

# The Texas A&M Battalion

Vol. 87 No. 114 USPS 045360 6 Pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, March 11, 1988

## Committee reviews College of Medicine

By Tracy Staton  
Senior Staff Writer

TEMPLE — A special committee on medical education gave the Texas A&M College of Medicine a thorough check-up Thursday at a public hearing in Temple.

Members of the Special Committee on Medical, Dental and Allied Health Education heard testimony from A&M medical school representatives after touring the school's facilities in College Station and Temple this week. The legislatively-appointed committee is examining the quality of medical education statewide.

Charged with proving the College of Medicine's value to the state, representatives stressed the "uniqueness" of A&M's program. They emphasized the school's value as a training ground for "family practice" physicians who eventually establish practices in non-urban areas.

Dr. Dennis Myers, assistant dean for student affairs on the clinical campus, said the College of Medicine has accomplished its mission of educating general practitioners for non-urban locales.

Forty-three percent of A&M's graduates are working in "primary care" areas for their post-graduate resident training programs, he said.

This primary care category is comprised of general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology and family medicine.

And 66 percent of A&M's medical graduates stay in Texas, Myers said. Of those who establish practices in the state, 23 percent are in communities with populations of less than 25,000 people. Nationally, 15 percent of practicing physicians establish themselves in these communities.

These graduates are important to Texas because the state needs physicians in non-urban areas. Statistics from Texas State Board of Medical Examiners show that 59 percent of

Texas physicians practice in urban areas, but only 9.5 percent work in rural areas. Seventeen counties have no practicing physicians at all.

Dr. Dave Morehead, associate dean of the College of Medicine, said the partnership that supports A&M's program is an entirely different structure than that of any other school in the nation. The medical program is a "marriage" of Texas A&M University, the Olin E. Teague Veteran's Center, Scott & White Hospital and Scott & White Clinic, he said.

"Each of the partners bring something to the relationship," Morehead said. "And it becomes a cooperative

venture of organizations with different missions. The great potential of our college is the opportunity to capitalize on the strengths of each of these institutions with different missions."

A&M medical students spend two years learning basic medical science at the College Station campus, then complete two years of clinical training at Scott & White Clinic in Temple. The 330 clinical faculty of the medical school make up the staff of the clinic, Morehead said. The faculty divides its time between patient care and educating the medical undergraduates.

"We are pleased that our faculty

members are physicians who are practicing the skills they teach," he said.

This unique approach results in quality medical education for A&M's students, Morehead said.

Later in the hearing, Myers presented statistics that indicated the success of A&M's program. Since 1983, A&M's graduates have either scored highest or second highest on licensing exams, Myers said. And supervisors of post-graduate programs reported that 93 percent to 95 percent of residents from A&M performed as well or better than graduates of other medical schools.

## House demands ouster of Noriega from position

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday overwhelmingly demanded the ouster of Panamanian strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, and the opposition ambassador to the United States predicted Noriega's overthrow within a few days.

At the same time, the Reagan administration was considering the imposition of further sanctions, including the withholding of about \$7 million in payments to Panama due by March 15 for canal-related opera-

tions. The money would go into an escrow account.

The House voted 367-2 for a non-binding resolution that noted allegations of drug trafficking, murder, money laundering and racketeering against the Panamanian Defense Forces, which Noriega heads. It called on Reagan to "consider seriously" additional economic and political sanctions.

It also called upon Noriega to comply with an order two weeks ago by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, dismissing him as

commander of the defense forces. Instead, Noriega dismissed Delvalle a few hours later. The United States recognizes Delvalle, who has been forced into hiding in Panama, as the legitimate head of the Panamanian government.

Members on both sides of the political spectrum lashed out at Noriega and gave the administration virtually carte blanche to impose additional sanctions. Rep. Mel Levine, D-Calif., said "the government of Panama is in the hands of a thug, a common criminal."

## Graduate student offers tips on checking car before break

By Shannon O'Neal  
Reporter

Students' dreams of the perfect spring break catching rays on a sandy beach or schussing down snowy slopes can be spoiled by the ugly reality of a car breakdown on the way.

