduced to literature.

"There are teachers who don't give the child time to read a book," she says.

Children often are assigned to read anthologies that contain only a few chapters of each book.

"They (anthologies) don't give the child a chance to read an entire book," Van Riper says.

She says she also is opposed to the "Dick and Jane" books.

"Kids five and six years old don't talk that way; why should they read that way," she says.

In choosing a book for a child, a parent or teacher should find something the child will enjoy, not a book that teaches a lesson

and serves no other purpose, Van Riper says.

She says she feels a little artificial teaching children's literature because she's never actually taught children.

However, she has been asked by a local day care center to come and read to the children. She says she's looking forward to doing that after the summer semester.

Van Riper says she enjoys teaching children's literature to college students and couldn't think of anything she'd rather teach.

"I'd rather teach children's literature more than anything I know," she says. "I love it."

# Shooters

BILLIARDS

32 Pool Tables . . . 4 Shuffleboards . . . Video Arcade . . . Foosball Tables

HAPPY HOUR

SAT. 11-8

SUN. 12-8

HAPPY HOUR

MON.-FRI. 4-8

702 University #110B  
College Station

846-0085

Solid Wood, No-Frills Furniture for Today's Lifestyle

# TOUGH STUFF INC.

CASUAL FURNITURE

Bryan/College Station  
1623 Culpepper Plaza  
(409) 696-4489

Sales & Rental

Battalion Classified 845-2611