

Allergy attack

Arm yourself against allergy symptoms.

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Keeping a cool head

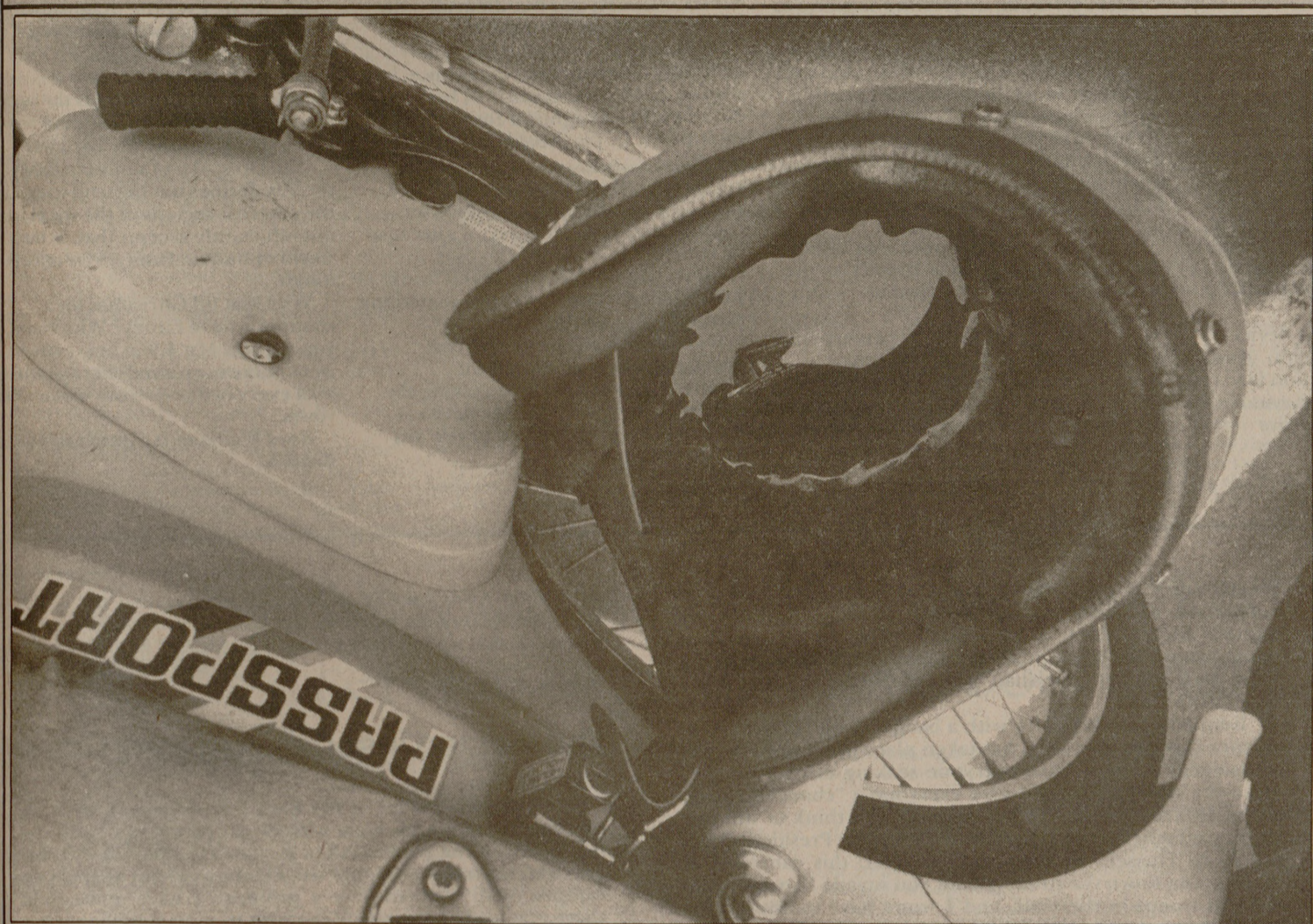


Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Thanks to the rain on Wednesday, the owner of this scooter parked by the Bus Stop Snack Bar got a helmet full of water.

Faculty loses interest money

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M faculty members contributing to the Optional Retirement Program could be losing thousands of dollars in interest during their careers because of the budget and payroll office's procedures.

Faculty members participating in the ORP contribute part of their paycheck to a retirement fund with their insurance company. The University's budget and payroll office, however, mails the checks to the insurance carriers for faculty.

The problem for many faculty members is that they get paid on the first day of the month, but their retirement contributions are not being received by insurance carriers until the middle of the month.

This means faculty members are losing as much as two to three weeks of interest every month in their retirement accounts, which could add up to thousands of dollars during a 20- to 30-year career.

Dr. Charles Zucker, director of the Texas Faculty Association, has studied the problem at A&M and blames the payroll office for making late payments and losing interest earnings for faculty.

"There is no excuse for late

payments," Zucker says. "The A&M administration has offered a number of excuses. They say the institution is too complex to do it any quicker, or they say they have too many retirement carriers to deal with, or that it would cost too much to fix the problem."