Automotive problems can be avoided if car owners practice simple preventative maintenance, says graduate electrical engineering student Lonny Sumpster, who teaches the University Plus course in beginner's auto mechanics.

If a car owner's manual is used, he says the basic preparations for a car trip can be done in only a few minutes by someone with little or no mechanical knowledge.

He recommends checking four areas of the car — vital fluids, suspension, the electrical system and belts and hoses.

The vital fluids are oil, coolant, power-steering fluid and brake fluid. Sumpster says the vital fluids should be at the levels set by the manufacturer. If they are low, the manufacturer's recommended replacement should be added until the level is correct.

Oil should not be too black and shouldn't smell burnt. He says if the car has a radiator coolant overflow reservoir, the reservoir must be clean and tightly sealed.

The suspension includes the tires and shock absorbers or "McPherson struts." Sumpster says the owner should check the air pressure in the tires and adjust it to the manufacturer's recommended pressure.

"Customizing" the tire pressure for a better ride or improved gas mileage may give the desired result,

but will definitely reduce the tire's life, he says.

The shocks should be fastened tightly, clean of oil and checked for wear by using the "two-bounce test," he says. The test is to bounce the front of the car and if it bounces more than twice, the shocks should be replaced.

The electrical system consists of the light bulbs and battery. The owner should check the brake lights, turn on signals and headlights to make sure they work and make sure the battery's connections are tight and clean.

The belts should be checked by pressing on them. If they give more than a half an inch they should be tightened, unless they are extremely long.

Sumpster says flares and a fire extinguisher are extra, but are good to have and that a box of baking soda will put out almost any automotive fire.

He says repairing a problem on the road is fairly easy if it is approached correctly.

If the car is overheating, he says to first turn off the air conditioner, slow down and see if the temperature drops. If it doesn't cool down, he suggests turning on the heater to help cool the engine.

He says not to stop unless steam comes from the engine, fluid hits the windshield or the smell of antifreeze fills the car. These symptoms indicate a radiator leak.

Time can be gained on a small radiator leak by loosening the radiator cap one click. This is enough to release pressure without allowing the cap to come completely off.

Brake fade or loss is no cause for panic, he says. If the brakes fade

sometimes they can be improved by pumping them, though they should be fixed if fade is noticed.

If the brakes go out, try to slow down and get in a lower gear, he says. The parking brake shouldn't be used until absolutely necessary because it isn't meant to stop the car — only to hold it in place.

He says if the electricity starts to fail, turn off all unnecessary accessories including the radio and hope for the best.

A dead battery can be revived many times by cleaning and tightening the connections, or adding water to the battery itself, he says.

If the worst happens and a car owner is stranded on the roadside, he should turn the hazard lights on, open the hood and stay off the road.



Photo by Shelly Schluter

### Beat the hell outta Bevo

In honor of "Fiesta Day," sponsored by the Texas A&M Food Services Department, Kimmy Anderson, a junior physical education major from Fort

Worth, tries to break open a piñata in the shape of Bevo. The piñata was filled with Frisbees and candy. South-of-the-border foods were served.

## Associate provost: ELI system needs work

By Karen Kroesche  
Senior Staff Writer

What Texas A&M's English proficiency system needs is a personal touch, says Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate studies.

Anderson is in the process of re-vamping the system in response to complaints from both faculty and students that the current system is unfair. While he doesn't have specific recommendations formulated yet, Anderson says he has identified the major problem areas and some general solutions. He says he hopes to have solid recommendations by early April.

One of the biggest problems with the current system, Anderson says, is that the foreign student is thrown into the red tape of admission from the first moment at A&M.

He says he thinks that the first image of A&M should be a personal one.

"It seems to me a shame that the first thing they (foreign students) encounter here at A&M is another manifestation, an undesirable manifestation, of a bureaucratic way of dealing with what I think should be dealt with on an individual basis," Anderson says. "I would like to know that there is a personal touch from the beginning in the lives of these foreign students when they arrive on our campus.

"I would like to see us do more to make this a mature adult experience for everybody, rather than a mechanical thing, as cool and cold as that often is."

