

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Jay Janner

Fishin' for votes

Heather Glenn, an accounting major from Dallas, paints her campaign sign for the freshman presidential election outside Hobby Hall.

Nine candidates are running for the office and the polls will be open Oct. 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the MSC, Pavilion and Sbis Dining Hall.

Mudslide hits in Columbia; 175 lose lives

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP) — An avalanche of red mud and rock killed at least 175 people, including 43 children, when it thundered down a mountainside and onto a slum area, officials said Monday.

Some residents estimated up to 500 people were missing in the scores of buried shacks.

"We heard the noise that sounded like an explosion and soon afterward a huge mass of rocks and mud descended upon us," said Mary Mosquera, who lost three daughters in the avalanche.

Mayor William Jaramillo Gomez told the radio chain Todelar that about 200 people were injured.

Exhausted workers dug through 20 feet of mud Monday but found no survivors — just bodies. Slum dwellers wandered through the area searching for dead or missing relatives. Other residents tried to find belongings lost in the mudslide.

Rescue workers said they were guided in recovering many bodies by dogs howling at the spots where their owners were buried. By nightfall, 175 bodies had been recovered, some buried under more than 36 feet of mud, a fire department spokesman said.

Jaramillo Gomez suspended work later Monday as torrential rains for the fourth consecutive day threatened to send more mud tumbling on top of workers, according to Caracol, Colombia's largest radio network.

Jaramillo Gomez told Caracol he had ordered that all victims, many of them unidentified, be interred immediately to prevent any outbreak of disease. At least 50 people were buried in a mass grave, while the remaining bodies were to be buried today, he said.

The director of the Medellin morgue, Oscar de Jesus Gomez, said in an interview with radio Todelar that at least 43 of the 120 bodies recovered so far were children.

Archbishop Alfonso Lopez Trujillo told radio Todelar that five children were killed in a communion party at one shack. Two of 25 children at another first communion party also were killed.

The mudslide covered more than 60 dwellings at the foot of Sugar Loaf Mountain, part of a mountain chain that surrounds Medellin, a city of more than 2 million people 160 miles northwest of Bogota.

Despite the continued rain, survivors searched for what was left of their belongings — television sets, radios, beds, furniture, kitchen utensils — where their homes once stood.

Torrential rains have soaked the northern Andes mountains for the past week.

Hospitals said Sunday they had treated more than 150 people, most of them children with multiple fractures and cuts.

A&M offers female faculty raises to close pay gap

By Cindy Milton
Staff Writer

Sixty-one female faculty members received raises last year after the Faculty Senate passed a resolution urging the University to identify and correct individual cases of salary inequity, said Dr. Clinton Phillips, associate provost and dean of faculties.

The resolution, introduced by the Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of

Gender-based pay equity Part two of a two-part series

Women, called for immediate raises for female faculty members found to be victims of discrimination. It also recommended annual observation and evaluation of female salaries to guard against discrimination.

Phillips said the 61 faculty members' salaries were not raised because overt discrimination was found, but because discrepancies due to a variety of reasons were identified by the administration. The salary

adjustments were approved by President Frank E. Vandiver.

The Senate women's status committee, whose members include both men and women faculty and a student representative as well as faculty senators, is working to close an evident 10 percent salary gap between male and female faculty at A&M.

Figures from the Office of Planning and Institutional Analysis for the 1986-1987 academic year show that only 16 percent of A&M's faculty is female.

Although these numbers look small, there doesn't appear to be overt discrimination at A&M, said Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for the honors program and undergraduate studies. Instead, she said, there are fewer women than men available for some of the tenured, higher-ranking positions at A&M.

Tenure track positions, based on a seven-year contract, require more qualifications and generally are harder to get than non-tenured positions, she said. Women, overall, have not sought long-term careers in higher education, so not many have ac-

quired the necessary qualifications for tenure, she said.

In addition, there are few women in careers like engineering and agriculture, so hiring females for some positions isn't always possible, Dr. Carl Erdman, associate dean of engineering, said.

"Out of 25 or 30 applications for a position, we rarely get female applicants due to the small number of women with Ph.Ds in these fields," Erdman said.

The University is making an honest effort to hire more women and minorities to faculty positions, Erdman said, but difficulty arises because there are so few women and minority applicants.

The non-tenured jobs, including instructors and lecturers, often appeal to women because they are contracted on a year-to-year basis and allow flexibility for family life, Sheppard said. Consequently, she added, women tend to swell the ranks of the non-tenured jobs.

In 1986, only 19 women held full professor positions at A&M, while 745 men had the rank of full professor. The same figures

show that 439 men held the rank of associate professor, while only 39 females held this title.

However, in the rank of lecturer, which is a non-tenured position, there is a higher comparative percentage of females — 152 women and 240 men hold the title of lecturer at A&M.

Another reason upper faculty ranks are underpopulated with females, Sheppard said, is that women usually don't consider academia as a career choice.

"I don't think it even occurs to most women to go into academia," she said. "Part of the reason is that women teaching on the university level is not traditional. Teaching at a college or university has not been a built-in ambition for women."

Dr. Walter Buenger, chair of the Committee on the Status of Women, added that industry is competitive and appealing for women, so many women choose to go into popular fields such as business and marketing rather than seeking teaching jobs in higher education.

Sheppard said women tend to take the

higher-paying, short-term jobs, and many still tend to place a high priority on their husbands and families, putting their careers in second place.

These trends, however, may be changing, Sheppard said.

A subcommittee created last week is looking into the hiring and retention practices of women faculty members at A&M. The goal of the subcommittee is to make A&M a more attractive place for women to pursue teaching careers.

