



**Kathy Kerney, a sophomore landscape architecture major, sustained minor injuries to her left knee and her left hand in an accident on her moped Wednesday afternoon. Kerney was traveling south on Spence Street at about 3 p.m. when a car suddenly turned into a parking lot behind the Agriculture Building. Kerney crashed into the back right tire of the vehicle.**

## A&M Peace Corps volunteer says job screening is rigorous

**By Lauren Naylor**  
*Reporter*

Unlike some volunteer organizations, the Peace Corps isn't just waiting for people to waltz in and "sign up." The road to being a Peace Corps volunteer is a long and rugged one.

To volunteer Karen DeMoss, 26, the Peace Corps is not only "the toughest job you'll ever love," but it's also the toughest job you'll ever have to secure.

"It was the most rigorous screening I've ever gone through for any job," DeMoss says.

The objectives of Peace Corps work are threefold: to offer technical assistance to the host country, to promote a better understanding of the United States in other countries and to develop a better understanding of foreign cultures.

Texas A&M campus recruiter Colleen McGarrity says the first part of the screening process involves an hour-long interview with the applicant who, if qualified to serve, is nominated to a program best suited for his interests.

The application and a total of eight letters of reference then must be sent to the regional office in San Francisco to be evaluated by a placement team, a process taking four to five weeks.

If the placement evaluators decide the applicant is acceptable, they will proceed to accept him only as a nominee, not as a volunteer. The nominations are sent to Washington, D.C., where final placement evaluators complete the screening process.

In July, DeMoss will leave for Mali — a large country in West Central Africa — to serve as an English teacher in a teacher-training college. She says the tough screening process revealed to her the priority structure of the Peace Corps.

"I respect Peace Corps very highly because the people who screened me were certainly interested in me and what my goals were," she said, "but more than that, I found they had a dedication to the people I'd be working with. I was tested more than they let me sell myself."

Like all Peace Corps volunteers, DeMoss will spend her first three

## Supreme Court upholds affirmative action plan

*Employers may act to 'balance workplace'*

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, upholding an affirmative action plan for female workers, ruled Wednesday that employers may give special preferences in hiring and promoting women to create a more balanced workforce.

By a 6-3 vote, the justices said a 1964 civil rights law banning on-the-job discrimination allows such preferential treatment. And they said employers may adopt affirmative action plans without admitting past discrimination against women.

The decision was hailed as a momentous victory for women's rights.

"It vindicates our historic position that sex discrimination, like race discrimination, can be remedied by affirmative action measures," said Judith Lichtman, executive director of the Women's Legal Defense Fund.

As it has in a series of affirmative action cases, the court rejected the Reagan administration's position. Justice Department lawyers had argued that individual rights should not be sacrificed in the interest of "casual social engineering."

The court rejected an appeal by Paul E. Johnson, who was denied promotion to road dispatcher by the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency in California.

The job went to Diane Joyce, who Johnson said was less qualified than himself.

The court said Johnson, who scored two points higher than Joyce on a test, may have been minimally more qualified for the job. But the justices emphasized that their ruling does not mean unqualified people will be hired or promoted.

"Sex is but one of several factors that may be taken into account in evaluating qualified applicants for a position," Justice William J. Brennan wrote for the court. The transportation agency "appropriately took into account as one factor the sex of Diane Joyce in determining that she should be promoted to the road dispatcher position," he said.

The dissenters said the ruling perverts the 1964 law "into a powerful engine of racism and sexism."

Justice Antonin Scalia said, "We effectively replace the goal of a discrimination-free society with the quite incompatible goal of proportionate representation by race and by sex in the workplace."

He was joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Byron R. White.

Brennan said employers may give preferential treatment to overcome "a manifest imbalance" in the ratio of male to female employees.

"Voluntary employer action can play a crucial role in... eliminating the vestiges of discrimination in the workplace," he said.

Brennan emphasized that employers should not be forced to ad-

mit past bias before taking such steps since to do so would expose them to lawsuits for sex discrimination.

Joining Brennan's opinion were Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry A. Blackmun, Lewis F. Powell and John Paul Stevens.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor voted to uphold Joyce's promotion over Johnson.

But she said in a separate concurring opinion that the court went too far in endorsing affirmative action.

Marsha Levick, executive director of the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the decision "sends a strong message to employers that voluntary affirmative action is the way to go to remedy past discrimination against women."

In another decision, the court unanimously ruled that federal laws containing an unconstitutional provision — called the "legislative veto" — may be salvaged by simply throwing out that part of the laws.

## T-shirt protesting finals can't be sold anymore

**By Christi Daugherty**  
*Staff Writer*

The bright-red senior finals protest T-shirts, which had begun to appear scattered throughout the Texas A&M student population, may have become a casualty of the war between the A&M administration and the Student Government over the new finals plan — or they simply may have fallen victim to a Concessions Committee permit technicality.

Either way, the shirts will no longer be legally bought or sold; they have been banned.

On Wednesday evening, Louis Meneghetti, head of the Traditions Council (which had been selling the T-shirts), said that in a late-afternoon meeting with Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, he was forbidden to continue selling the shirts.

The council had begun selling the T-shirts, which carried the message, "Save Our Traditions," over the words, "Vandiver's Senior Finals Plan," in a circle with a line through it, Monday in the Memorial Student Center for \$4, at the same table where students could sign a petition protesting the finals plan.