A&M's English proficiency system for foreign students has come under repeated fire in recent months. The

controversy centers on the forced enrollment of foreign graduate students in the English Language Institute.

When international students arrive at A&M, they are required to make a certain score on the University's English Language Proficiency Exam.

If they don't make the score on any section, they must enroll in a non-credit ELI course — taught by non-tenure track faculty — for that section.

More than two-thirds of international graduate students are required to enroll in at least one course at the institute.

Costs range from \$400 to \$1,300 per four-month session, depending on the number of courses they have to take.

Anderson says his recommendations are still in the formative stages, but one option he sees is assigning each incoming foreign graduate student a host mentor when he or she arrives on campus.

This person most likely would come from the student's major department, such as his faculty adviser, Anderson says.

He says this person could help show the ropes to the new student, as well as advising him in English proficiency matters. In this way, the system could more easily adapt to each individual's set of circumstances.

"I think it would be wise for the student's department, major professor, mentor or host to have some say in when the ELPE (English Language Proficiency Exam) is taken," he says.

"I also think it would be helpful if the student's departmental advisor

or mentor or host would have something to say about interpreting the results of the ELPE and discussing those results with the results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or other experiences that the student may have had in other English speaking countries or perhaps in this country," he says.

Students and professors have criticized A&M for using the ELPE, charging that the test is not a fair measure of English abilities. Anderson says the test is a valuable tool in the evaluation process, but that there are problems with the administration of the test.

"The main problem I see in utilizing this instrument at the present time," he says, "is that we force it on students in many instances before they are rested and prepared for it in the worst cases, and in many more cases at inconvenient times.

"In our present system, the results of the examination are swiftly used to determine a course of study or a course of remedial work that has not been discussed in advance and that the student is not fully willing mentally and emotionally to commit to. So there's an element of coercion in our present procedure that we would be wise to try to mitigate."

There are also security problems with the ELPE.

Foreign student associations have copies of the test, and one group even has it on microfilm. *The Battalion* recently obtained two copies of the test.

Anderson says he was not previously aware of the security problems, but that those problems are probably just indicative of the general ill feelings that foreign student

have toward A&M's English proficiency system.

"The motivation to cheat generally comes into play when a system is considered as corrupt itself," he says. "Students learn and serve themselves best when they don't cheat.

Anderson says he plans to have an improved system in place by the fall semester.

He says this is an important issue to resolve promptly because of the negative impact the current system has on A&M's reputation abroad.

Other countries' advances in science and technology make foreign students attractive to the University, Anderson says.

"Enough time has elapsed now after the end of World War II — when America was the dominant science and technology country in the world — that other countries have caught up and even surpassed us in a number of important areas," he says. "That (recruiting foreign students) gives us the opportunity to make sure we're exposed to the best and the brightest from abroad."

Anderson says the sheer volume of negative feedback about the ELI has made a change in the system necessary.

"One of the most significant things about this issue in my mind is that not only are the students themselves complaining about it, but a significant part of the University administrators are also a little concerned about it and a very large number of the research-active faculty members are (concerned).

"And when I hear similar observations from all of this wide audience, I know that there's some reason for us to do something."

## Bush will establish ethics panel if elected

Associated Press

George Bush, declaring himself "personally disturbed at the breaches of ethics" he'd seen in government, said Thursday he would set up a White House ethics panel if elected president.

Meanwhile, Bush's Super Tuesday victories produced a casualty — Jack Kemp — and Gary Hart prepared to quit the Democratic race. Richard Gephardt, who ran a poor fourth among Democrats on Tuesday, said Michigan could decide his fate.

Bush flew to Illinois to press his campaign for the 82 GOP del-

egates at stake in next Tuesday's primary. And he quickly took up a new issue, saying he was "tired of being embarrassed" by scandals surrounding public officials, though he named no names.

The vice president's chief rival, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, stuck to party politics, questioning Bush's "electability" and telling Chicago voters he would be a stronger candidate for the GOP in November.

Democrats Michael Dukakis, Jesse Jackson and Albert Gore Jr. also campaigned in Illinois for a share of the 173 delegates at stake in their party's primary there.