



TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Cold and cloudy.
HIGH: 60 LOW: 47

Survey says. . . Students give opinions about MSC expansion

By STACY E. ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

A majority of Texas A&M students agree with expansion of the Memorial Student Center but disagree with the loss of green space it will cause, an A&M poll found.

A random telephone poll of 350 students was conducted by Student Government to find out student feelings on the issue.

"Overall, we found that students are in favor of the expansion, but they feel there is a better way to go about it," Brad Hampton, a freshman in the Student Senate, said.

Hampton said students were split down the middle when asked if expanding the MSC outweighed the loss of grass and trees.

Student Body President Kevin Buchman said that two-thirds of the students polled did not feel that the administration had adequately informed the students about the expansion and that construction should be delayed.

"It seems to me that at this point in time the students have had plenty of time to become informed about

the issue," Buchman said. "The students can only hold the administration and the media at fault to a certain extent because every effort has been made to disseminate information concerning the expansion."

Freshman Senator Mike Pinkus said he felt the survey was a positive thing.

"This survey brought out the actual feelings of the student body to Student Government and the administration," Pinkus said. "It showed us that there was a definite breakdown in communication between the administration and the student body."

Pinkus said the Student Senate is working on a bill to form a committee to study expansion and construction in the future so that a problem in communication will not occur again.

"In the end, whether or not to delay the expansion is all up to the Board of Regents," Pinkus said. "If they don't delay the expansion, at least (the survey) will open people's eyes so that a breakdown in communication like this will not occur in the future."



Photo by Jay Janner

Grounds Maintenance worker George Jewell trims one of the trees near the MSC Thursday, preparing it for transplantation.

Blocked freshmen should sign TASP Test statement

By SELINA GONZALEZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M freshmen who were blocked from pre-registration for the spring semester because they didn't take the new state Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) Test will get more than just one break this Christmas.

Amnesty will be granted to students who haven't taken the exam, Pam Kibler, professional counselor for the TASP test, said. Students must report to the Academic Skills Program Office during the week of Dec. 11-15 or Jan. 2-15 to sign a statement indi-

ating that they intend to take the TASP test on Feb. 24.

Kibler said the statement is required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and must be signed before the registration block can be removed. Blocks will be moved after Jan. 7.

All college-level courses for the Spring 1990 semester will be dropped from the students' schedules if they fail to comply with the statement, she said.

Kibler said students would be unable to enroll in any Texas public institution of higher education until the TASP test is taken.

Kibler said freshmen students are blocked from registration due to one of these reasons:

- The student didn't take the TASP test.
- The student took the TASP test on Nov. 18 and the University hasn't received the scores.
- The student took the TASP test before Nov. 18 and did not instruct National Evaluation Systems Inc. to report the scores to A&M.

If the freshman took the exam on Nov. 18, the University expects to receive the results during mid-December, Kibler said. At

that time, the student will be unblocked from registration if all three sections — reading, writing and math — were passed.

If students fail one of the sections, she said, they must report to the Academic Skills Program Office starting Jan. 3. to be unblocked and enrolled in recommended developmental courses for the Spring 1990 semester.

Developmental classes, which count as three-hour credit courses, have been a success this first semester, she said.

If the student took the test but didn't have results sent to the University, Kibler

said, the Academic Skills Program Office needs to be contacted.

Kibler said students who are blocked will receive a letter by mail explaining which course of action to take.

"The newness of the program has resulted in a lack of education this semester," Kibler said.

The future testing dates are Feb. 24, April 28, June 30, Sept. 22 and Nov. 17.

The official TASP Test Registration Bulletins will be available before Christmas in the Academic Skills Office located in 305 Academic. For further information call 845-2568 or 845-6892.

Group obtains Soviet sister city for B-CS

By NADJA SABAWALA
Of The Battalion Staff

The twin cities Bryan and College Station soon will be getting a sister.

In the true spirit of *glasnost*, the Soviet city of Kazan opened its doors to receive Bryan-College Station as its "sister city."

The Bryan-College Station Sister City Associa-

tion, formed in 1987, fosters international relationships between citizens on a city-to-city basis. Its main purpose is to promote an exchange of people with a desire to learn and experience life in other countries.

Because of the unique relationship between Texas A&M and the surrounding area, the association wanted to choose a city with similar traits.

