

State and Local

A&M athlete academic records to be studied by Faculty Senate

By Yvonne DeGraw
Staff Writer

Speaker Dick Shumway of the Texas A&M Faculty Senate announced Monday that the academic records of A&M's athletes will be studied by a Senate subcommittee.

Dr. Peter Huggill, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee that will appoint the subcommittee, said this comes as a result of a series of requests by senators.

The subcommittee will have representation from several areas of the University. Huggill says that in addition to senators, the committee will appoint former students, athletic department staff members, other faculty members and students. The new subcommittee may be appointed and charged as soon as Thursday, Huggill says.

"There are no preconceived findings," Huggill said. "We want to be assured that the academic perfor-

mance of athletes is up to par." Shumway said the committee will deal fairly with the issue. "This is not a witch hunt," he said.

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Dick Shumway, A&M Faculty Senate speaker

"College athletics here and elsewhere have been under increased scrutiny and criticism, some deserved and some not deserved."

The committee will gather and evaluate the academic records of athletes at A&M and compare these records to those of the general student body. If necessary, Shumway said the committee will "recommend ways to enhance the academic experience of athletes."

Senator Stephen Fulling moved to

repeal the plans because of "internal inconsistencies." But since department heads from the college were not present, the Senate decided

approved after lengthy dissent.

One of the departments chose to require Math 166: Topics in Contemporary Mathematics and Phil 240: Introduction to Logic to satisfy the mathematics requirement. Courses on the history of architecture are specified to meet cultural heritage requirements, also.

Dr. Mark Busby said this limits students' options in areas that the Senate wanted to allow choices.

"The spirit was to allow students a choice," Busby said, "and the spirit is much more important to me than the letter."

Sen. Leonard Ponder, who generally speaks in favor of expanding student options, said he had to dispute this point.

"It seems that the best we can hope for in this Senate is to agree on a law," he said. "I believe it's almost impossible for us to determine the spirit of the law."

Marketing lecturer mixes humor, style to make classes interesting to students

By Mary McClellny
Reporter

As a marketing lecturer, Anil Menon is his own best commodity. His enthusiasm and zany style keep students flocking back for more.

"This is my second time to take one of his classes," says Chase Conover, a senior marketing major from Houston. "I like his sense of humor and the way he conducts class."

But pleasing students isn't Menon's first priority.

"Some students don't like me and I don't care," he says. "I get a few (students) every semester who think I'm too cocky. I don't intend to change. I don't try to please everybody."

But his students attest to his popularity.

Christie Carter, a senior business major, says, "Marketing 321 is one of the most enjoyable classes I've had because of Anil's witty sense of humor and the fact that he made the subject matter so interesting."

Ironically, Menon says teaching wasn't his first career choice. Menon, 26, a native of Bombay, India, bucked family tradition by shunning a medical career in favor of a doctorate in marketing from Texas A&M.

"I got cheap thrills shocking my family by going into marketing," he says. "In my family, you just didn't become a 'professional manager.' I liked the high visibility, though."

Menon completed his undergraduate work at schools in India, but when it came time to pursue his doctorate, he chose A&M.

"No one had any doubts that I

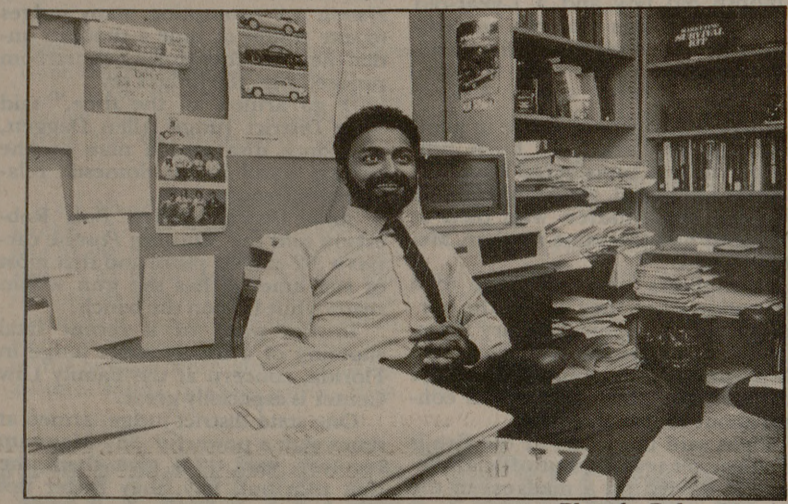


Photo by Robert Morris

Anil Menon, marketing lecturer at Texas A&M

would come to the United States," he says. "It just seemed natural because I had always been so westernized."

Despite preconceptions about Bombay, which often include visions of cattle running loose on the streets, Menon says the city is actually "quite cosmopolitan." Menon melded the lifestyle and customs of his homeland with a few Western ideas, including country-western music — not exactly a staple in Indian culture. His decision to come to the United States was influenced by his desire to pursue an education — both academically and culturally.