"But the problem must be fixed," he says. "The administration has just not made it a high enough priority."

Thomas Taylor, A&M's controller, says the administration is looking into changing the present procedures, but he is convinced they are working fine now.

"I am convinced that under existing procedures we're getting the checks in the mail in a timely fashion," he says.

Taylor, who says retirement contributions from A&M faculty are put in the mail within days after payday, blames some delay on insurance carriers.

The potential losses for faculty members are significant, Zucker says. A faculty member earning \$40,000 over a 30-year period would lose about \$9,000 in potential interest earnings, according to some of Zucker's calculations.

Dr. Benton Storey, a former chairman and present member of the Faculty Senate Personnel and Welfare Committee, says the committee passed a resolution

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Students, faculty adjust to smoking policy

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Smokers on the Texas A&M campus should make sure they're in a designated smoking area before lighting their next cigarette.

In an attempt to create a smoke-free public environment, a smoking policy was approved September 1989.

But many A&M students are not sure where they can and cannot smoke.

Jayda Bowden, a freshman biochemistry genetics major, said she wasn't sure where she could smoke when she first arrived at A&M.

"I got caught smoking in the bathroom and hallway of my residence hall," she says. "My resident adviser gave me a verbal warning and told me not to smoke there again. Now I smoke in my room with the window open."

Curtis Graff, a senior environmental design major and a resident adviser in Walton Hall, said he has encountered few problems with residents who smoke in his ramp.

"They (the residents) pretty much



Graphic by Jayme Blaschke

abide by the smoking policy," he says.

The smoking policy prohibits smoking in the following areas:

- academic areas
- conference rooms
- office reception areas
- common/public areas — i.e., restrooms and stairwells
- all University vehicles in which one person is a non-smoker

Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services, chaired the smoking policy committee.

"I think the committee took a very realistic approach in attempting to take in consideration individuals' needs and yet relate to a more smoke-free campus," Koldus said.

Koldus, who stopped smoking in 1983, said he was able to look at the issue from the perspective of a smoker and a non-smoker.

Tom Murray, associate director of student affairs and a member of the committee, said they tried to be understanding when dealing with smokers, especially those living in residence halls.

"We leave it up to each residence hall's council to determine if and where the smoking and non-smoking areas are going to be," he says.

The residence hall policy on smoking states: "Smoking is confined to individual students' rooms and those areas designated by the residence hall council as smoking area(s)."

Smoking is not permitted in laundry rooms or study carrels unless specifically designated.

The Housing Office tries to place smokers as roommates to eliminate conflicts.

"I tend to think there should be a smoking area in every residence hall," Murray says.

Murray, who is a smoker, noted there is not a smoking area in the YMCA Building where he works.

"Before the sanctions, I was able to smoke in my office," he says. "Now, I think twice before I smoke because it means I have to go outside and brave the heat or rain."

Building proctors in conjunction with appropriate unit heads may establish appropriate smoking areas.

Javier Cuellar, a junior business major, says he disagrees with the smoking policy.

"I think I should be able to smoke in class as long as I'm not blowing smoke directly into someone's face," he says.

Graff says he has accepted the smoking policy.

"I wouldn't want someone to spit in my face, so I respect the smoking policy," he says.

The smoking policy relies on the consideration and cooperation of smokers and non-smokers for its success.

A&M Democrats focus on strategy

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M Democrats need to develop a strategy to overcome Texas A&M's anticipated straight Republican vote if they wish to get anything accomplished in the next few years, Judge Sarah Ryan said.

Ryan, who is running for judge for 2nd County Court-at-Law and Mary Ann Ward, Democratic candidate for Brazos County Clerk, spoke to the Aggie Democrats Wednesday night.

"As a candidate, I can tell you that (the straight Republican vote) is my single greatest fear," Ryan said.

"This year, more than any other year, the Democrats are going to have to work real hard, not only in town, but also on campus to prevent this from happening, particularly with Claytie staring us in the face."

Ryan said one way to crack the Republican straight ticket vote is to create some basis of identity between the individual candidate, regardless of party affiliation, and the voter.

She said that in this case, the voters are Republican students on the A&M campus.

Ryan, who is a Bryan Municipal Judge, said the 2nd County Court at Law is the second highest level of trial courts in the state system.

"About 68 percent of the cases that the court hears are criminal and juvenile law, and 27 percent of the cases relate to family issues," she said.

Ryan said her experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense lawyer has prepared her for the position.

Ward said she also is well prepared for the position she is seeking.

Ward has worked in the Brazos County Clerk's Office for 17 years.

"We are the official record keepers of Brazos County," she said. "We have records that date back to 1842 in our office."

Ward pledged to continue the successful policies established by retiring County Clerk Frank Boriskie if she's elected to office.

"This (Brazos County Clerk's Office) is my life," Ward said.

Student group proposes recycling plan

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

If Texas A&M students had recycled the 3,045,120 aluminum cans of soft drinks bought from vending machines around campus last year, they would have profited over \$44,000.