College Station Mayor Larry Ringer said one of the reasons the association selected Kazan is because it is home to Kazan State University, the third-largest university in the Soviet Union.

"The hope would be that perhaps the universities could work some type of agreement where

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Research unit created to examine health care

By STACY E. ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

The American health care industry must be improved, and a new research unit in the Texas A&M College of Medicine has been established to study the problem, the director of the unit said.

The College of Medicine's Institute for Health Care Evaluation was approved by the Board of Regents Monday.

Dr. William Gold, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at A&M and director of the research unit, said the unit will study the quality, access, utilization and effectiveness of health care in America.

"The American public is being underserved by the health care industry," Gold said. "Today, one in four Americans do not receive adequate health care and it is quickly approaching one in three. In order to assess appropriate needs, we need to research and understand access to care."

— Dr. William Gold, Associate professor

At this time, the unit's headquarters are at Scott & White Hospital in Temple, but the location will change depending on the type of research conducted. Gold said the unit will provide a forum or structure for

hospitals throughout the nation to perform research and health services.

Gold is in the process of appointing his staff, which will consist of specialists in the different fields to be studied.

"With A&M's strong support and the talent found at A&M, Scott & White and Darnell Army Hospital, this unit has been given a very unique opportunity to study a variety of patients in many different areas," he said.

Merry Christmas to Coffeehouse

A&M Psychology Club hosts party for local MHMR program

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Psychology Club hoped to brighten a few spirits this Christmas season by hosting a party complete with Santa for the clients of Coffeehouse.

Coffeehouse is a program op-

erated by the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Brazos Valley for adults who suffer from some type of persistent mental illness.

The program, which operates out of a home in Bryan, teaches the adults vocational and social skills in the hopes of returning them to everyday society.

The Psychology Club, which has hosted the Christmas party for three years, interacts with Coffeehouse for two reasons, Kim Hunt, club president, said.

"Several of us volunteer here because it gets us exposed to a clinical population," Hunt, a junior psychology major from Greenville, said. "But it's also important that the members of Coffeehouse not feel isolated, which too often they are."

The psychosocial program, as it is formally called, used to operate out of the Mary Lake Complex, but when the home in Bryan was purchased almost four years ago, the program grew to its current size of about 50.

When the program moved to the home, the adults nicknamed the house Coffeehouse, and now it is more commonly called that in the Bryan-College Station community.

The adults are placed in one of three types of vocational units, which are cooking, clerical work and janitorial and yard maintenance. The members show up at Coffeehouse every morning to work in their units under a supervisor from MHMR.

"It gives these people a lot of satisfaction and confidence to know that they can do things that other people will enjoy," Velasquez said. "It helps their spirits."

But the coordinators of Coffeehouse aim to teach the adults more than a job skill. Lawrence Harris, a psychosocial coordinator with MHMR, said he teaches the adults job interview skills, socialization skills, and basic living skills so their transition to regular society won't be so rough.

Velasquez admits, however, that not everyone who is active in Coffeehouse is capable of living alone in society.

"There is no time limit on how long people can participate," she said. "A lot of it depends on how serious their illness is. Some come through here, go through training, locate jobs and leave. But others that are more serious just enjoy the work and being able to get out and do things, and they stay happy."

Velasquez, who calls on other A&M clubs and organizations frequently for volunteer work, said activities like the Christmas party make the adults at Coffeehouse not feel so forgotten.

"These parties are really fun for them," she said. "They enjoy interacting with college kids. It helps them to know that people still care."



Photo by Jay Janner

Psychology club member Laura Rodriguez (right) dances with a Coffeehouse resident during the Christmas party Tuesday.

Secretary of Education to address graduates

U.S. Secretary of Education Lauro F. Cavazos will address some Texas A&M degree recipients and their guests at commencement ceremonies Dec. 15 and 16.

Cavazos will address everyone receiving graduate degrees, and those receiving undergraduate degrees from the Colleges of Engineering, Science and Veterinary Medicine at 2 p.m. Dec. 15.

Singapore's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Tommy T.B.

Koh, will speak to undergraduate degree candidates from the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business Administration and Geosciences at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 15.

The president of the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce, Eileen T. Crowley, will address undergraduate degree candidates from the colleges of Architecture, Education, Liberal Arts and Texas A&M at Galveston at 9 a.m. Dec. 16.