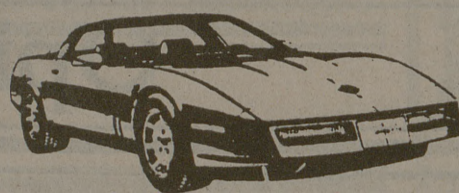


Local grocery stores continue to cash students' checks

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In SWC, players get money for nothing and cars for free

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Faculty discusses ideas on sick leave law

By SONDRA PICKARD  
Reporter

Faculty members at Texas Tech University and the University of Houston are showing concern about this summer's decision by the state Legislature denying sick leave benefits to many professors.

While faculty members at Texas Tech University, the University of Houston and the University of Texas have not protested the law to the extent that the A&M faculty has, the issue is sure to be found at the top of all three schools' future faculty senate agendas.

At September's meeting, the Texas A&M Faculty Senate passed an emergency resolution suggesting

the Faculty Senate take "legal steps to readdress the grievances inflicted upon less-than-12-months faculty."

"The reaction of our faculty is not quite as drastic as yours," Dr. Margaret Wilson, president of the Texas Tech Faculty Senate, said, "but we are very concerned for a number of reasons, and one is that we could actually be docked pay just for being ill."

The new law was recommended to the Texas House of Representatives by the Legislative Budget Board, which is advised by the auditor's office. The final bill which was endorsed included the denial of sick leave to faculty who work less than 12 months per year.

Because over 70 percent of the

faculty at most universities are on less than 12-month contracts, the law applies to a vast majority of them.

According to Wilson, faculty representatives at Texas Tech have spoken to the administration about the law and are waiting for an announcement as to how they will handle the change.

"We may get just as concerned when we find out how our administration acts on the issue," Wilson said. "Theoretically, we could go back to the old unwritten sick leave policy, only now it's really written."

"I have no idea what the Legislature had in mind when they passed this bill, unless it was the budget. Austin is fighting for pennies and we're getting caught in dollars."

Dr. Stephen Huber, faculty senate chairman and professor of law at the University of Houston, said this is a very bizarre situation and that the rider to the bill including the new sick leave policy was added by "auditor types" who probably weren't unduly familiar or concerned with the reaction it would provoke.

He also said the bill must have passed by accident.

"Our reaction to the new law is extremely negative," Huber said.

Huber said the potential abuse of sick leave which led the state to add the law in the first place lies in cases where a faculty member experiences an extended illness and does not use his sick leave pay. Then, according to the old policy, if the person dies,

his family receives half of the money he has accrued by not using his sick leave pay.

"If you eliminate that provision of the old law," Huber said, "then the law would be fine, but taking away sick leave pay altogether is a dreadful mistake."

Huber said he has looked over the actual legislation and has written a letter to Gov. Mark White asking that the law be brought to the attention of groups more concerned with educational issues. The University of Houston Board of Regents will meet soon, and Huber said they plan to act on the situation.

"Our major priority is to get the law changed in the next legislative session, if not sooner," Huber said.

According to Dr. Ruben McDaniel, chairman of the faculty senate at the University of Texas, the faculty there has requested that a standing committee of the senate, the Faculty Welfare Committee, try to inform the faculty on exactly what is happening and then report back to the senate as to what actions should be taken.

"There is a lot of concern by the faculty here for three reasons," McDaniel said. "One is how it will affect us individually, two, how it will affect recruitment and three, why did it happen in the first place?"

McDaniel said it is still a mystery to him why the bill was passed be-

See Sick leave, page 12



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

### Commercializing the Mud Lot

The "mud lot" parking area located at the corner of Nagle and Church streets went under construction Tuesday. The lot is being

leveled under the guidance of Skipper Harris (in white), who owns a parking lot maintenance company. Related story page 3.

### New GPR procedure adopted

## Requirements for MBA raised

University News Service

Texas A&M University's College of Business Administration has raised the requirements for students seeking a Master's of Business Administration degree.

Traditionally, the University has required MBA students to maintain a minimum 3.0 grade-point ratio on a 4.0 scale—a "B" average. The new policy also requires students to attain a "B" average in MBA core courses in order to qualify for graduation.

Previously, students making C's in core courses could offset their grade deficiencies with A's in elective courses," said Dr. Dan Robertson,

director of the master's program. "The new policy requires that any hours of 'C' in MBA core courses must be offset by an equivalent number of hours of 'A' in MBA core courses."

Students who do not meet the minimum grade requirements are placed on probation, Robertson said. The rules for probation also have been modified.

"A master's student in the college is currently placed on probation when his grade-point average in any semester falls below a 3.0," Robertson said. "Since the grades made during a semester form the basis for

probation review, a student may go off probation by making a 3.0 in a subsequent semester even though his cumulative GPR remains below a 3.0."

But that will no longer be the case. "Students on probation will be required to raise their cumulative GPR to 3.0 by the end of the next nine hours of course work or within a calendar year, whichever comes first," Robertson said.

Failure to do so will become a basis for dismissal from the college.

Robertson said the business school notifies students who are placed on probation and reminds them of re-

quirements for regaining good academic standing.

To qualify for graduation at A&M, MBA students must complete 48 hours of coursework. One quarter of the courses are electives. Core courses in the two-year program consist of 36 hours of coursework, including two accounting courses, four business analysis and research courses, a marketing course and four management courses.

