



The agony of da feet

Nancy Gold, center half for the A&M women's varsity soccer team, and Kim DeVargas, forward, both found themselves on

the disabled list for Tuesday afternoon practice. DeVargas and Gold each sustained sprained ankles.

Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Student Senate gives summer school bill unanimous approval

By Monique Threadgill and Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

Tuesday night the Texas A&M Student Senate unanimously approved a bill which will affect the length of summer school sessions in 1991.

The Summer School '91 Schedule Bill consists of a proposal for two five-and-a-half-week sessions and one 10-week session.

The bill was introduced at the Student Senate meeting on Sept. 5, but drew opposition to the proposed overlapping six- and 10-week sessions.

After being sent to the Academic Affairs Committee for discussion the bill was amended to accommodate students who need a second summer term, such as those who study abroad or Co-op during one of the summer sessions.

Brennan Reilly, junior liberal arts senator and Academic Affairs committee member, led floor support for the amended bill.

"Basically what we tried to do with the bill was to insure that students get to express their views to the university committee that Dr. Mobley appointed to deal with the summer school issue," Reilly said. "I don't think the student point of view was originally seen by the Faculty Senate or by the committee, which mainly consists of administrators and faculty."

"The student concerns were not addressed by the '10-six- proposal' which we thought was far removed

from our interests," he said. "We came up with our own program, a very strong one that we will take with us to the committee meeting in an effort to try and work with the faculty and administration toward a common goal. We want to insure that they know what the students want."

Special guest speaker Steve Hodge, University Center Manager, addressed the MSC expansion issue and student concerns over the trees involved in the plans.

He said that only five live oaks will be destroyed in the project, and the others involved will be relocated.

The MSC expansion includes the Rudder Complex, the MSC and Parking Lot 60.

The expansion, which will take approximately three years to complete, poses two major problems—a limited amount of access to the MSC and a loss of 400 parking spaces.

Two open meetings to discuss the MSC expansion are scheduled. One will be held Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder, and the other will be held Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Rudder Theater.

Other legislation discussed at the meeting included:

- Approval of a bill updating "The Student Government Association Constitution For the Student Body of Texas A&M University" and

- Approval of an Ad-Hoc Committee on International Affairs to be established to work with the Faculty Senate and University Administration on the issues of international research and education.

Hurricane Hugo threatens U.S. coast; 50,000 Caribbean islanders left homeless

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Hugo, the Caribbean killer blamed for 25 deaths, seethed past the Bahamas Tuesday on an uncertain path that threatens an area from Florida to North Carolina by Friday.

Disaster teams found death and destruction in Puerto Rico and a string of resort islands clobbered by the mightiest storm in a decade in the northeastern Caribbean. More than 50,000 people were homeless, and military planes ferried radios,

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drinking water, generators, chain-saws and other equipment to stricken areas that pleaded for more help.

"Whole buildings just picked up and left," said James Grissim, a resident of Water Island in St. Thomas. He recalled "sheet metal roofing flying through the air, singing as it went, and glass, the sound of glass breaking all over the place."

Forecasters used computers, satellites and charts of old storms but could not predict Hugo's wobbly path. It lurched to the north and west because other weather systems

seemed to be blocking it from heading into the open Atlantic.

At 3 p.m. EDT, the hurricane's center was near latitude 22.6 degrees north and longitude 68.6 west, about 175 miles east northeast of Grand Turk Island in the southern Bahamas, according to the National Weather Service.

It had maximum sustained winds of 105 mph and was moving northwest at 12 mph, forecasters said. But Hugo was re-organizing over open seas where warm tropical air fueled its engine, and forecasters expected fluctuations in strength.

Hurricane warnings were downgraded to storm warnings for the southern Bahamas as Hugo skirted past, but the Bahamian government issued warnings for the central islands of the archipelago. Islanders boarded up their homes as a precaution.

In Florida, NASA officials said they would wait until Wednesday before deciding to move the space shuttle Atlantis, scheduled for launch Oct. 12, from its launch pad and into shelter. They also put off a decision on whether to remove a Navy communications satellite from an Atlas-Centaur rocket on another launch pad until more is known

Puerto Rican Student Association collects donations for relief fund

The Puerto Rican Student Association, in connection with the American Red Cross, will be accepting collections on the first floor MSC again today for the victims of Hurricane Hugo.

Donors are asked to make checks payable to the American Red Cross, Hurricane Hugo Re-

lief Fund. Donations also may be collected from home or office.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 822-2157 or members of the PRSA at 764-1748 or 845-4634 (daytime) or at 846-1228 or 696-1818 (nighttime).

Relief officials asked for cots and plastic sheetings to use for shelters for the thousands of islanders whose homes were crumpled by Hugo.

Coast Guard vessels from Puerto Rico would scour the waters off the island because of reports "there are a lot of people stranded (on boats) out in the water," said Coast Guard Lt. Stan Douglas.

Hugo walloped the northeastern part of the island, then skirted its populous northern coast on Monday. It churned on to the northwest and toward open water. It whirled past but missed the Dominican Republic.

