

Sco-pro solutions Better habits decrease probation in liberal arts

By Jeff Fulmer

Special to *The Battalion*

The percentage of liberal arts students on scholastic probation at Texas A&M has decreased 8 percent over the past three years, the College of Liberal Arts director of advising said.

Mary Broussard said according to 1988 statistics, 17 percent of the 6,400 A&M liberal arts students are on probation, compared with 25 percent three years ago. Seventeen percent is on par with other larger colleges on campus, she said.

"It is steadily getting better with a larger percentage of our students getting off probation each year," Broussard said.

Scholastic probation, as defined by Broussard, occurs when a student's overall cumulative grade point average or average in his major has dropped below a 2.0. Broussard attributes the drop in percentage to a new stance taken by the college as a whole.

"I think it can be attributed to the fact that the college has begun to take a serious look at our probation students, which means they do not let students jeopardize their education by allowing them to continue if their grade average drops each semester," she said.

"We have found that it is essential that we take a much more responsible position with the probation students, so as not to allow them to put themselves in a position where ultimately they won't earn a Texas A&M degree."

Broussard said another reason for the drop is that the college has taken

preventive measures by contacting the students before they go on probation and giving them a warning. The college also urges students on probation to take advantage of the resources and campus services available to them, such as tutorial and counseling services, she said.

"Making a student sit out is a really big decision to make, because the college is in the business of making sure our students graduate," Broussard said.

"We don't let our students go indefinitely until they are so far in the hole that they can't get out and earn a degree. Liberal Arts looks at each student individually and we don't have a formula that we use to determine who stays in the college and who doesn't."

There are a wide variety of reasons students are placed on probation, she said. Fall 1988 statistics from liberal arts probation conference surveys said the number one reason for probation is inadequate study skills. Other reasons include procrastination, lack of interest in the course, personal and financial problems, family problems and problems with comprehension, she said.

"A lot of it has to do with students not developing good study skills and time management, but it has nothing to do with class rank," Broussard said.

The best advice Broussard can give students on probation is to "focus on the here and now and the positive things." If students develop good study skills and manage their time wisely, she said, everything else should fall into place.

