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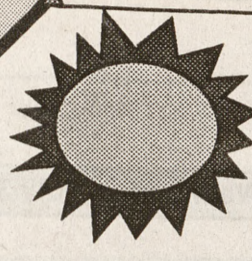
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**FORECAST**



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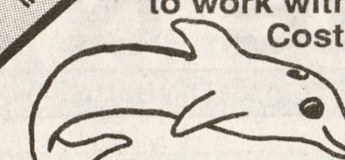
**Opinion**

"Once things settle down in Europe and the Middle East, we will have to face the problems of Latin America once again."  
- Tim Truesdale

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Opportunities for students to work with dolphins in Costa Rica





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Texas pro football preview

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# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 178 USPS 045360 6 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Wednesday, July 31, 1991

## Official recommends standardized policies for transfer of college credits

By Chris Vaughn  
The Battalion

Kelly Rogers took an introductory chemistry course at Tarleton State University a few semesters ago, worked with basic scientific methods, examined chemistry's role in energy and pollution and fully expected the class to be worthwhile.

Texas A&M didn't think so when Rogers transferred here.

A&M did not accept Rogers' chemistry course because it was designed for non-science majors, one of several rules that could change during this session of the Legislature.

Comptroller John Sharp recom-

mended in the Texas Performance Review that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board develop policies to better standardize core curriculum classes among the state's public universities and colleges.

Standardization of core courses will ensure students do not lose credits when they transfer, according to Sharp's report.

"Students are often shocked to learn they cannot always apply their junior college credit hours toward their degrees at senior colleges," stated a press release from Sharp. "Repetition of academic courses is a waste of students' time and taxpayers' money. The state, students and parents are shortchanged

when course work must be duplicated."

A&M officials, however, say they do not make students duplicate courses.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, associate provost, said the University accepts most courses from other schools and students rarely forfeit transfer hours.

But while A&M accepts most transfer hours, many times those hours count for nothing, which is Rogers' situation. He had to take a geology class to fulfill his science requirement after his chemistry class was rejected — a perfect example of duplication, Rogers says.

"It is unnecessary, especially for core courses," Rogers said. "Courses in a person's major, I can understand them

being picky. But core requirements? I think they should all transfer in."

Gaston disagrees.

"A system whereby no student would lose a credit hour would be virtually impossible to achieve," he said. "People change their majors. People 'lose' course credit all the time. But then because of misunderstanding, they go tell their mom they have to take a class again, and you get a lot of myths circulating. It's a much exaggerated problem."

Sharp's office, however, believes cases like Rogers' are duplication.