Concerned about this enormous amount of wasted money, A&M student Mark Cervenk, with the support of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition, drafted a campus-wide recycling proposal to stop students from throwing away products that, if recycled, could bring in \$1,600 a week to A&M.

Cervenk announced his official proposal that was originally initiated by the Office of the Vice President for Finance and Administration to student leaders and

members of TEAC Wednesday night.

"I want to show the Texas A&M administration that if they follow this program, the University can cut down the cost of supplies when recycling and buying recycled items," he said.

Each of the four phases of the recycling proposal must be accomplished before reaching a smooth process of recycling on campus.

Cervenk said phase one consists of placing distinguishable bins around campus strictly for aluminum cans. Various student groups will be asked to maintain these bins.

During phase two and phase three, different recycling methods will be tested. If the transitions between the previous phases run successfully, TEAC then will add different products to be recycled.

Independent candidate encourages area voters to focus on environment

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

Congressional hopeful Michael Worsham took his environmentally based platform Wednesday to a group of A&M Consolidated High School students, many of whom are too young to vote for him.

Worsham, a Texas A&M graduate student in civil engineering, is hoping enough people in the 6th Congressional District write in his name as an independent candidate in November to earn a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The 29-year-old New York native spent Wednesday at A&M Consolidated speaking to and fielding questions from seniors in government classes about his stand on the environment, nuclear energy, recycling and taxes.

Worsham said the primary reason he is running for the House is because he said incumbent Republican Joe Barton has ignored environmental issues during his term and Democratic opponent John Welch has not run a serious campaign.

Worsham, in contrast to Barton, strongly opposes use of nuclear energy.

"I'm against nuclear plants because there is nothing to do with the radioactive waste," he said. "You can recycle or compost some waste, but radioactive waste is forever."

The Comanche Peak nuclear power plant in Glen Rose and the Superconducting Super Collider

project in Waxahachie, which will generate low-level waste, are in the same congressional district as Brazos County.

Worsham said he wants better conservation of oil and other fossil

fuels until another energy source, like solar power, is refined.

He said solar power should be cheaper by the end of the decade

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Success of coed hall visitation policy attributed to roommate contracts

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

The new 24-hour visitation policy for Southside coed halls is going smoothly, with much success attributed to roommate contracts, Wells Hall President Andrea Maisonneuve says.

Each resident must sign a contract after roommates agree on preferred private times for studying and sleeping, Maisonneuve says.

"The hall councils designed a roommate contract, and what it does is open a line of communication

where roommates must specify times when they don't want visitors," she says. "Without the contract, roommates wouldn't talk about it."

Maisonneuve adds that conflicts occurring from failure to reach a compromise will be handled through resident advisers, like any other roommate problem.

Wells Hall resident Joel Ehrlich, a sophomore biochemistry major, says he and his roommate are happy with the 24-hour visitation right.

"I think the idea of a contract is good but it is too open-ended," he says. "Although my roommate and I don't have problems respecting each

others' privacy, there will be roommate conflicts, no doubt about that."

Maisonneuve says that so far she has not received any complaints. She also says this is true of other resident advisers in Wells Hall.

Jeromy Hollenshead, vice president of Wells Hall, says the only complaints he hears are from a few hall councils that say the 24-hour visitation policy should not be limited to coed halls.

"Any hall can draft a proposal," he says. "It was just easier to pass for Eppright and Wells because it

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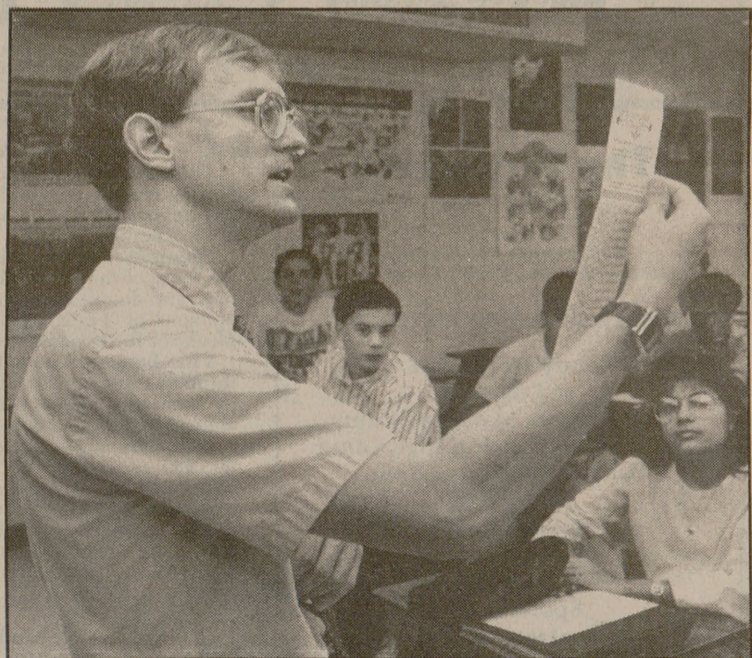


Photo by Jay Janner

Michael Worsham