Menon admits he's ambitious and backs it up by pointing to a photograph of Ted Turner tacked to his bulletin board.

"He's my hero because he's used his ambition to build a cable television empire and as a result, he is always in the limelight," he says.

"Working on my Ph.D. is a lot of hard work, but it's just the first step — the beginning," he says. Menon is working on his dissertation; he's completed the written and oral examinations, an experience he compares to a root canal. But, he's quick

to add, "I like stress. In fact, I'm uncomfortable when I'm relaxed."

That same drive is apparent in his classroom style.

"My job is to make y'all love learning," he says as he strokes his beard. "I can't stand people who have no ambition and who don't want to learn — not necessarily book learning — just anything."

Menon says he never wants to stop learning. Although he admits to taking time out to watch programming such as television's "Divorce Court," Menon says that at any given time he's reading four books — westerns, philosophies, humor and a dictionary — that Menon says "helps me build my memory."

A veteran lecturer now, Menon remembers his first A&M teaching assignment with more than a hint of humor.

"The class consisted of 140 freshmen students and they wrote down every word I said," he says. "It was a bizarre experience. I started speaking a mixture of English and Indian to see what they would do. And they just kept on writing. I really enjoyed teasing them."

Having fun is important, Menon says, but he is serious about learning.

"I know immediately if the students are learning and if my lecture interests them," he says. "That's what I like most about teaching — instant feedback."

"And the second best thing about teaching is that I can stay young, which works out well for me because I never want to grow up."

Spouse jailed for mutilation of young wife

KILLEEN (AP) — The husband of a 19-year-old Killeen woman remained in jail Monday, accused in the mutilation slaying of his wife, authorities said.

Pfc. Ernest Jack Chappelle Jr., was being held in lieu of \$1 million bond on a murder charge. Chappelle, 22, is a medic stationed at Fort Hood. He was arraigned in the slaying Saturday.

The head and arms of Lisa Marie Chappelle were discovered Aug. 1 in a trash bin outside an Austin convenience store. The rest of her body hadn't yet been found, said a spokesman for the Killeen Police Department, who did not give her name.

Bell County officials said that Chappelle allegedly disposed of his wife's remains in several garbage bins as he drove south along Interstate 35 from Killeen to San Antonio.

Mrs. Chappelle was seven months pregnant when she was slain.

Authorities said they searched landfills at Killeen and Fort Hood for additional body parts.

Killeen police said the woman died the evening of July 31 at the mobile home she shared with her husband in Killeen.

According to police, the Chapelles argued before Mrs. Chappelle was killed. Her body was dismembered and disposed of at several locations by her husband, who left the couple's home en route to his parents' residence in San Antonio, police said.

An autopsy has indicated the body was dismembered by a knife with a 3-inch-long blade.

Newest prison unit in Texas to begin accepting inmates

PALESTINE (AP) — Texas' newest prison unit, capable of housing 2,200 convicts, is opening its doors to new inmates this week and prison officials hope the unit will help alleviate other crowded facilities.

"I think this facility is going to be the model for handling inmates anywhere in the United States," said Marshall Herklotz, northern regional director for the Texas Department of Corrections.

About 100 inmates will be transferred to the new unit Wednesday, prison spokesman Charles Brown said Monday. He did not know if other prisoners would be moved into the facility this week.

"This is going to a phase-in type thing," he said. "It's a slow process."

Officials hope the new facility will help ease crowding at the 26 other prisons in Texas. The department has had to close its doors to new inmates 19 times this year when the inmate population climbed over a state-mandated 95 percent capacity.

Mandated reforms push industry of prison construction into top 10

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Prison experts say federal prison reform orders and burgeoning prison populations have touched off a \$4 billion prison construction boom in Texas and across the country.

"There's no solution in sight," said Anthony P. Trivisono, executive director of the American Correctional Association. "We're still 10 years behind the population curve. Even though the public wants the criminals off the streets, they are reluctant to pay the bills."

The \$4 billion frenzy of prison construction has pushed that industry into the top 10, experts say.

According to a 1985 Justice Department report, the country needs to spend about \$7 billion in the coming years to keep pace with the increasing number of criminals sentenced to prison.

Christopher Innes, a Justice Department statistician, told the *Houston Chronicle*. "It's not reasonable to believe that states will painlessly build out of this problem. We expect that the correctional systems will continue to struggle through some difficult times."

Between 1960 and 1986, state prison populations increased 126 percent, but capacity grew by a little

more than half that rate, or 76 percent. The prison population nationwide, which totals about 530,000, is growing by 1,000 inmates a week, according to the latest census by the Justice Department.

In Texas, Gov. Bill Clements has proposed spending \$325 million over the next two years on prison construction.

The Texas Department of Corrections is under court order to improve the system and has been forced to close 19 times this year when the inmate population surpassed a mandated 95 percent capacity.



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