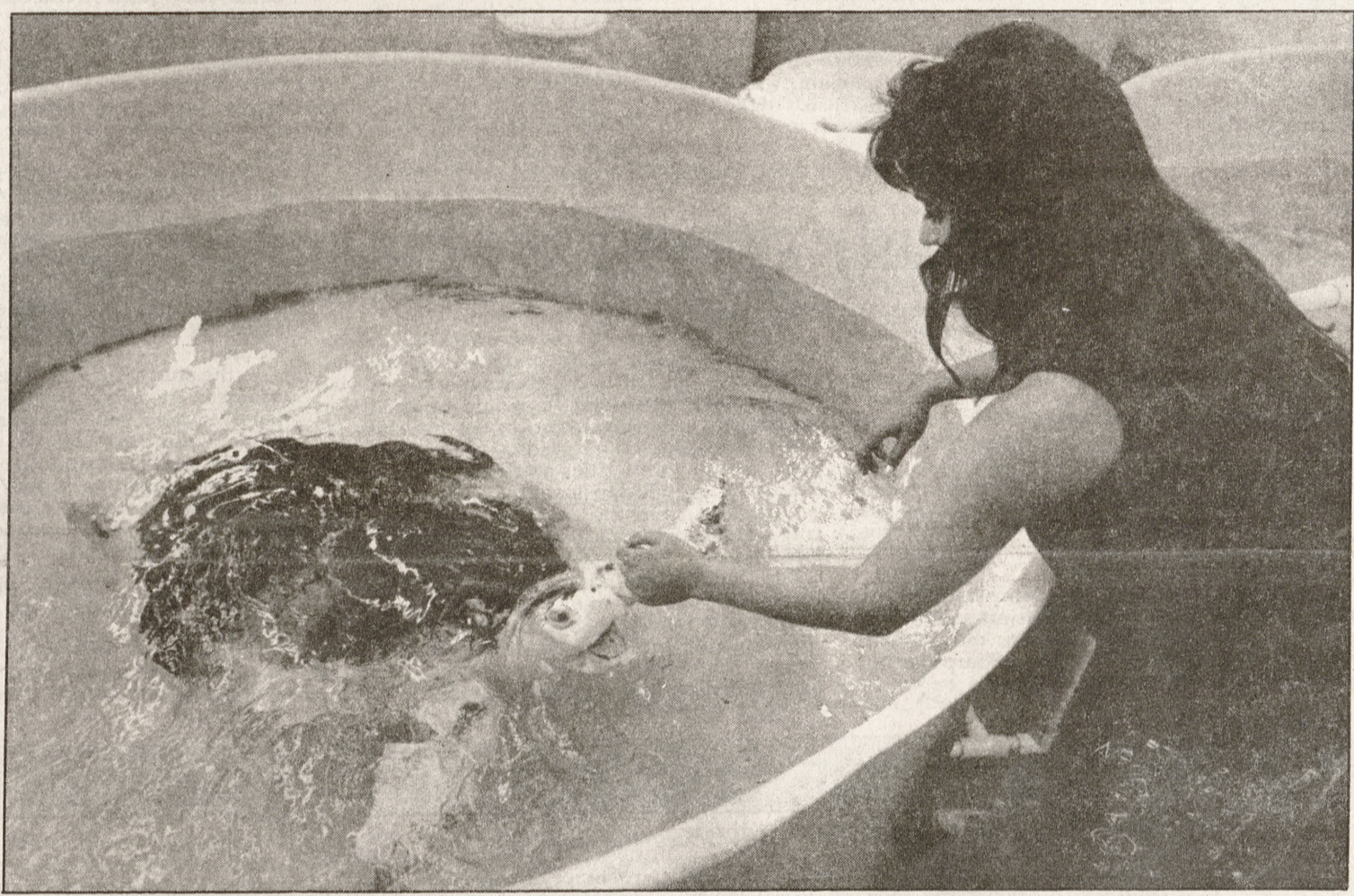
"There is no use in taking a course unless it counts," said Paul Curry, a spokesman in Sharp's office. "If stu-

dents have to take courses over, it is a waste of time and money for students and parents."

It is costly for the state too. The state could save \$14.4 million per year by ensuring transferability among public universities, according to Sharp.

To save this money, the TPR recommends the Higher Education Coordinating Board develop a manual with a list of core curriculum courses, like ENGL 104, POLS 206, CHEM 101, and descriptions of them.

Four-year state schools would then choose 45 hours from that manual, develop their courses according to the guidelines, and therefore, standardize basic college classes.



SONDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

### Does this thing bite?

A. Claire Fernandez, a Zoology major from Harlingen, feeds a male Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle a snack of squid. The turtles are in large tubs on the first floor of the Biological Sciences Building. Fernandez is a student worker who feeds the turtles and cleans and maintains the tanks.

## Students prevail

State Senate approves amendment giving students non-voting seat on Board of Regents

By Greg Mt. Joy  
The Battalion

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said the young people of Texas prevailed Tuesday after an amendment establishing a non-voting student regent passed in the state Senate.

However, the 20-year battle for student representation on state university boards has not ended.

The amendment, as part of an education bill, will now go to a conference committee where differences between House and Senate versions will be ironed out, said the House bill's co-author Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan.

"It's not over yet, but at least we don't disagree with the Senate on the amendment portion of the bill," Ogden said.

House Bill 2 is a comprehensive one, and the bill has a number of provisions differing from the Senate version, he said.

Rob Giesekie, spokesperson for Ogden, said the bill, if signed into law, would take effect Sept. 1 or 90 days after the end of the special session.

Kevin McHargue, spokesperson for Senator Jim Turner, D-Crockett, said the student regent amendment has Gov. Ann Richards' support and should move through the conference committee quickly.

McHargue said the committee will be appointed within a day or two and results could be seen in about two weeks.

Opposition to the bill, especially by long-time student regent foe Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, was severe.

