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Straw vote shows Student Senate against proposed summer schedule

By Michael Kelley
Of The Battalion Staff

The 1989-90 Texas A&M Student Senate, in a straw vote taken Tuesday night at its first meeting this semester, came out strongly against a proposed summer school schedule that would consist of overlapping six- and 10-week sessions.

Student Senate to the Evaluation Committee on Summer School. Duwall said the committee was created by A&M President Dr. William H. Mobley, and consists of faculty, administration, and student representatives. "The purpose of the committee is to look at the problems with summer school and to find solutions," Duwall said. "The real problem is to make the summer session pedagogically sound and equal to the spring and fall semesters. It's obvious that professors cut back in what they teach in their lectures in the five week sessions. "The Faculty Senate wants one

10-week semester in the first place, so this would be a compromise with the students." The bill raised questions from senators who were concerned with conflicts such as the Study Abroad program or half-summer work schedules. The problem with the bill, as voiced by various senators, was that these students would not be allowed the option of attending a second summer session — typically a five week semester — the second half of the summer. Dr. Malon Southerland, assistant vice president for student services and an administration See Summer/Page 7

Flight Center offers services for the once and future pilot

By Todd Connelley
Of The Battalion Staff

The Aviation Flight Center is the place for people who can't seem to keep their feet on the ground. The Flight Center, located at Eastwood Field, is a complete flight training school for anyone, from a recreational pilot to a licensed professional. "Our greatest asset is that anyone can walk in the door and have their pilot's license in as little as five weeks," Ronnie Huddleston, owner of the Flight Center, said. The time it takes to get a pilot's license depends on the individual. "The more time you spend in the air, the quicker you get through the course," Huddleston said. The national average flight time for students receiving their license is

68 hours, he said. The Flight Center has an average of 42 hours. Huddleston, an 18-year veteran of the air, credits the low average to an excellent staff of fully-licensed pilots. "We have a one-on-one instruction program," he said. "Whoever you start flying with takes you through the entire course." In two months, the Flight Center will be the first Texas aviation school to offer both light plane and helicopter training. Helicopter training will cost a little more and the demands on the student will be tougher than light aircraft training, he said. "The helicopters we are getting in are the same ones used in the television series, 'MASH,'" he said. "They are the best trainers there are."

Huddleston plans to offer ground school classes at night to A&M students who can't attend during the day. "Ground school is designed to help get you through the written test required by the FAA," Huddleston said. A three-day ground school soon will be offered to people with previous flight training who wish to take the written test immediately. The Flight Center also provides a pilot supply center with a full range of equipment. "We have everything a pilot needs — from maps to sectionals," he said. "If we don't have it, then we'll get it." The Flight Center is open seven days a week. For more information call 846-5636.

Weather service, A&M form meteorology center

By Pam Mooman
Of The Battalion Staff

There is more to accurate weather predictions than a smiling television personality pointing to a cluttered map. Meteorology is, in fact, an exact science that requires commitment to research and knowledge. Texas A&M made that commitment Friday with approval by the A&M Board of Regents to establish a meteorological research institute at A&M. The Cooperative Institute for Applied Meteorological Studies will be jointly funded by A&M and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, of which the National Weather Service (NWS) is a part, Dr. James R. Scoggins, head of the Department of Meteorology, said. Scoggins is also the director of CIAMS.

"I'll wear two hats until January," Scoggins said. Scoggins said he then will be replaced as department head and his sole responsibility will be directing CIAMS. He said the institute will promote cooperation between University researchers and NWS scientists. "The purpose is to promote applied meteorological research and improve collaboration between NOAA/NWS and Texas A&M University scientists and provide a center where University and federal scientists can work together," Scoggins said. The institute, which will be part of the College of Geosciences, is the ninth cooperative institute formed in the nation, Scoggins said. "We are joining an elite group," he said. The research that CIAMS will

conduct will require expertise in several scientific areas, Scoggins said. One research project will involve the study of marine meteorology, which will require cooperation between the oceanography and meteorology departments. Others will include agricultural meteorology, which will be a joint effort between agriculture and meteorology; and a joint study between space, oceanography and meteorological researchers on the effects of the Gulf of Mexico on eastern weather, he said. In December, CIAMS will begin using radar to study rainfall patterns of severe storms in the hope of increasing prediction accuracy, Scoggins said. "We'll have a Doppler — the only one owned by a meteorological de-

Interim dean takes his job seriously; search continues for permanent dean

By Melissa Naumann
Of The Battalion Staff

His job is temporary but Dr. Chris Borman, interim dean of the College of Education, isn't treating it that way. Borman said the college is progressing too rapidly for him to just "play caretaker" until a more permanent dean is chosen. "I don't think we can afford to stand still," Borman said. Borman, who was the associate dean of research in the college, said he will continue to expand existing programs, such as the new teacher education program that began in the spring. External funds also need to be increased, and a research committee has been set up to form a research agenda for the college, he said. "It's fine to have state funds and we need state funds to operate, but we need to put more emphasis on external funds," Borman said. In another quest for money, the college has started a Campaign for Excellence to increase development in the form of endowments and fellowships. The cam-

aign will target former students and corporations, while other "friends of the college" will be encouraged to contribute as well. Evaluating the graduate programs will be another priority while Borman is dean. Borman said between 3,200 and 3,400 students are enrolled in the College of Education and 1,000 of them are graduate students. "We have maybe 18 percent of all of the graduate students on campus," he said. "We'll be concentrating more on quality and less on size." Because the college was formed in 1969, the organization of the college needs to be reviewed also, Borman said. "We need to see if maybe there might be some better ways to organize because we have some very small departments and then we have some that are very large — in fact, too large," he said. "I'm not saying we have to reorganize. We just need to look at it." Borman was chosen as interim dean when the search to replace Dr. Dean Corrigan was discontinued. The prospects were narrowed down to four when the search committee decided to begin looking for another candidate. "I think we're emerging as one of the top colleges of education in the country," Borman said. "They wanted to get the right person."

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