



James A. Rhodes Jr., a piano tuner technician from Huntsville, tunes the piano in the flagroom of the MSC. Rhodes also tunes the pianos for special events in Rudder.

MICHAEL MARSHALL/The Battalion

## Troubled doctors plaque public, three state board medical members allege

Practice of licensing physicians facing potential revision by Texas State Board of Medical Examiners

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Three members of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners say the public is not being protected from troubled doctors, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

Dr. Richard Stasney, Cindy Jenkins and Barbara June Coe place the blame for that on the board itself, which acts as judge, jury, stand-in parent and absolver for doctors whose personal and medical practices get them into trouble, the Chronicle reported in a copy-right story.

The 15-member board of medical examiners is made up of nine medical doctors, three doctors of osteopathy and three members of the general public. They decide who should be licensed in the state of Texas and who among the 42,408 doctors with Texas licenses should lose them.

Jenkins said if she were to rewrite the law that governs medical practice in the state, she would remove from its preamble the statement:

"The current system relating to licensing physicians and surgeons is basically a sound, workable system and should be continued."

"It should not be part of the act at this time," she said. "It's not true."

Perhaps the most critical issue is the board's

lack of consensus about what its role should be.

"We are not a disciplinary board," said Dr. Milam Pharo, a former board member. "We are actually a regulatory board."

"Discipline should be in the civil or criminal court. We don't discipline doctors. We are not a penal system. We are a regulatory system."

But Jenkins disagrees.

"Physician discipline should be about 90 percent of what we do," she said. "We don't regulate. Nowhere in the law does it say what a doctor can or can't do."

Such differences of opinion might not make much difference if the whole 15-member board made the majority of decisions. But more than 80 percent of board actions

arise from agreements hashed out in secret between the doctors in question and one or two board members.

The results are seldom ideal, and that draws scorn from Les Weisbrod, a Dallas malpractice attorney.

"Their story is that if we prosecuted them, then the doctors would bring in some slick lawyer and they'd take it to state court, and the whole thing would be reversed. So it's a lot better to just plea bargain with these guys and settle for what we could get."

A Chronicle survey of board orders, minutes of committee meetings and board statistics issued publicly during the past four years shows:

• At least seven convicted felons who came before the board or one of its committees were allowed to practice medicine with some restrictions.

• At least 19 physicians were convicted of felonies or plea bargained to felony charges and, according to board records, are practicing medicine in Texas at this time.

• Doctors who practice substandard care, abuse patients and use drugs and alcohol to excess continue to care for patients, sometimes with no board action and others after receiving little more than a slap on the wrist and a minimal monitoring by a skeleton board staff.

• Complaints against physicians who have been found to provide substandard care by federal, state and private agencies are routinely dismissed.

• Fewer than 8 percent of complaints filed actually result in disciplinary actions.

• Most physicians who are disciplined by the board are placed on probation for five years, during which time they appear at the board office once or twice a year and meet with probation officers no more than once or twice a year.

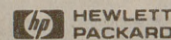
### HP 10B Business Calculator

The best business calculator under \$50.



Come try it today.

HP Calculators — the best for your success.



### Perfect for Fine 341

	LIST	SALE
HP10B	39 <sup>95</sup>	30 <sup>00</sup>

University Bookstores

Northgate 846-4232  
Culpepper 693-9388  
Village 846-4818

3 OFF-CAMPUS STORES

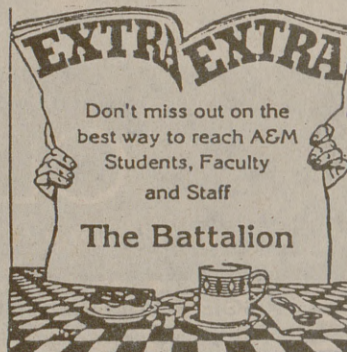
## Kreations by Karen

Karen Bettencourt  
Wedding Coordinator

- Tuxedo Rentals
- Invitations
- Expert Alterations
- Complete line of Wedding Accessories (Shoes, Jewelry, Veils, and more)

822-5790

1710 S. Texas, Bryan  
(In Brazos Business College Strip Center)



Don't miss out on the best way to reach A&M Students, Faculty and Staff

The Battalion

## Tune-Up Special

FREE OIL CHANGE With Purchase of Regular Price Tune-Up with coupon

"NOBODY KNOWS TUNE-UPS LIKE WE DO"

Not good in conjunction with any other coupon/offer. Guaranteed for 12 months or 12,000 miles \*See center manager for details.

PERFORMANCE

OF BRYAN • COLLEGE STATION  
601 HARVEY RD.  
COLLEGE STATION  
(2 BLKS. EAST OF TEXAS AVE.)