Tuesday morning, Traditions Council members said Adair contacted them and asked to see their permit.

Adair said the permit they had been granted was for petition signatures alone, and at that point she ordered them to quit selling the T-shirts until they had applied for, and were granted, a permit to sell them.

Council members said they'd heard through the grapevine that this action was not an independent move, but the result of a dictate from President Frank Vandiver's office.



However, Arthur Blair, assistant to the president, said Vandiver has been out of the country since Saturday, and that he knew nothing about the T-shirts.

"I know absolutely nothing about anything like that," Blair said. "I do not think the president ordered the permit to be pulled."

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he may have investigated the uproar with an off-the-cuff comment he made to Adair after the Student Services meeting Tuesday morning.

"I haven't seen the T-shirts — I've heard about them, but I wondered who had given permission for them to be sold," Koldus said. "I asked Carolyn (Adair) where they got permission to sell them, and, sure enough, it turned out they had no permit."

After their permit was pulled, the

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## Mid-semester grades often inaccurate, useless

## Official: Eliminating midterms 'good idea'

## New midterm grades policy may force organizations to reconsider guidelines

**By Amy Couvillon**  
*Staff Writer*

Eliminating midterm grade reports for all Texas A&M undergraduate students except freshmen is a good idea, said Donald D. Carter, associate registrar, not because of the money that could be saved, but because the reports are not picked up by many of the students and the grades reported are sometimes inaccurate.

"Of all the undergraduate grade reports generated," Carter said, "only 30 percent are picked up at the Pavilion by the students."

In addition, almost one-fourth of midterm grades are not accurately reported and have lost much of their usefulness, he said.

"Between 20 percent and 25 percent of the grades submitted by the faculty on midterm reports are either left blank, or have I's (incompletes)," Carter said. "Or they give what we term 'blanket grades' — like all B's or all C's."

The proposal to eliminate midterm grade reports for upperclassmen — approved by the Faculty Senate on March 9 — is one item on a 29-page list of proposed changes to the 1987-88 University regulations, submitted to the Senate by Rules and Regulations Committee Chairman Bill Kibler.

To become policy, the proposal must be approved by President Frank E. Vandiver.

Kibler said the regulations committee took time to weigh the pros and cons of the midterm proposal.

McGarrity, who spent three years in Zaire as a veterinary extension agent, says 50 percent of the volunteers are sent to Africa. Peace Corps overseas operations are administered through three regions: the 23 nations of sub-Saharan Africa, 19 Central and South American and Caribbean nations comprising Inter-America, and 18 nations in North America.

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The use of midterm grade reports by some Texas A&M organizations may need to be reconsidered if the grade reports are eliminated for upperclassmen.

Midterm grade reports now are used by many students to order their class rings. Carolyn Swanzy, ring office manager, says the office will accept a ring order if students can show that they are passing enough hours at midterm to bring their total hours up to the required level of 92.

If upperclassmen reports are eliminated, students no longer will be able to order early, she said, but instead will have to wait until the end of the semester when the 92 hours are completed.

However, Swanzy said, ordering rings solely on the basis of final grades probably would be less of a hassle for both the students, who have had to deal with inaccurate midterm grades, and the ring office, which has had to deal with an overload of midterm orders.

"Midterm is traditionally a hectic time for ring orders," she said. "If they... were eliminated, our orders would probably be more spread out over the year."

If rings are ordered at the end of the semester, all of the needed information will be in the computer, Swanzy said, which will make verification easier.

Swanzy has found end-of-term grades much more likely to be accurate. Students wanting to order a ring rarely have to track down the professor to get an incorrect final grade changed.

But when professors give blanket C's at midterm or leave the midterm grade reports blank, students have trouble proving they are passing enough hours to order their rings.

Midterm grade reports also are used by some colleges and departments to decide whether students with a scholastic deficiency will be allowed to preregister.

Scholastic deficiency is defined differently by the various majors, and decisions about scholastic probation often are made on a case-by-case basis.

For example, Leatrice Bouse, a spokeswoman for Dr. Robert Chenoweth, undergraduate assistant

many sophomores, juniors and seniors do not want or need midterm grade reports.

Carter agreed with the research findings.

"I think it's really significant to have them for freshmen," Carter said. "They're the ones that are likely to be floundering, because, af-

ter all, this is a new experience for them.

"If a freshman shows all D's and F's on that first exam for all courses, that's an indication that the student is really starting out on the wrong foot, and it gives the adviser or the dean an opportunity to get them in there and say, 'Hey, let's get you

some help,' and try to salvage something."

If students get through the first year at A&M, Carter said, they probably know where to get help and are less likely to want or need midterm grade reports, which often are not reliable indications of the actual grades.

"An undergraduate who's been here for a year or so knows the significance of doing well the whole semester," Carter said. "Midterm grades normally reflect only one major exam."

A&M is one of the few major universities around the country that still give out midterm grades, Carter said. Most schools have discontinued them, he said, but A&M has continued out of a desire to help the students.

"A&M has traditionally been concerned about how the students are doing," he said. "And we still are — it's just that our size has gotten so large — 36,000 students and we're looking at close to 38,000 this fall — that it (generating midterm grade reports) is almost an unmanageable situation."

Carter estimated that producing midterm grade reports under the current procedure costs A&M between \$4,000 and \$6,000 each semester.

Carter said his rough estimate includes production of grade report sheets for faculty to turn in, production of actual student grade reports, production of additional reports to

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