Sheppard said women tend to get their degrees and want to teach and raise their families at the same time.

"We're going to see about hiring couples to teach," Sheppard said. "I've seen couples go to all sorts of extremes — including temporary separations and commuting — because teaching positions are not available for both of them."

Sheppard added that hiring couples in academia is difficult everywhere since it is hard to find simultaneous positions, but that the encouragement of hiring two instead of one may increase the number of women at A&M.

Independent physicians say HMOs may not provide best medical care

By Mary-Lynne Rice
Staff Writer

As Texas A&M employees choose health care insurance options, a group of independent physicians is concerned that health maintenance organizations may not offer the best benefits to patients, but an HMO official says a comprehensive health plan can provide economical, convenient and thorough care.

Dr. David Doss, a local obstetrician and gynecologist helped organize a group of independent physicians to inform A&M employees of their options regarding health care.

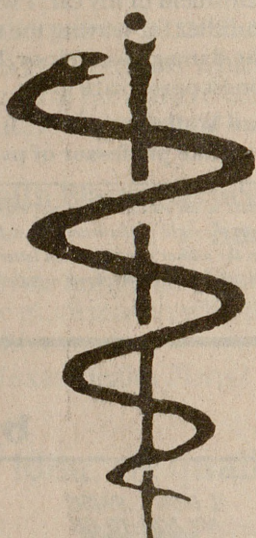
The group of about 50, Doss said, constitutes the majority of independent practicing local physicians who have the goal of promoting the independent practice of medicine.

With this goal comes independence from large clinics, the government or anyone else, he said.

With new health care options this year open to A&M employees, they can choose between health maintenance organizations and health insurance, and Doss said the option makes losing patients to HMOs a concern to independent physicians.

Under an HMO, a patient pays a fixed monthly charge and usually gets unlimited office visits and treatment.

Before this fall, health insurance where the patient often pays a



lose them as patients, it would put a sizeable dent in our practice.

"We certainly didn't think that would happen, but we felt that anyone we lost would potentially be an unnecessary loss."

Independent physicians emphasize the importance of thorough research of medical care providers and evaluation of their health care needs before making a decision, Doss said.

"The advantages of sticking with independent physicians and not aligning with an HMO are primarily in not losing your options, in the ability to choose," he said.

The primary advantage of using an independent physician is having a wide range of doctors and facilities to choose from, he said.

"If they (patients) stay with independent providers," Doss said, "they have the option of going to Houston for cancer treatment; they can go to Pittsburgh to have their liver transplant; they can go to Stanford to have their heart transplant."

"I don't think the majority of employees out there at A&M, really, when they think about it, want to lose those things."

Ron Gay, administrative director of the Scott & White Health Plan HMO, said that although HMO patients select a doctor from those affiliated with the clinic, there are many physicians to choose from, and

care is monitored better under the clinic's staff.

"The whole concept behind an HMO is that we have a list of doctors you can choose from," Gay said.

"Because if we know which doctor you're seeing and how they are providing you with medical care, it's a lot easier for us to monitor costs and to thereby keep everybody's costs under control," he said.

Referrals to other clinics or hospitals, including M.D. Anderson in Houston, are possible and paid for under an HMO plan, Gay said.

When choosing a health care plan, many people are drawn to HMOs because they allow unlimited — usually free — office visits and treatment for the payment of one monthly premium, he said.

Under the Lincoln National health insurance program available to A&M employees, the patient pays 20 percent of the charge of each office visit or treatment.

But overall, it doesn't make economic sense for most A&M employees to go to an HMO, Doss said.

If they're really that healthy, then they're spending more money to be involved in an HMO in the first place, he said.

"Because if you're healthy, you don't need any care," he said.

"That's how the HMO makes money; the HMO is happy and

B-1B bomber crashes after birds set engine on fire; 3 land safely

LA JUNTA, Colo. (AP) — A B-1B bomber with six people aboard crashed Monday in a ball of orange flame in the Colorado prairie after birds were sucked into the engines, but three crew members parachuted to safety, authorities said.

Hours after the crash, the Air Force said only that the other three crew members were missing. It was the first crash of a regular production model of the B-1B, the nation's newest long-range strategic bomber.

The survivors were reported in good condition with minor injuries at the U.S. Air Force Academy hospital in Colorado Springs.

The bomber, attached to the 96th Bombardment Wing, left Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene early Monday for the Strategic Training Range Complex near La Junta, 60 miles southeast of Pueblo, the Strategic Air Command said.

The plane went down two miles south of La Junta at 9:34 a.m., said Capt. Dave Thurston of SAC command headquarters in Omaha, Neb.

Bob Buckhorn, a spokesman

for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, said the pilot radioed air-traffic controllers that he had run into birds during a low-level practice bombing run.

The pilot immediately began climbing and managed to reach an altitude of roughly 15,500 feet, Buckhorn said, but then reported that the two engines on the right side had caught fire because of "bird ingestion."

It was apparently at that point that the crew attempted to eject from the aircraft, he added.

"We're going down," the pilot radioed, according to Laurie King, spokesman at Dyess.

Sgt. Warren Wright, spokesman for Petersen Air Force Base near Colorado Springs, said the B-1B is designed to carry four crew members, but because it was a training mission two people on board probably were evaluators.

SAC officials said the plane was equipped with four ejector seats.

Officials at Rockwell International, the manufacturer of the plane, called birds "one of the hazards" facing the low-lying bomber, which apparently hit the birds at an altitude of about 500 feet.