

# State and Local

## Students still dislike ELI system

By Loyd Brumfield  
Senior Staff Writer

Changes in Texas A&M's English language proficiency system that go into effect next fall haven't quelled some international students' disdain for the language program.

All international students entering A&M have to take the English Language Proficiency Examination in addition to the Test of English as a Foreign Language Exam required of most international students in the country.

Under the old policy, if a student failed any section of the ELPE, he had to take courses in A&M's English Language Institute.

The ELI is a self-sufficient subunit of the Department of Modern Languages that provides courses for international students taught by non-tenure track faculty.

Costs for the courses have ranged from \$400-\$1300, depending upon the number of courses taken.

However, a new policy designed last semester will be implemented this fall to offer foreign graduate students more flexibility within the system.

Under the new policy, which was reported in detail in the July 6th issue of *The Battalion*, students will individually be assigned to an adviser through their college or department before taking the ELPE.

If a student fails the ELPE, he will be referred back to his adviser for additional counseling, which may or may not include ELI coursework, depending upon each individual student's circumstances.

Some students said they feel the changes aren't enough, but agree that they are a step in the right direction.

"They (the changes) seem to be okay, but there are basically no changes," said Naynesh Desai, an industrial engineering graduate student from India.

"To me it seems like the only change is whether you take the ELPE now or later," he said. "At least now you are assigned a major adviser though."

Desai, who has a master's degree in industrial engineering from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, said he didn't expect the ELPE to be so formidable.

"I already had a master's degree elsewhere so I thought I could pass easily, but I ended up getting a 65 on the composition part of the exam," he said.

"I sat there for five or six minutes during the composition just wondering what to write," he said. "I had no frame of reference or anything."

Desai said he made an 85 on the overall exam, but had to take an ELI course in English composition in the 1985 spring semester because of his below-70 grade on the composition section of the ELPE. He said the course cost around \$450.

"I also took six hours of regular University coursework, and they cost less," he said.

"I didn't improve at all after that class. I didn't learn anything," Desai said.

Gyu-Sang Jeong, president of the Korean Students' Association, also had mixed feelings about the changes.

"It's better than the old policy, but it still needs modification," he said. Jeong took ELI courses in oral

English and composition in 1986 and paid about \$600 for them, he said.

"In the future, the concepts should be different or spelled out more clearly," he said. "They (ELI) need to give incentives to students."

Desai said failing a section of the ELPE can be quite disheartening.

"You try to get an assistantship and then you find out you failed part of the exam," he said. "There's no way you'll get an assistantship that way."

Desai said he still has hope for the ELI.

"I expect more students to get through the program if they (ELI) slack-off," he said. "Back when I took the exam I didn't have anyone to talk to about it. At least now advisers will be available."

"Still, though, an adviser is going to be too busy to give individual and equal treatment to everybody."

"It's a step ahead. At least they know they need changes."

## Aggie rings taken from alumni center

By Stephen Masters  
Staff Writer

Seven Aggie rings, including one donated by Gen. J. Earl Rudder, Class of '32, were removed from the Clayton Williams Alumni Center some time between 9:30 p.m. July 6 and about 8 a.m. July 7, Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police, said.

No police report had been filed with the University Police Department 3:30 p.m. Thursday, but Wiatt said there are "a few" suspects.

Ray Martin, facilities manager for the center, said a custodial worker heard glass breaking around 6:30 a.m. Thursday.

The rings were discovered missing at the center less than two hours later.

Wiatt said the rings were valued near \$6,000.

An anonymous caller told *The Battalion* Wednesday that the alarm system had never been connected.

Martin confirmed that the alarm

system in the center had "not been activated."

Wiatt said the rings were kept in "various wall and floor cases" locked in the Glitch library.

Martin said there were no signs of forced entry.

A party was given in the center as a part of student conferences for incoming freshmen and their parents from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 7, he said.

"It is possible that someone hid in here all night and then broke the cases and took the rings," he said.

Several clear, defined fingerprints were found, Martin said.

Plans are being carried out to fingerprint all employees of the center, custodial services and food services, he said.

But Martin pointed out that the fingerprinting is being used to clear people, not to incriminate them.

The only connection between the rings is that they all had diamonds, Martin said.

In addition to Rudder's ring, rings donated by James Moore, Class of '26, William R. Taylor, Class of '39, R.L. Fambro, Class '47, James Uptmore, Class of '53, Charles Janeler, Class of '65, and Jere Swartzell Class of '79, were taken, he said.

Senior rings at A&M have had the same pattern since 1947, so replicas of four of the rings can be made, Martin said.

Rings prior to 1947 cannot be reproduced, he said, but others have offered to donate rings with the same years as those missing.

Although replacement is possible, Martin said the rings have a large sentimental value to the center.

"These rings are worth more to us than anybody," he said. "They have far more sentimental value than any monetary value that could be attached."

"We view this act as comparable to grave robbery. It's as heinous a crime as is possible."

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the rings is urged to contact the UPD or the center.

## Bentsen: Dropping out of Senate race would relinquish seat to Republicans

See related story, page 8

AUSTIN (AP) — State law allows Lloyd Bentsen to appear on the Texas ballot as a candidate for both vice president and re-election to the Senate, giving him a chance to protect his Senate seat from the Republicans at least for the time being.