"Sen. Parker was in rare form," McHargue said. "But the argument for the provision was very effective."

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, listed states with and without student regents.

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## Bush proclaims 'new age of promise' to help suffering Soviet economy

MOSCOW (AP) — President Bush pledged coveted trading benefits to the Soviet Union on Tuesday and proclaimed "a new age of promise" as he opened his summit with Mikhail S. Gorbachev. The Soviet leader said the two nations "are beginning to realize we need each other."

Bush's announcement that he would send Congress a long-delayed trade agreement, lowering tariffs on Soviet

goods and putting that nation on an equal footing with the most-favored U.S. allies, capped a day of summit meetings that focused on the battered Soviet economy.

There was controversy, too, provided by Gorbachev's swaggering rival, Boris Yeltsin, and disappointment that the leaders were unable to announce that Israel would join the Mid-

east peace conference they hope to sponsor.

Gorbachev welcomed the trade-status move but also proposed that the United States follow it up by easing Western rules that restrict commerce in high-technology goods.

The first day of the summit wound up with Gorbachev and Bush saluting each other in laudatory toasts at a candle-lit banquet in a richly appointed

ceremonial hall in the Kremlin.

"Our nations' friendship, built on mutual respect and personal trust, is changing the world," Bush told his counterpart.

Earlier in the day at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations, a college for diplomats, Bush warned that "obstacles do remain" in the warming U.S.-Soviet relationship.

"The United States poses no threat

to Cuba, therefore there is no need for the Soviet Union to funnel millions of dollars in military aid to Cuba," Bush said in the speech, which was shown later on Soviet television.

The president said Cuban leader Fidel Castro was "isolated by his own obsolete terrorism. ... Castro does not share your faith in glasnost, Castro does not share your faith in perestroika."

## Amendment unclear to voters

By Melinda Cox  
The Battalion

A proposed state constitutional amendment will keep the tax assessor from your door — that is if you can understand it.

As with most amendments and propositions handed down by the legislature, Proposed Constitutional Amendment No. 1 is difficult for the average person to comprehend.

Mary Ann Ward, Brazos County clerk, said the wording could lead to voter misunderstanding.

"The facts of the amendment are confusing," she said.

The amendment reads, "The constitutional amendment to allow the voters of a county education district to adopt certain exemptions from the district's ad valorem taxation for residence homesteads and to provide for the taxation of certain tangible personal property."

Buddy Winn, tax collector for Brazos County, said the amendment — set for an Aug. 10 ballot — will allow voters in county education districts (CoEds) to exempt themselves from a tax on tangible personal property.

If the amendment is not adopted, then every taxpayer within a CoEd will be subjected to a personal property tax. Winn

said the personal property tax would include belongings such as hair-dryers, cars or boats — any property that doesn't generate revenue.

Merrily More, editor of the property tax legislative summaries, said county education districts are set up through the schools and each school district is located in a CoEd. The CoEd is governed by a board of trustees made up of representatives of the school districts.

Winn said county education districts were set up under Senate Bill 351, the Robin Hood bill, which creates new taxing dis-

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## Approval of spending package by regents restores full accreditation to vet school

By K. Lee Davis  
The Battalion

Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine could regain full accreditation because of the Texas A&M Board of Regents' approval of a \$32 million spending package to upgrade facilities.

The Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) revoked A&M's full accreditation and reduced the vet school to limited accreditation status in November 1988, citing poor facilities as one of the causes.

"That was one of the reasons that this vote was so impor-

tant," said Dr. John Shadduck, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "This means the project can continue."

The project has three components, Shadduck said. The first step is construction of a new large animal teaching hospital, the second is a new research building and the third is remodeling to acquire more space for the existing building.

Shadduck said, however, the new project was not enough to insure that A&M would again receive full accreditation.

"We need two things (to receive full accreditation)," he said. "One is the completion of the project that was just ap-

proved. The other is that our state budget can't be cut."

Shadduck said a Texas Legislature vote last Friday to reduce funding by 10 percent could put the vet medicine program in additional danger.

"We need our improved state budget to be sustained at its current level," he added. "A cut could jeopardize accreditation."

Dr. Edward Ames of the Council on Education of the AVMA could not be reached for comment.

An official with the AVMA confirmed that an on-site

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