

STATE AND LOCAL

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Texas' GOP congressmen among most conservative

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Texas' six freshmen Republican congressmen are among the most conservative in their class, according to a political action committee that rated their votes during their first six months in office.

The Fund for a Conservative Majority said Reps. Joe Barton of Ennis, Dick Army of Denton and Tom DeLay of Sugar Land, voted 100 percent "correct" based on 10 votes selected by the group as a barometer of their conservatism.

Texas' three other freshmen Republicans — Beau Boulter of Amarillo, Mac Sweeney of Wharton and Larry Combest of Lubbock — each scored 90 percent in the group's ratings. All three disagreed with the FCM on the same vote — emergency farm aid.

The Fund for a Conservative Ma-

majority is a major PAC contributor to conservative political candidates.

FCM's chairman, Robert Heckman, said the study "demonstrates that the Reagan revolution is alive and well" and that candidates do not feel they must become more moderate in order to get elected.

Texans elected seven new congressmen last year, six of them Republican. Four of the Republicans won seats previously held by Democrats. The 28-member Texas delegation now has a record 10 GOP members.

Republicans scored a 76 percent conservative rate on their votes last Congress, according to the group. This year's GOP freshmen scored 87 percent based on their votes for the first six months, or 11 percent more conservative, FCM said.

Based on the 10 key votes used in the freshman ratings released by the

organization, the Texas freshmen scored 95 percent.

Here is a list of the 10 votes and the position FCM considered correct:

- Military aid to the Contras in Nicaragua (for).
- Humanitarian aid to the Contras (for).
- Humanitarian aid to the Contras in supplemental bill (for).
- Economic sanctions against South Africa (against).
- Funding for MX missile (for).
- Funding for so-called "Star Wars" defense system (for).
- Emergency farm loans (against).
- Federal aid for family planning (against).
- Referral to committee of resolution to seat Republican in disputed Indiana House seat election (against).

Changes in psychology curriculum OK'd

By KAREN BLOCH
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a proposal Monday for changes in the requirements for a bachelor of science degree in psychology.

According to the proposal, Psychology 340, Psychology of Learning, will no longer be a required course. The course will be added to one of two lists of courses from which psychology students must choose three courses (at least one from each list).

Also, students will be allowed to apply no more than six credit hours of Psychology 485, a problems course, toward a psychology degree. Exceptions will be made for students taking 485 honors and those enrolled in the University Fellows Program.

A representative from the psychology department told the Senate that the removal of restrictions on Psychology 305, Personality Adjustments, is "in the works." Currently, psychology majors do not receive degree credit for the course.

The Senate also approved new undergraduate courses in several departments including anthropology, business administration, and history.

Graduate courses in chemical engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, genetics and mechanical engineering were also approved.

A request for a change in the course description of Veterinary Microbiology 662, Advanced Immunological Concepts, was denied in a unanimous decision by the Senate.

The request was to allow that "the course may be repeated once for credit."

The Faculty Senate serves in an advisory capacity. Curricular recommendations will be sent to Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver for approval.

Study indicates rear of plane safest place to be in crash

Associated Press
DALLAS — Most of the survivors of major air crashes over the past 15 years have been seated in the rear of the airplane, according to a study of National Transportation Safety Board documents.

Forward sections of downed jets generally have suffered more extensive destruction in crashes, according to a copyright story in Monday's editions of the Dallas Morning News.

In the Delta Air Lines jet crash Aug. 2, no one seated in front of Row 29 lived, the NTSB report said.

The News' study was based on NTSB reports on the 16 worst airline crashes since 1970 in which some passengers and crew members survived.

The reports indicated that in nine of the crashes, most survivors were sitting toward the rear, the News said. In only three crashes were most

"Our argument is that we had better do more about making sure it doesn't strike the ground..." — John Galipault, founder of the Aviation Safety Institute of Ohio.

of those who died sitting in the back of the plane, the study said.

The newspaper said the reports also revealed another pattern: Most victims were not killed by the initial impact but when collapsing cabin furniture or debris prevented or delayed escape from a burning or sinking jet.

Meanwhile, researchers who conducted a test crash last year disagree with the theory that rear seating is safest.

In a Congress-approved test crash program last December, a 24-year-old Boeing 720 clocked at 170 mph plunged into the Mojave Desert. The jet's 73 passenger seats were occupied by mannequins.

Impact-measuring devices provided researchers with information that will be included in a report to be published next spring.

Although conclusions drawn from the crash have not been revealed, researchers apparently haven't decided that the safest seats on a doomed aircraft are in the rear, the News said.

NTSB officials said the agency has never conducted a study of the role that seat placement plays in crash survivability.

But the Federal Aviation Administration requires airlines to store flight voice and data recorders "as far aft as possible."

New A&M Medical Sciences Library opens

By JERRY OSLIN
Staff Writer

The opening of Texas A&M's new Medical Sciences Library represents the close relationship between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Medicine, the library's director, Virginia Algermissen, said Monday at the library's opening ceremony.

Dr. George Shelton, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, echoed Algermissen's sentiments.

"This library will serve as a bond

between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Medicine," he said.

The \$6.6 million library, located off University Drive, is one of the few in the world that serves students, faculty and researchers in both veterinary and human medicine, Algermissen said.

The ceremony also marked the official opening of an underground walkway running under University Drive and connecting the library with the University's veterinary school complex.

The walkway also will serve to link the medical school with the veterinary school, Algermissen said.

Volunteers moved publications in the reserve collection from the veterinary school's old library to the new library to keep them available to students and researchers while the rest of the 75,000 volumes are being transferred.

Most of the library's services should be available by this weekend, Algermissen said.

Clergy required to report abuse

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Clergymen must tell law enforcement officials about suspected child abuse cases, Attorney General Jim Mattox said in an opinion released Monday.

"Government regulation of religious conduct is valid if it does not unduly burden the practice of religion, if the state's interest in enacting the regulation is compelling, and if there are no alternative means available which are less intrusive upon the practice," Mattox said in the opinion.

He quoted a U.S. Supreme Court opinion that said "the right to practice religion freely does not include liberty to expose the... child... to ill health or death."

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