



Fit Tab A Into Slot B

Photo by Dino Marcaccio

Paul Brunell, a freshman computer science major, picks up a broken bicycle he bought as auctioneer

Lloyd Joyce looks on. The bike auction was held Wednesday at Rudder Fountain.

SMU drops advisory structure

DALLAS (AP) — A Southern Methodist University committee studying the school's governing structure has decided against the idea of creating an advisory board made up of friends and benefactors of the school.

Last month creation of the advisory board, called the University Board, was suggested by a self-study committee to the SMU board of trustees.

However, the committee decided to drop the idea because many in the SMU community said the board's role was unclear, said chairman Leighton Farrell, senior minister of Highland Park United Methodist Church.

"It (the advisory board) seems to be a good idea but it ought to be handled by the board (of trustees) itself at a later date," Farrell said.

The trustees will discuss the committee's final report at a May 8 meeting.

The committee's interim report recommended that the University Board include 28 benefactors and trustees who would probably have stepped down once the board of trustees was reorganized.

Creating the board would have given university officials a way to honor benefactors without giving them decision-making powers. Duties of the board would have been overseeing the trustees, helping to raise money and providing counsel for SMU's president.

"The inspiration for that idea was connected to the legitimate goal of finding a way for people interested in the university, with money to give, to have a meaningful part of things. Nobody has any quarrel with that," said Leroy Howe, faculty senate president.

However, the involvement should be kept separate from university government, he said.

A&M Consolidated counselor says school can handle suicidal students

By Doug Driskell
Reporter

Despite nationwide concern of suicide among high school students, an A&M Consolidated High School counselor believes her counselors are more than apt to handle suicidal students.

"Every time we turn around we are getting a new flier on a new suicide workshop. We've been inundated with information on it," said Chrissy Hester, coordinator for the counselors in the College Station Independent School District.

College Station counselors receive extensive training to recognize the warning signs of suicide, Hester said. But all training aside, counselors are still prone to missing that hard-to-read student, she said.

"There are students who frequently come in and express depression with school failure and peers," Hester said. "We worry about them and talk to them."

"But those aren't the ones you wake up in the night worrying about because you know they are going to

counselors have two or three students they are concerned about, Hester said. Counselors also have students who come to them to express concern for a friend, which led

The group meets with counselors at the first of every month, Hester said. Since its conception, the student counselors have utilized the school counselors' facilities.

"There are students who frequently come in and express depression with school failure and peers. But those aren't the ones you wake up in the night worrying about . . . It's the ones you have never seen before — the one who drops a poem on your desk about how life is no longer worth living."

— Chrissy Hester, CSISD counselor coordinator

be in again in the morning feeling sad.

"It's the ones you have never seen before — the one who drops a poem on your desk about how life is no longer worth living." Each year, A&M Consolidated

to the formation last December of a new counseling body made up of student counselors.

"We have formed a peer counseling group called 'natural helpers,'" Hester said. "They are trained to deal with suicidal threats, talk and behaviors."

A study conducted by Brookie Pitcock, a doctoral student at Texas A&M, revealed that counselors in smaller school districts are more aware of suicidal tendencies of their students than larger school districts.

"I assume, in a larger school, there's not much one-on-one between students and counselors," Pitcock said.

Consolidated is a large school. This year is the first counselors have tried to call in every student for registration, Hester said.

"Registration was usually done in the English classes," Hester said. "We realized we could increase contact with students by registering them."

State workers accused of taking food stamps

AUSTIN (AP) — Ten state government employees have been accused of illegally obtaining food stamps following an investigation that began when 2,800 state workers applied for stamps in December.

State Human Services Commissioner Marlin Johnson says evidence has been turned over to prosecutors in Austin and five other cities.

Agency investigators are reviewing additional cases in connection with the huge jump in applications last year.

Evidence of possible violations also has been presented to prosecutors in Edinburg, Dallas, Houston, Huntsville and Madisonville, officials said.

Some state employees fell within federal food stamp eligibility guidelines when the state payday was delayed late last year.

Instead of getting checks on the last working day in December, workers were paid on the first

work day in January to help ease the state's cash flow problems.

As a result, employees went five weeks without a paycheck, and hundreds sought food stamps.

Bill Whalem, an official in the human services department's inspector general's office, said 111 cases initially were examined by investigators. He said another 127 will be reviewed for possible criminal violations.

The initial investigation centered mostly on employees in high pay brackets, and eight of the 10 accused earned \$1,969 a month or more, he said.

Gordon Hardy, inspector general for the human services agency, said investigators checked to verify suspects' eligibility for food stamps, including such qualifications as their income, household size and assets.

The 10 workers could be charged with misdemeanor theft because the value of the food

stamps they obtained ranged from \$35 to \$428, Whalem said.

They also could face a felony charge of falsification of a government record or securing execution of a document by deception.

Two of the accused state employees worked for the Department of Human Services, and the others were employed by the Department of Corrections, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, the Texas Employment Commission, the Comptroller's Office, the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and the Board of Pardons and Paroles, officials said.

Although the names of the 10 state employees haven't been released, all were given a chance to discuss the allegations with investigators, Whalem said.

Whalem said three of the 10 cases involved workers in Austin. Those workers were turned over to the public integrity unit of the Travis County district attorney's office.

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