MBA graduates this spring received average starting salary offers of \$27,974, up from \$25,312 last year, with a high salary offer this year of \$38,400.

## Health center eliminates some services

By TAMARA BELL  
Staff Writer

The A.P. Beutel Health Center no longer provides physical examinations or gives prescriptions for birth control.

The service was discontinued on Sept. 1 because this semester the health center staff consists of seven physicians instead of nine, said Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the health center. One physician returned to Brazil and the other one retired, he said.

"We see 500 students a day," he said. "We don't want to discriminate against women but we're understaffed and overworked. This was a logical place to chop. Maybe we'll even have to eliminate some other services."

Even though the physical examination has been eliminated, Goswick said a student can still get another clinic's or doctor's prescription for birth control pills filled at the health center.

Another reason why examinations for birth control was discontinued, Goswick said, is because some doctors personally prefer not to give prescriptions for birth control.

"If a doctor doesn't want to prescribe birth control, his wishes have to be respected," he said. "A woman shouldn't want to get a prescription by a doctor who doesn't believe she should have it, just as she wouldn't want surgery performed by a doctor who doesn't believe she should have the operation."

"We try to make it clear that we, the doctors, aren't here to do routine assignments," Goswick said. "We take care of injuries and illnesses and this is neither."

But Patty Edwards, a married graduate student, believes this service is as important as treating stuffy noses and hurt knees.

"It's illogical to think women don't need this service," she said. "The health center is there to service the students. That's why we pay our health fee."

"A large percentage of the students here are married. Many go to the health center for economic reasons."

Goswick said the health center didn't charge for the physical exami-

nations, only for the lab fee.

Four nurses who work for obstetricians and gynecologists said a private physician charges about \$45 for an examination.

The other alternative, Planned Parenthood of Brazos County, requires an increased payment for its services. College students were considered income-eligible by the state to receive low-cost birth control services. But in the last legislative session, students were removed from the income-eligible category and must now pay according to their parents' income.

Even though this service has been discontinued at the health center, Goswick said, it is possible that one day a gynecologist will be on staff and the service will be reopened.

## Missile defense not foolproof, advisers say

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's "Star Wars" missile defense program could "substantially increase" America's safety under certain conditions, but it will never be able to protect the entire country from nuclear attack, science advisers to Congress concluded Tuesday.

A study by the Office of Technology Assessment said the United States would need "great technical success" in its research program along with a change in the Soviet Union's strategy to emphasize defense rather than offense.

A companion OTA study raised new questions about U.S. anti-satellite, or ASAT, weapons and cautioned that while this country may lead now in a technology field related to Star Wars, the Soviets are likely to catch up.

"What this means is that after spending billions and billions of dollars, we could find that we have bought ourselves greater instability than the world has ever confronted in the atomic age," said Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The 324-page study of the Star Wars program, known formally as the Strategic Defense Initiative, was done at the request of Aspin's panel and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The SDI program "carries a risk" that it could start an entirely new arms race and could create "severe instabilities" if it made the Soviets think the United States was seeking a first-strike capability, the study suggested.

It noted there is confusion over the specific goals of Star Wars. Some supporters of the program want a so-called "Astrodome" defense that would defend the entire nation, while others call for a defense of U.S. missile sites. Critics say the latter would violate the 1972 treaty limiting missile defenses.

The study concluded that while anti-missile weapons could "substantially increase" the safety margin in a nuclear attack, "assured survival of the U.S. population (the 'Astrodome' defense) appears impossible to achieve if the Soviets are determined to deny it to us."

That is because any U.S. defense could be countered by Soviet offensive maneuvers that would likely insure that some attacking missiles would make it through the American shield, it said.

As the November summit meeting between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev approaches, the Soviets have increasingly called for cuts in the Star Wars program and said any new nuclear arms limitation agreement depends on the United States limiting its research.

But the president, contending the Soviets are mounting their own research into missile defenses, said again last week that he would not agree to limiting the scope of the re-

search program, although he did say he would negotiate before any system is deployed.

An earlier OTA study of Star Wars raised questions about the program's feasibility. It said any effective defense would require technical capabilities in areas such as computers and targeting that appeared to be far beyond the nation's capabilities.

The OTA said its latest study "provides more questions than answers," but said the current research program, expected to cost \$33 billion, is still in its infancy.

The ASAT study said the Soviets currently threaten some U.S. satellites but could be a much greater threat in the future without limits on the program.

The Air Force recently had its first successful operational test of the American system, a weapon Reagan says is needed to offset the Soviet ASAT deployed for more than a decade.

Both nations use satellites, but the United States is more dependent on them for communications with far-flung military outposts, the study noted.

### Offshore waste incineration is relocated

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency is planning more tests of ocean incineration of hazardous wastes, but they will take place in the open Atlantic Ocean instead of the Gulf of Mexico, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said Tuesday.

Bentsen, D-Texas, said the EPA is expected to issue two permits for research burning later this year. Each permit would allow one cruise, during which several burns could occur.

A source who asked not to be identified said one of the sites currently under consideration is about 110 miles east of Atlantic City. The source said one other site is also a possibility, but no decision has been made.

Bentsen's office said EPA is expected to make the announcement in a few days.

Incineration at sea is an alternative to land-based waste dumps and incinerators near population centers, proponents contend. But coastal residents fear damage to marine life and tourism.

Two test burns have already occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, about 200 miles from Brownsville, prompting protests from Texas Gulf Coast residents.