

# Battalion Classifieds

## Warped

by Scott McCull



NOT WANTED: Romance! Or the aggravation, worry or frustration involved. No thanks.



## Sergeant says he, others spied on SAC missions

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Air Force sergeant seeking discharge as a conscientious objector Thursday said Strategic Air Command airplanes from Offutt Air Force Base are flying spy missions along Nicaragua's borders. Sgt. Daniel Cobos of San Antonio, Texas, a Spanish translator for the Air Force, said he participated in the missions. "Every night I flew from Nebraska to Nicaragua to conduct electronic spying," Cobos said in a news release. Citing Air Force harassment, he declined further comment on the missions at a news conference. Louis Font, a Boston attorney representing Cobos, said the information Cobos participated in gathering was relayed from the Pentagon, CIA and National Security Agency to Contra rebels in Nicaragua in violation of federal law.

## In Advance

### Faculty Senate to consider curriculum

The Faculty Senate will discuss a proposal to streamline the procedure for approving new courses and course changes at 3:15 p.m. Monday in 301 Rudder Tower. The Senate also will consider a revised version of Texas A&M's academic honesty policy. The committee's recommendation is that a list of the changes be sent to each senator before the meeting and that full documentation be made available for a week prior to the meeting. A specific course would be discussed only if two or more senators objected to it, according to the proposed rule. The Senate also will consider a revised version of Texas A&M's academic honesty policy. The committee's recommendation is that a list of the changes be sent to each senator before the meeting and that full documentation be made available for a week prior to the meeting. A specific course would be discussed only if two or more senators objected to it, according to the proposed rule.

## 2 rescued aliens say angry migrant workers locked railroad trailer

LAREDO (AP) — Two of 19 illegal aliens found trapped and dehydrated in a sweltering railroad trailer said Thursday they were locked in by another migrant who was angry they wouldn't let him in. "Someone held the door closed and wouldn't let anyone else inside," Juan Mexicano, one of those in the trailer, said. Then the door was locked, he said, "and that's when I got scared." U.S. Border Patrol officers discovered the men Wednesday while checking cars on the Texas-Mexican Railway train in Hebronville, about 60 miles east of here. The men were semiconscious and had stripped off some of their clothes, said authorities, who estimated it was 120 degrees inside the trailer, which attaches to tractor-trailer trucks and was perched on a flatbed railroad car. It was the fourth recent incident in which illegal aliens were found trapped in trains or trucks as they tried to sneak across the border from Mexico. On July 2, 18 aliens were found dead in a locked boxcar in the West Texas town of Sierra Blanca. One man survived. Mexican and Pedro Palma Bustamante, both of Guanajuato state in central Mexico, said in interviews it was only by coincidence that the 19 were together. They said they had no one to smuggle them across the border. As they approached Hebronville, home of a Border Patrol station, they were spotted by a Mexican and Palma got angry about being caught. The train community of 4,000 is a traditional cross-through point for illegal crossings. "That is where immigration is going to get us," Palma said. "This is where we've hidden." The 19 climbed into the aluminum-clad trailer. Because it was crowded, someone held the door closed and blocked other aliens from getting inside, he said. "They were messing with the door, and there was talk that the migration was coming," Palma said. "Then someone on the outside locked the door." But the group was so desperate to remain undetected that even when the train stopped and footsteps were heard, everyone remained quiet. "I was bathing myself with water and I was having difficulty breathing," Palma said. "Soon they realized, 'If we open it, we're all going to get here,'" he said. "If they didn't, I think we would have beenphyxiated."

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## Poll: No-pass, no-play rule may be deterring students

By Susan Singer Reporter

The no-pass, no-play rule may be backfiring on officials as students scramble to take less demanding courses that enable them to slide by grade requirements. The Texas Poll of Public School Principals released by Texas A&M's Principal's Center indicates that a majority of Texas principals believe the rule causes students to select less demanding courses. Dr. James McNamara, poll director and professor of educational psychology and educational administration, said a high percentage of principals think this is true. "We asked junior and senior high-school principals if they thought the no-pass, no-play rule was causing students to take less rigorous courses and about 63 percent, or two out of three, said it was," McNamara said. There are good and bad things about the rule, but its name should be something different, he said.

"The no-pass, no-play rule should be called the 'no-pass, no-participation' rule, because when we talk 'no-pass, no-play,' we're talking about all extracurricular activities," McNamara said. "It could mean students who were interested in drama, band, debate, choral or sports. The good news is that students see these as an important part of their formal education." McNamara cited a survey which appeared in a Los Angeles newspaper that indicated in which area the most ineligible students appeared — it wasn't sports, but drama.

"For the six weeks before the play's production, they have to memorize lines, and they're going to blow off other things," he said. "They are willing to make a trade-off because they want that balanced education." "On the negative, the no-pass, no-play rule is counterproductive to the intents of the legislation. The legislation was set to put more emphasis on rigorous courses, and clearly, what's happening is students are not taking those courses, which means it's not achieving the objectives it set out to achieve." "Some solutions to the problem already are in place, McNamara said. Students can take certain advanced courses, and if they are a little below par during a grading period but have maintained interest and intensity in the course, they are not in jeopardy of losing their right to participate in extracurricular activities.

Another solution McNamara poses is to look at less-permanent remedies. Instead of having six weeks of participation, it could be reduced to three weeks and accomplish the same objectives, he said. "We could also counsel students better in terms of matching their attitudes and interests with the course they take, so if they do take a rigorous course, their interest will be there along," he said. McNamara said he opposed the idea of having a set curriculum way of blocking students from taking easier courses. "Schools have such a diverse types of students, in terms of their abilities and interests, that we put all students in the same ofulum, we are going to exhibit drop-out rate," he said. "Some students taking occupational type courses who are doing well getting good jobs when they graduate. There are students with financial needs who get into occupational work-study, where they have a chance to earn and learn at the same time. I'd hate to see those students go for the purpose of getting a mognized, standard type of curriculum." "Once the problems are out of the no-pass, no-play rule, McNamara contends it will benefit everyone it was designed to help. "The no-pass, no-play rule, in my opinion, is a good thing," he said. "We go a few more years down the pike on this, with schools that are going to get it right at the end right where it needs to be."

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— Dr. James McNamara, poll director