

A&M offers new minor in religious studies

Continued from page 1
 about religion must be followed, he said.
 "We are not preaching, and we are not pushing one religion over the other," he said. "If we were going to do that, we would be in trouble because this is a public institution."
 Dr. Richard Stadelmann, associate professor in philosophy and humanities, said A&M students could take religious studies courses off campus and receive credit at the University 30

years ago.
 A&M dropped the courses because they were taught by pastors and ministers from the community churches, he said.
 One pastor even gave students an "A" if they were baptized at the end of the semester, Stadelmann said.
 He said this practice was considered illegal because it was violating the separation of church and state.
 Stadelmann said colleges can teach religion but only as an objective discipline and the off-

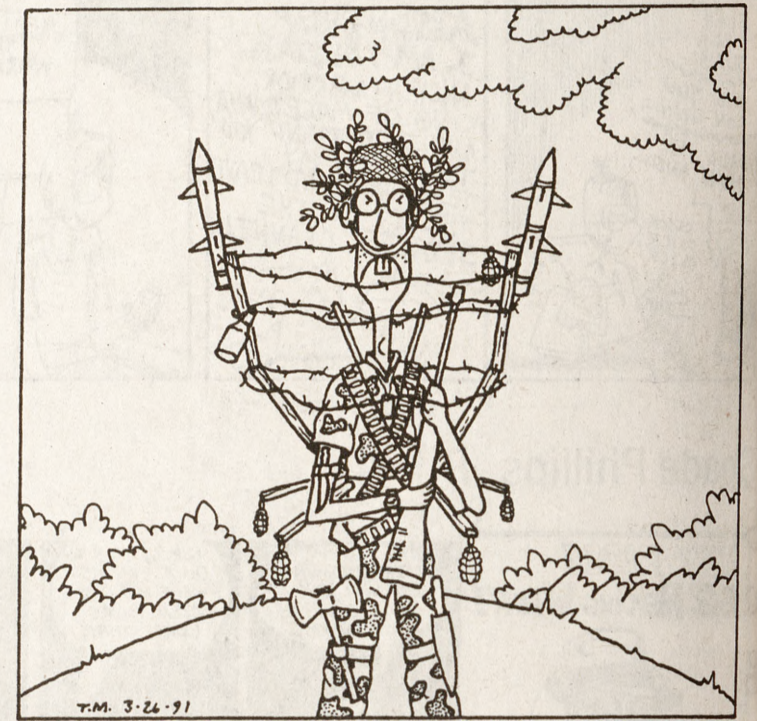
campus courses taught by ministers were not considered objective.
 "We did not accept these courses taught off campus on the grounds they were illegal," Stadelmann said. "A&M also dropped the courses because of the tremendous difference in quality of the courses."
 For a period of 10 years, there were no religious courses at A&M. But over the years, A&M started to add religious courses, beginning with Indian and Oriental Religions in the philoso-

phy department, Stadelmann said.
 Other courses added were Near Eastern Religions, The Old Testament and Sociology of Religion. The New Testament also was offered in the philosophy department, and the Bible as Literature was offered in the English department.
 Stadelmann said religious studies at A&M have been opposed in the past because some

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Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



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Berlanga gives records

AUSTIN (AP) — An influential state lawmaker Monday rendered records to a grand jury investigating alleged influence peddling at the Capitol, officials said.

Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, fought the grand jury subpoena for nearly two weeks.

Budget problems force summer courses cut

Continued from page 1
 seniors in liberal arts.
 They tried to not cut courses crucial to graduating seniors in other colleges.
 They tried to cut sections in courses with multiple sections before they cut entire courses.
 Minor consideration was given to new faculty expecting to work this summer, Fallon said. Also, courses were cut on the basis of how much revenue the college would gain by cutting them.
 "We made sure we were recovering a significant amount of funds," he said.
 Fallon said although he was not sure they made the best decisions about which courses to cut, they did the best they could on short notice.

A&M administrators learned two weeks ago they would have to return \$3.2 million, or about 1.5 percent of the total state appropriations and revenues of \$209 million.
 Individual colleges were not given their shares of the cut until the beginning of last week, Fallon said.
 He said that during the next few weeks the liberal arts college would comb its budget to look for additional financial resources to open more class sections. But, he said the college wanted to make sure students did not sign up for courses that would be cut.
 A&M President William Mobley said summer programs always have been a challenge and the administration would try to

accommodate as many students as possible.
 The liberal arts and science colleges were hurt the most by cuts because they provide the majority of core curriculum courses, or courses taken by non-majors, he said.
 He said the administration would try later to reopen courses needed by the most students.
 "We'll know more later in the week as we see the demand," Mobley said.
 Sixteen of the 26 sections of public speaking, SCOM 403, were closed, seriously hurting the department's ability to deal with the number of students needing the class, said Dr. Robert

Ivive, head of the speech communications department.
 He said the department has had problems accommodating the number of students needing the class in regular semesters, and the summer situation only makes matters drastically worse.
 Gage said the current budget shortfalls might become worse in the fall, which is also the start of the new fiscal year. Next year's budget will determine the fall schedule, which could include a cutback in offerings and increased class sizes, he said.
 Students concerned about their summer schedules should consult their advisers or departments offering the courses in which they are interested.

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