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**A&M The 1987-88 Aggieland Video Yearbook**

Is looking for hard-working, dependable students for staff positions.

The Aggieland Video Yearbook is committed to cover a variety of important events and student activities in an effort to capture a realistic account of the year 1987-88

Applications are available in Students Publications Office, 230 Reed McDonald. Deadline for Fall applications is Friday, Sept. 11 at 5 p.m.

For additional information contact: Greg Keith  
 Home: 696-3454

**CONFUSED? TIRED OF RUMORS? QUESTIONS?**

We are having a group presentation to Texas A&M University System Employees and Retirees.

**Thursday, September 10**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**SCOTT & WHITE CLINIC**  
**1600 UNIVERSITY DRIVE EAST**

We will be:

- Discussing Scott & White Health Plan Benefits
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# Experiment undertaken to learn about influenza

## A&M students participate in four-year study

By Susan Judge  
 Reporter

Texas A&M students are taking part in a four-year study to help prevent a common, but misunderstood disease — influenza.

This winter, the flu will claim 40,000 to 50,000 lives, many of them elderly people, said Dr. John Quarles, an A&M medical microbiology department virologist.

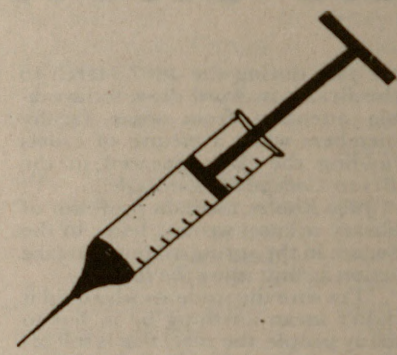
"Influenza is misunderstood by a lot of people," Quarles said. "It's always around and people don't think much about it. Actually, the flu kills people in pretty large numbers. It accounts for millions and millions of dollars in lost work and school time."

Quarles said A&M students are now in the second year of the four-year study.

"We started with 1,100 to 1,150 students, and I would guess this year there would probably be around 1,000 left," he said. "The bulk of the students that began the study last year were freshmen."

He said this study is unique because flu studies conducted in the past have not been designed to follow people for several years.

"We are comparing a nose-drop vaccine to the standard shot in the



arm," he said. "The nose-drop vaccine should be available in the future, but I don't know when. We have done similar studies in the past and found the nose-drop vaccine to be about as equally effective."

Students are divided into three groups and each is given nose drops and a shot. The control group is given a placebo, while the second group is given a real nose drop and a placebo shot. The third group is given a placebo nose drop and the actual vaccine. Quarles said students do not know if they received the vaccination or a placebo.

"We thought that people would

rather take the nose drops than the shot," Quarles said, "because people don't like shots."

But Quarles said he has that students prefer shots to drops. Because they took more as children, to take them now they feel as though they're treated like babies, he said.

Quarles said the vaccine is to the students about a month. The flu season starts so an immune the virus can build.

"The purpose of the study is to see how long the immunity lasts," he said.

Quarles said the students once a week to the A.P. Health Center to have a throat and to answer an illness report throat swab is checked for that could be present.

The study is funded by the National Institute of Health — a government program — and will get paid about \$100 a year.

Vaccines are tested for safety before A&M gets them, Quarles said. So there is little chance a student participating in the study could experience any ill effects.

"The worst thing that could happen is that the vaccine just doesn't work," he said.

# San Antonio man practices ancient rituals, finds peace

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Isaac Cardenas lives in a crowded West Side neighborhood, but he has found a way to convert it into a tranquil place where he can be close to nature.

He simply pays attention to how the four winds blow and shows respect to the greater powers that be.

Cardenas, 31, retreats to his backyard where he practices ancient rituals of American Indian medicine men and carries on traditional ceremonies of Mexican curanderos or faith healers.

He said it helps him find an inner peace.

And it enables him to cling to a dying part of his culture that has given him comfort during trying times.

The UTSA student of Indian history and anthropology, who earns his living as an entertainment coordinator for Fiesta Plaza, often shares his cultural healing arts with people who attend special events at the Institute of Texan Cultures and the Witte Museum.

"I do these (ceremonies) the way they were passed down to me by my mother and grandmother," Cardenas said, explaining that both women were curanderas. "I have a

piece of my heritage that I need to hold on to and pass on."

He said his previous studies at Incarnate Word College have taught him that many curandero principles are based on Indian beliefs.

Usually Cardenas performs his

*"... Educated people may be skeptical and giggle. But, I'm educated too. And, this gives me inner peace."*

— Isaac Cardenas, medicine man

ceremonies in privacy — and always without pay.

"I usually wait until people are asleep," he said. "Otherwise I attract attention and the neighbors might misinterpret it."

When he seeks solace in his backyard, he goes to a shallow pit in the middle of a square, the corners of which are marked by a mesquite tree and some wooden poles decked with deer antlers and a cow skull.

The corners of the square mark the directions of the four winds.

He sits inside the pit because he believes it is a way to get out of the womb of Mother Earth.

There he builds a fire with wood that he fans with a feather.

He blows into a large seal to attract the attention of the winds he consults through ceremony, being careful to address the east wind first because it is the direction in which the Earth is moving.

"I've always believed in the natural things of life," he said, explaining that many of the materials he uses in his rituals are plant and animal products because Indians believe they offered positive and positive energy.

Cardenas also smokes a pipe that he blows into with the winds. Then he blows into the pipe, which he believes is the key to making the work. He prays until the fire goes out.

"I feel this is a gift and I don't want to misuse it," he said. "I don't do it all the way. I don't want to do it half way. Educated people may be skeptical and giggle, but I'm educated too. And, this gives me inner peace. It really works for

# Student Senate approves dates for freshmen to run campaigns

By Drew Leder  
 Staff Writer

The Student Senate Wednesday, in its first meeting of the semester, approved the scheduled dates for freshmen campaigns and elections this fall. The 52 of 77 senators present unanimously voted to go with the tentative dates, creating their first legislation of the semester.

The approved dates are:

- Sept. 14-18 — Applications may be filed in room 214 of the Pavilion.
- Sept. 22 — An informational meeting will be held in Rudder Tower.
- Sept. 28-Oct. 4 — Campaigning.
- Oct. 5 — Election.
- Oct. 8 — Runoff elections for class officers.

In other business, Speaker of the Senate Jay Hays informed the senators of a new absence policy the Senate will follow. It states that a senator who misses two meetings will be called before the Internal Affairs Committee to explain his absences. If the absences aren't satis-

factorily explained the senator will be removed from position. A third missed meeting will result in automatic removal. A senator who is removed will be allowed to appeal the action.

Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate Garrett Lee said the new policy was a necessary measure to ensure senators attend the meetings. "We had trouble (in previous semesters) with people who weren't showing up and it was hard to get a constant body of knowledge," he said.

Another change this semester will be the inclusion of two temporary committees to the Senate. The A&M Committee on Aesthetic Improvement will advise the Senate on ways to beautify the Texas A&M campus. The other committee will attempt to get a student seat on the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

The Senate also heard comments from the chair of its five committees — finance, academic affairs, and regulations, external affairs and student services — and recruiting for committee membership began. A senator is required to be on at least one committee.

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