"I can't get off the ticket in Texas. That's the way the law is written," Democrat Bentsen says.

"If I was to step off the ticket, that would forfeit it to the Republican challenger, and I can't do that."

Bentsen's bid for a fourth Senate term is being challenged by Republican Rep. Beau Boulter, a two-term conservative from Amarillo, who has been fighting an uphill battle in the race.

Boulter is making as much as he

can of Bentsen's dual candidacy, declaring, "It's wrong. It's unethical. And it's going to raise questions throughout this campaign."

Michael Dukakis, the expected Democratic presidential nominee, picked Bentsen on Tuesday to be his running mate.

That put Bentsen in a two-race campaign that's allowed under a 1959 state law written for then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, who wanted it so he could run for both re-election and the White House. His presidential bid failed, but he became John Kennedy's vice president and

later became president after Kennedy was assassinated.

Texas Secretary of State Jack Rains, the state's chief election officer, says withdrawal by Bentsen now would give the Senate race to Republican Boulter. Bentsen could remove his name from the Senate ballot before Sept. 6, but the Democrats could not replace him.

If Bentsen wins both elections, he would have to choose one post or the other. If he gave up his Senate seat, as expected, Republican Gov. Bill Clements would name an interim senator and then call a special election to pick someone to complete the six-year term.

The special election, Rains said, would be a "Florida scramble. Every-

one just goes out and tees it up." Interest is already high and rising.

On Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said he would "certainly seriously consider" running if such a special election takes place.

On Wednesday, state Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said, "I am, like every other person of voting age in Texas, considering making the Senate race." Hightower already had been looking at a 1990 race against Republican Sen. Phil Gramm.

The 1961 special election to replace Johnson in the Senate drew more than 70 candidates. Republican John Tower won.

## Some Texans to file taxes by computer

AUSTIN (AP) — Electronic filing of income tax returns, used for about 600,000 forms in a few states this year, will be greatly expanded in 1989 and available for the first time in Austin, said the Internal Revenue Service.

The electronic filing is being extended to 36 states including Texas next year. IRS officials say electronic filing should speed up refunds by up to three weeks, provide for direct deposit of refunds to bank accounts, reduce processing errors and save the IRS \$200 million over the next 10 years.



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ROUND		PEAR SHAPE		MARQUISE				
Our Price	Compare at	Our Price	Compare at	Our Price	Compare at			
12.26	Come by to see	0.72	\$1,395	0.37	2,600	0.47	795	1,300
1.51	3,875	7,000	0.72	1,695	3,200	0.36	600	58
1.18	2,325	4,600	0.71	1,395	2,700	0.34	665	1,200
1.17	2,750	5,000	0.71	1,395	2,700	0.33	325	600
1.15	2,995	6,000	0.71	1,095	2,000	0.30	325	600
1.11	2,350	4,600	0.71	1,050	2,100	0.24	210	400
1.11	3,950	8,000	0.70	1,395	2,700	0.21	165	300
1.09	2,195	4,000	0.70	795	1,400	0.22	185	400
1.09	2,750	5,000	0.68	995	1,800	0.21	215	400
1.09	3,850	7,000	0.64	895	1,800	0.19	165	300
1.04	2,150	4,000	0.63	795	1,500	0.18	155	300
1.03	3,595	7,000	0.62	795	1,500	0.16	118	200
1.01	1,495	3,000	0.60	795	1,500	0.15	111	200
1.01	1,895	4,000	0.58	850	1,600	0.14	95	180
1.01	3,495	7,000	0.57	795	1,500	0.12	78	140
1.01	2,185	4,200	0.56	695	1,400	0.10	63	120
0.95	2,395	4,600	0.55	695	1,400	0.09	55	110
0.93	1,595	3,000	0.55	795	1,500	0.08	48	90
0.92	1,850	4,000	0.54	895	1,700	0.07	45	90
0.92	1,650	3,200	0.53	795	1,500	0.06	41	80
0.91	3,195	6,000	0.53	595	1,000	0.05	30	70
0.90	1,595	3,000	0.53	695	1,400	0.04	30	60
0.90	1,750	3,100	0.52	795	1,500	0.03	14.95	30
0.89	1,350	2,600	0.52	795	1,500	0.02	10.95	30
0.89	895	1,700	0.51	795	1,500			
0.88	1,340	2,600	0.50	695	1,300			
0.83	1,595	3,000	0.50	695	1,300			
0.80	1,025	2,000	0.48	695	1,400	1.67	2,375	4,600
0.77	985	1,800	0.47	695	1,400	1.21	2,295	4,500
0.77	1,075	2,000	0.47	695	1,400	1.13	2,495	4,800
0.75	950	1,900	0.46	650	1,200	1.04	2,675	5,200
0.75	1,135	2,200	0.45	595	1,100	1.01	1,095	2,000
0.75	1,395	2,600	0.44	595	1,100	0.88	895	1,600
0.74	1,480	2,800	0.44	495	1,000	0.65	1,395	2,700
0.73	1,495	2,800	0.43	495	1,000	0.62	795	1,500
0.73	1,125	2,200	0.39	275	500	0.59	1,150	2,200
						0.60		

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