\*A poorly-tuned car produces 200 times the harmful emissions of the properly maintained car.

TUNE-UP

693-6189

\*A well-tuned car can use 9% less fuel than a poorly-tuned car.

The Motor Masters

COME TRY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY RESTAURANT

Mandarin RESTAURANT  
764-8292

Kroger Center next to Pet Paradise College Station

SUMMER SPECIAL

Lunch Specials.....\$2<sup>99</sup> Lunch Buffet.....\$3<sup>99</sup>

Dinner Specials.....\$3<sup>49</sup> Dinner Buffet.....\$4<sup>75</sup>

Take-out Orders Welcome

Sun.-Fri. 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Everyday 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

## Aerofit

The Areas Most Comprehensive Athletic Facility Now with Two Great Locations!

1900 W. Villa Maria  
823-0971

2220 S. Texas Ave.  
693-0093

### Cardiovascular

★ StairMaster

★ Lifecycle

★ Climb Max

★ Versa Climber

★ Indoor Track

Fitness Center

★ Eagle/Cybex Circuit

★ Free Weights

### Courts

★ 3 Racquetball Courts

★ 2 Tennis Courts

★ Basketball/Volleyball

### Aquatics

★ 8 Lane, 25 yd.

Indoor Pool

★ Aquatics Exercise Classes

★ Lessons

### Aerobics

★ Certified

Instructors

★ Over 100 Classes

Weekly

★ Five Studios over

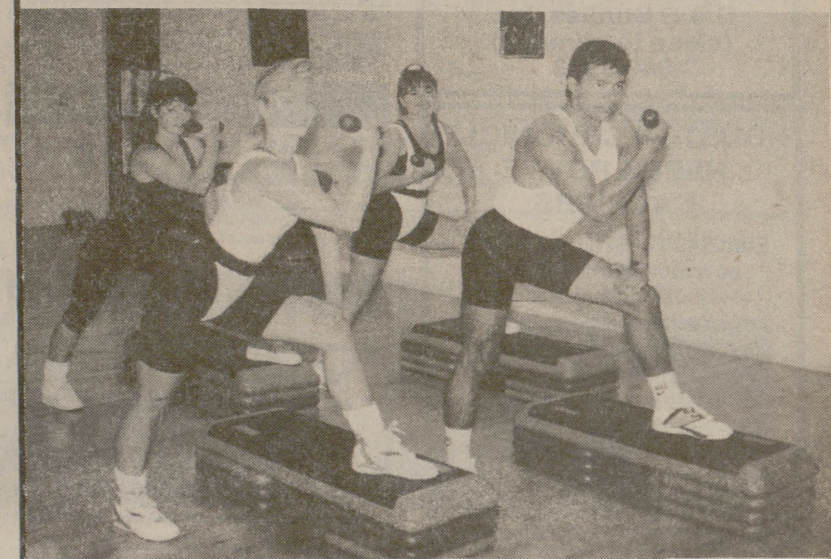
6,000 sq. ft.

\$1000 OFF

SEMESTER PRICE

COUPON

EXPIRES SEPT. 15, 1992



## Dance & Aerobics Classes

Look For Our 1992 Fall Brochure On the TAMU Campus We offer over 150 special interest classes for your enjoyment

Register NOW for Aerobics classes. Call us at 845-1631 for more details.

Registration for all other classes will begin on Monday September 7th at 12 noon in the MSC Craft Center, located in the MSC Basement.

### Aerobics Classes

Registration Begins Aug 31st - 12noon We have additional sections available.

#### Beginning Aerobics

M/W, Sept 7 - Dec 2  
5:30-6:30pm  
TAMU/ \$30 Other/\$35

#### T/Th, Sept 8 - Dec 3

5:30-6:30pm  
TAMU/ \$30 Other/\$35

#### M/W, Sept 7 - Dec 2

6:45-7:45pm  
TAMU/ \$30 Other/\$35

### Dance Classes

Registration Begins Sept 7th - 12 noon MSC University PLUS - MSC Basement

#### Beg. Country & Western Dance

Wed. Sept 16 - Oct 14  
6-7:15pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

#### Wed. Sept 16 - Oct 14

7:30-8:45pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

#### Adv. Country & Western Dance

Wed. Oct 28 - Nov 18  
6-7:30pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

### Jitterbug

Mon. Oct 12 - Nov 9  
6-7pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

#### Mon. Oct 22 - Nov 9

7:15-8:15pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

#### Wed. Oct 28 - Nov 18

7:45-9pm  
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

### Ballroom Dance I

Tues. Sept 22, 29, Oct 6, 20, 27  
7:15-8:30pm  
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

MSC University PLUS  
MSC Basement Level Call 845-1631