Cotton pickin' Razorbacks

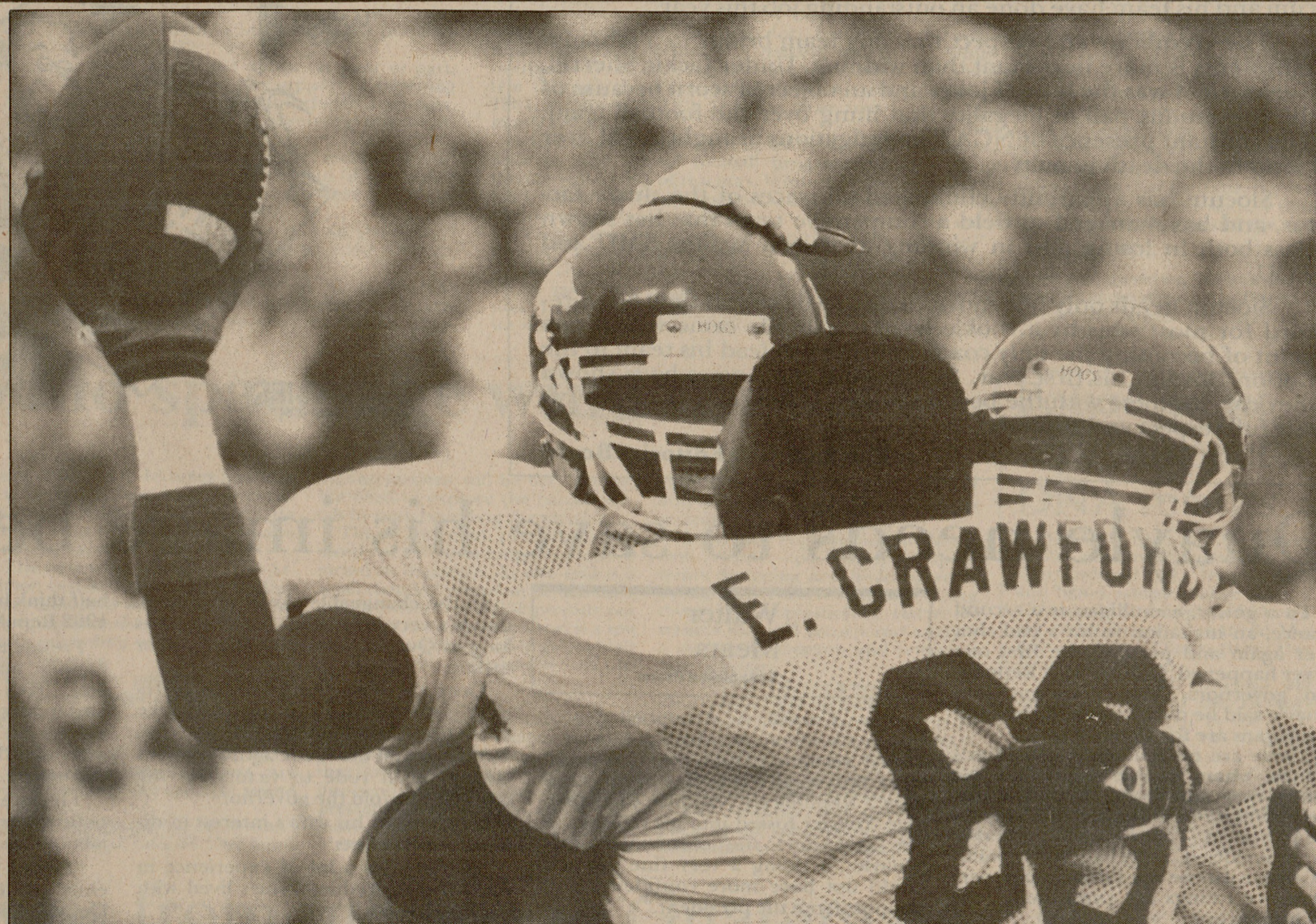


Photo by Jay Janner

Razorback cornerback Anthony Cooney(left) celebrates with teammates after intercepting a Lance Pavlas pass in the A&M-

Arkansas game Saturday. The interception sealed the Hogs' victory and helped earn them a trip to the Cotton Bowl.

MSC Hospitality lights up holidays

By Michelle Boyd

Special to *The Battalion*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with the help of MSC Hospitality.

"Holiday Happenings," a week-long program beginning today, will promote a holiday spirit for students, faculty and staff, said Liz Tisch, holiday program executive. The week's events will include a tree lighting ceremony, fashion show, noonday programs and an arts and crafts show.

The noonday programs begin today with the tree-lighting ceremony from 12 to 1 p.m. in the MSC flag room. Tisch said. Student organizations will decorate the tree and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, will light it.

A fashion show, sponsored by Bridal Boutique, will follow the ceremony. Hospitality members will model evening wear and tuxedos for

the holiday season.

From Tuesday to Friday, the noonday programs in the flag room will feature area choirs. Allen Academy Choir will perform Tuesday, Century Singers on Wednesday, Women's Chorus on Thursday and Voices of Praise on Friday.

An arts and craft show will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the Rudder Exhibit Hall. The show will include crafts from Aggie Mom's Clubs and various independent craft dealers throughout Texas. Tisch said Christmas and Hanukkah gifts and gift ideas will be available.

"The craft show gives students the chance to buy gifts or get ideas for the holiday season, particularly since finals will be so close," she said.

Hospitality members will set up a booth for Christmas cards, postcards and other gifts. The cards and gifts, made by Hospitality members, are part of an annual fundraising project.

A&M to establish AIDS policy

Committee expected to recommend final proposal for President Mobley's approval by end of semester

By Melissa Naumann

Of *The Battalion* Staff

The AIDS epidemic is not being ignored at Texas A&M.

A committee to establish A&M's policy on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been working since May 1988 to outline a plan to educate students, faculty and staff about AIDS.