A&M selects professor as new Health Center director

By Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

A former two-star general in the U.S. Army Medical Corps was selected last week as the new director of the A.P. Beutal Health Center.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for Student Services, announced Tuesday that Dr. Kenneth R. Dirks, currently a professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at A&M, will become the acting director of the health center on October 1.

Dirks is a 1943 graduate of present-day Wichita State University, in Wichita, Kansas. He received his degree in medicine in 1947 from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dirks came to Texas A&M in 1980 after serving 28 years in the U.S. Army.

Dirks experienced wartime service during World War II and the Korean War, as well as combat duty in Vietnam.

At the close of his Army career, Dirks was one of six two-star generals who was considered for promotion to Surgeon General of the Army.

Dirks was a private while attending medical school at the end of World War II. He received his officer commission during the Korean War.

Dirks has served in 17 assignments that have taken him around the United States and to various bases worldwide.

Dirks served one year in England as an exchange officer with the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital in London. He then served three years in Landstuhl, Germany as commander of the 4th Medical Laboratory, which was the reference lab for diagnostic problems in the U.S. Army theater of operations in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

During the Vietnam War, Dirks served a one-year tour as commander of the 406th Medical Laboratory and as the blood program officer for all U.S. forces located in South Vietnam.

Some of Dirks' best administrative experience came from his last three assignments.

In 1973, Dirks became commanding general of the Army Medical Research and Development Command. He was also Assistant Surgeon General for Research and Development for the Army. In 1976 he took command of the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver, Colorado.

Dirks' last assignment began in 1977 as superintendent of the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Its enrollment consisted of 37,000 students and 6500 faculty and staff members. Its annual budget was \$41 million.

Dirks has been awarded 12 military decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Com-

mendation Medal.

After military retirement, Dirks joined the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio where he met Dr. Franz Leidler. It was Leidler who convinced Dirks to become a faculty member at the A&M College of Medicine in 1981.

"One of the reasons I came here was that I was attracted by the atmosphere that pervades A&M," Dirks said. "I like the friendly spirit, the traditions, the attitude of the student body and the sense of responsibility and belonging that is reflected in the Student Government. The entire ambiance here appeals to me."

"To some degree I expect that my military background matches nicely with the Corps tradition on the campus."

While at the A&M Medical School, Dirks was awarded "The Student's Friend" award in 1982 and was voted as one of the three best lecturers in the College of Medicine from 1981-82. In 1985, he received the Association of Former Students Distinguished Teaching Award for the College of Medicine. He has also served on eight university committees.

Dirks became interested in the health director position while serving as a pathological consultant to the health center. "A great deal of my military career was directed towards providing health care to people of college age," Dirks said. "I've been interested in health care for students for a good while."

Dirks said his objective as health center director is to ensure that students do not have to wait for more than 30 minutes to see a physician.

"I think that's important," he said. "We'd like our students to be in class because that's what they're here for — to get an education. They're not here to sit in the health center waiting for a physician to see them. We'd like to see that corrected."

Dirks would like to see a closer relationship between the student health center and the College of Medicine.

"By closer linkage, I want to provide some services that may have not been readily available in the past," Dirks said. "It's advantageous to students to have new physicians... helping to care for the health needs of other students."

"The health center has done a very good job, but our challenge is to improve on what's already been done. I am aware that there have been long waiting times in the past, but new measures are being taken, such as inaugurating an appointment system in order to see a physician."

Dirks' youngest daughter, Melissa Dirks McConnell, is a senior Landscape Architecture major at A&M. She has served seven years as the executive secretary to Dr. John Koldus, vice president for Student Services. Dirks is active in the Bryan-College Station community as well, serving this past year as president of the Bryan Rotary Club and as a Health Services Committee member for

Water commission levies fines against Texas dairies

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Water Commission said Tuesday it recommended \$500,000 in fines against nine Texas dairies for alleged violations of state water quality laws.

The proposed fines total \$490,660 and range from \$96,000 against a Tarrant County dairy farmer to \$23,700 against one in Erath County. The average fine is \$54,000, more than six times the highest water commission fine ever paid by a Texas dairy farmer.

Six of the nine dairies are in Erath County, the state's top milk producer. Since June, the area has been the target of a crackdown on dairy pollution.

Lax enforcement of state water laws has been blamed for dairy pollution that experts say could

threaten Central Texas water supplies.

"There is a concern that if this continues, we certainly could have long term problems," Clyde Bohmfalk, director of the water commission's division of water quality, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Jim Haley, water commission legal director, said the high fines are intended to let dairy farmers know "the law will be enforced."

Jerry Clark of the Associated Milk Producers Inc., the state's second-largest dairy cooperative, said the fines were "out of reason."

State law allows dairy operators to have a hearing before an independent examiner before their cases are considered by the water commission. The dairy farmers can appeal the commission's decision in state court.



Dr. Kenneth R. Dirks

Photo by Jay Janner