

Friday, April 19, 1991

The Battalion

'It's a positive attitude' College of Medicine leads in minority recruitments

By Julie Myers
The Battalion

While underrepresentation of minority groups in the health professions continues to be a serious problem, Texas A&M's College of Medicine leads the South in minority recruitment.

The Southern Regional Education Board's Health and Human Services Advisory Commission in Atlanta has identified minority recruitment and retention as one of the top priorities for SREB attention.

The SREB, which includes 15 states in the southern and southeastern United States, conducts surveys and compiles information in areas that interest the board.

A&M's enrollment of minority students has averaged between 13 and 14.4 percent since 1987.

The college's retention rate for minority students is 97 percent. This year's enrollment of 193 students includes six black students and 20 Hispanics, about 13.4 percent.

Filo Maldonado, project director of the college's minority programs, attributes A&M's success to its concentrated recruitment efforts and special programs such as Bridge to Medicine.

In attempting to address the problem, the SREB scrutinizes medical schools in its region that continue to enroll above average numbers of black, Hispanic and native American students.

Hugo Rodriguez Tolentino, a second year medical student from Harlingen, said A&M, more than other universities, has made a commitment to retention.

"This surprised me because A&M is very conservative," Tolentino said. "I can tell by the numbers that A&M is committed to minority recruitment and retention, but I also can tell by the feeling I get here. It's a positive attitude."

Tolentino attended Yale as an undergraduate and applied at several Texas medical schools.

"When someone applies to medical school, they look at the schools that are committed to things they feel strongly about," Tolentino said.

Data provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges indicate the college's enrollment of black and Hispanic student last year was significantly higher than the average recorded by the 45 allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in the region.

David R. Denton, director of Health and Human Services programs for SREB, visited College Station in November to learn more about the college's success in minority medical student recruitment and retention.

"By identifying factors and strategies that have contributed to that success, we hope to be able to develop recommendations to help the states in the region improve minority partici-

pation in all areas of health professions education," Denton said. "We plan to produce a report that will include case studies on each of the schools we visit."

Maldonado said he would like to see the College of Medicine enroll about 20 percent minority students.

The school's administration makes maximum effort to support minority students and create an atmosphere in which the students can succeed, Maldonado said.

Tolentino said minorities in medicine urgently are needed for many reasons.

"My mother prefers to go to a Spanish-speaking doctor," Tolentino said. "And many people in my community do not speak any English at all. It's vital to have Hispanic doctors."

Census figures which show large increases in minority populations also strengthen the need for minority health care workers.

"All Hispanic students I know want to return home to practice," Tolentino said. "When we finish our medical education, it will be time to go back to El Paso, Del Rio, and the Rio Grande Valley."

Minority medical students also want to be role models and good representatives of their schools.

"I want the same opportunity to do for the College of Medicine

See A&M/Page 8



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

H2O is OK

Bridgette Henniger, a sophomore political science major from San Antonio, dips her feet into the H2O-

shaped fountain in front of the Chemistry Building Thursday while enjoying the sunny weather.

Bill provides student lobby

By Mike Luman
The Battalion

Students at Texas universities might pay a new \$1 a semester fee beginning this fall to fund a permanent higher education lobby group in Austin.

The Texas House is expected to approve a bill next week that

will establish the fee and authorize a student lobby base of operations near the state Capitol.

Ty Clevenger, chairman of the Texas Council of Student Body Presidents and author of the bill, said students are not well-represented in the state Legislature.

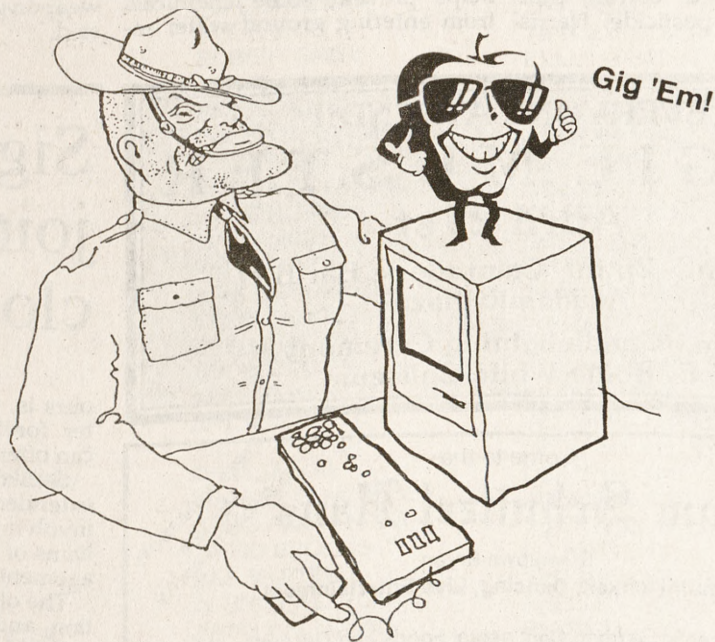
Student leaders need to consolidate lobbying efforts in Austin, Clevenger said.

Because students must attend classes, the lobbying headquarters will be staffed by non-student employees, he said.

"There's a bill everyday in the House that affects our education," Clevenger said. "There's no way we can cover all the bases."

See Fee/Page 4

Give your Collegiate Life
a Successful Edge.
Win a MacIntosh
Computer!



You could win a MacIntosh computer, Panasonic or Teac CD player, or other great prizes!! Entry forms available at Commons, Duncan or Sbis Dining Centers.

Contest begins April 18, 1991
& ends April 29, 1991
Names will be drawn April 30, 1991

For more information, see official rules posted at Commons, Duncan & Sbis Dining Centers.

Contest sponsored by Department of Food Services & Washington State Apple Commission.



End of School Pizza Blow-Out!!

ON CAMPUS SPECIAL

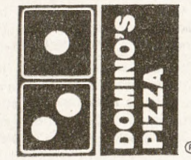
Medium Pepperoni Pizza only

\$5.49 plus tax

Additional medium pepperoni pizzas only \$3.00 each. Order as many as you like.

Special valid only on campus. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 5/31/91. Price does not include sales tax. Delivery areas limited to ensure safe driving.

Southside & Corps
Dorms
693-2335
1504 Holleman



Commons &
Northside
260-9020
4407 S. Texas Ave.

IT'S TIME FOR DOMINO'S PIZZA®

WEEKEND SPECIALS!

Sale ends Saturday, April 20

Southern
Comfort



\$7.99

750 ml 80 proof

Skol Vodka

\$7.99

1.75 L
80 proof



24 Pack - \$7.99
12 Pack - \$3.99

EARTH DAY



Callaway supports environmental sensitivity in our vineyard & throughout the world.

CALLAWAY
VINEYARD & WINERY

Earth Day Specials Good Until Mon Apr. 22

Chardonnay	750 ml	\$6.99
Fume Blanc	750 ml	\$5.59
Chenin Blanc	750 ml	\$4.89
Sauvignon Blanc	750 ml	\$5.59



GOOD
TIMES
LIQUOR

2402 Texas Ave.
(in Kroger Shopping Center)
College Station
693-5428