Former A&M President Frank Vandiver appointed the committee to do three things: recommend the adoption of a general statement on A&M's response to AIDS, recommend policy and procedural guidelines relating to the specific is-

suues involving AIDS and promote educational programming to the University community.

The committee, chaired by Dr. Jerry Gaston, associate provost, has continued to work under President William Mobley.

The committee probably will present him with a final proposal before the end of this semester.

Although the policy is not in final

form to present to Mobley, one part of it has been put into action.

Two sections of the University Rules and Regulations have been adapted to include the term "sexual orientation."

"Students shall be treated on an equal basis in all areas and activities of the University, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or educationally unrelated handicaps," the

1989-90 regulations read.

The regulations on page 31 regarding student life were changed also, defining sexual harassment as ranging from "unthinking and often verbal denigration of a person on the basis of gender or sexual orientation to actual physical assault."

Another committee proposal, which will not require presidential approval, will be the establishment of a new one-hour course on social diseases.

Bentsen, Vandiver featured at meeting to charter state space grant consortium

UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

AUSTIN - The two-day charter meeting for the Texas Space Grant Consortium begins here Tuesday and will be highlighted by addresses from Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and Texas A&M University President Emeritus Frank E. Vandiver, originator of the Space Grant Program concept five years ago.

Bentsen and Vandiver are credited with most of the responsibility for establishment of the national program of new space-related education and research.

The Texas Space Grant Consortium — consisting of 21 universities, two state agencies and 18 aerospace or research organizations — was one of 17 such groups established nationally in August.

Bentsen will speak at 4 p.m. in Bass Lecture Hall of Sid Richardson Hall at the University of Texas at Austin, and Vandiver will speak at 8:30 p.m. at the Radisson Plaza Hotel.

Other agenda items for the meeting are a Texas Space Grant status report and a report from the National Aeronautic and Space Administration on its perspective of the national program which NASA will administer.

Under provisions of the program, both Texas A&M and UT hold the title of Space Grant College and share the consortium leadership by virtue of past records in space-related research and number of graduate degrees in related fields.

The Space Grant Program director's office is located at UT while the consortium's board of directors is headed by a Texas A&M representative.

Also attending the meeting from Texas A&M will be Oran Nicks, chairman of the board of directors of the Texas consortium and director of the campus' Space Research Center.

Associate consortium director Dr. Sallie V. Shepard, associate provost for honors programs and undergraduate studies, also will attend the meeting.

Carbon monoxide deaths appear accidental

By Julie Myers

Of *The Battalion* Staff

A Texas A&M student and a Cedar Park woman died in a College Station home Friday after being overcome by carbon monoxide fumes from an unventilated gas heater.

Police said Allen Ludwig Jr., 22, a senior civil engineering major from San Antonio, and Stephanie Beach, 21, were found dead in a bedroom of the home by Ludwig's roommate around 1:25 p.m. Friday.

Preliminary cause of death for

both has been listed as carbon monoxide poisoning. The deaths are being treated as accidental, but partial autopsies were ordered to determine the exact cause of death.

Authorities said the carbon monoxide probably backed up into the room from a closed vent hood on a gas heater. Bryan Fire Department officials registered readings of more than 300 parts per million near the bedroom where the bodies were found. The Environmental Protection Agency allows a maximum carbon monoxide level of 50 parts per million in the workplace.

Services for Ludwig will be held

Tuesday at 10 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic Church in San Antonio.

Services for Beach will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Schmidt Funeral Home in Brookshire.

Bus passes

Shuttle bus passes for the spring semester can be picked up at the Parking Transit and Traffic Service Booth in Rudder starting today. Bus passes are \$50 per semester, and students can pay for them through registration fee options or at the booth.



Home sweet home

Derek Spears, a senior electrical engineering major, pops a movie into his VCR as he camps out in front of G. Rollie White. Spears

Photo by Kathy Haveman

pitched a tent at 2 a.m. Saturday in order to get tickets for the A&M-Texas game. Senior tickets will be distributed today.