

Wednesday, September 26, 1990

'Take Charge of Your Health' Health fair exhibitors will provide information, medical testing service

By JAMES M. LOVE
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students and faculty have an opportunity to collect information on health-related topics, issues and services provided by student organizations and community groups during today's Health and Wellness Fair.

The Department of Student Health Services will present "Take Charge of Your Health" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the MSC's first-floor walkway and in the Flagroom.

More than 40 exhibitors will cover areas such as nutrition, AIDS, fitness, safety and substance abuse.

The A.P. Beutel Health Center will have nurses available to provide free services such as blood pressure checks, S-Peak flow meters, blood typing, blood glucose levels, ham-

string tightness tests, scoliosis screening, nutrition counseling and height and weight checks.

Samples of skin creams, pain medication and athlete's foot powder also will be offered free of charge.

Cholesterol checks, however, will be \$5, and Coronary Risk Profiles will cost \$6.

Dr. Erika Gonzalez-Lima, health education coordinator, encourages everyone to participate in the fair.

"If anyone has any questions about diseases or health in general, this is a good place to come and ask," she says.

Voices of Praise, a student singing group, will perform in the Flagroom at 11:45 a.m., followed by an address by Mark Johnson, A&M head baseball coach.

In the MSC dining area, the American Heart Association Food Services will host a demonstration of

healthy foods.

"The dietary menu will be there in order to show healthy food can be low in cholesterol, low in calories, and low in fat and still have taste," Gonzalez-Lima says. "Not everything that tastes good has to be a hamburger."

"We just want to show some good-tasting alternatives to junk food."

Andrea Beshara, graduate assistant and coordinator of the fair, says this is the second time the A.P. Beutel Health Center has hosted this event.

She says the fair used to be during the spring and was organized by the Department of Student Affairs.

"We moved the fair from the spring semester up to the fall in order to address the new students and freshmen who may not be aware of all the health services and facilities on campus," she says.

Poor districts win decision, get no money

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Plaintiffs in a landmark education finance lawsuit rejoiced Tuesday in another legal victory and accused state leaders of "playing chicken" with school children.

"Unfortunately, so far I don't think they've taken us seriously," plaintiffs attorney Al Kauffman said. "We're tired of the Legislature and the governor playing chicken with the children in poor districts."

State District Judge Scott McCown in Austin ruled Tuesday that the \$14 billion-a-year school finance system remains unconstitutional despite new measures the Texas Legislature passed this year.

McCown deferred ordering immediate changes and gave lawmakers until Sept. 1, 1991, to act. The Legislature convenes in regular session in January.

Last October, the Texas Supreme Court ruled unanimously in Edgewood vs. Kirby that the state's education finance system is unconstitutional and discriminates against students in property-poor districts.

Kauffman and Edgewood Superintendent James Vasquez promised Tuesday to keep fighting until education equity is achieved, no matter how long it takes.

"It's been a long one, it's going to continue and so far we've won the major battles," Kauffman said. "The war is not over, though, until we get long-term equality for every student in the state of Texas."

State attorneys said Texas will appeal the Tuesday ruling. Kauffman said he did not know whether the plaintiffs also would appeal on the grounds that the judge provided for no monetary relief until at least next year.

Vasquez said he sometimes wonders whether he'll see the end of the legal fight in his lifetime. The battle began in the late 1960s with another lawsuit filed by an Edgewood parent.

It's a tragedy that it takes the judiciary to tell the legislature what it's supposed to do, Vasquez said.

OCA desires unity in Aggie Olympics

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

Come rain or shine, Texas A&M students will gather at Duncan Field to participate in Saturday's fifth annual Aggie Olympics.

Off Campus Aggies is hosting yet another Aggie Olympics where teams of various student organizations will compete for the first-place trophy.

Caroline Keetter, a junior English major and OCA director of special projects, says teams will participate in 12 competitive games. The sports will range from an all-American softball game to the vigorous sport of "pantyhose polo."

"The olympics will be a giant 'fun day' where different organizations will get to know each other," Keetter says. Teams include the Corps of

Cadets, Residence Hall Association, Student Government and many more.

The events start at 9:30 a.m. and last until 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for athletes.

Keetter says OCA is trying to accomplish several goals during the annual olympics.

"We want to accomplish campus unity," she says. "Something like this can introduce you to many people and you get to learn about organizations you didn't even know about."

Although the title of being first place is desired by teams, participants will be recognized for their efforts with plaques and certificates, she says.

Anyone interested in participating in Aggie Olympics can call the OCA office, 845-0688. Spot openings are limited and there will be a \$1 charge per participant for lunch.

BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can leave a message on BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

Richards promises no income tax, greater insurance industry regulation

DALLAS (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ann Richards promised about 150 retired citizens Tuesday she would support broader insurance benefits and never turn to a state income tax to increase state revenues.

Richards, speaking at a political forum sponsored by the American Association of Retired Persons in Arlington, said she supports better regulation of the insurance industry which can be confusing to seniors.

"It's about time to have a governor as concerned with buying insurance as selling insurance," Richards told the group.

"We're not asking for a handout," said Richards, 57. "We're just asking for what is rightfully ours."

Richards said a state income tax is "out of the question" to increase state

revenues. She said she'll turn instead to oil and gas earnings, which are expected to rise because of the Persian Gulf conflict.

If a lottery failed to pass the Legislature, Richards said she would consider raising the state franchise tax, which companies pay based on their annual capital.

Gordon Hensley, a spokesman for GOP candidate Clayton Williams said Richards' focus on the franchise tax is "anti-business."

He said crime-fighting is the biggest promise Williams has made to retired citizens.

"The elderly need to have the safety so they can walk outside," Hensley said. "Williams has committed to beefing up law enforcement agencies. Ann Richards has not."

Correction

A story in Monday's issue of The Battalion incorrectly quoted a Texas A&M professor who spoke Friday during a graduate study seminar.

In response to a comment from an audience member, Dr. Nabil Safwat said if the United States was against aggression, it would not have invaded Panama.

The Battalion regrets the error.

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