

Professors gear up for excuses

Texas A&M instructors expect bombardment of pleas as test season starts

By WILL HEALY
Reporter of THE BATTALION

As the first round of exams draws near, professors across the Texas A&M University campus are readying themselves for another barrage of excuses from students who need to get out of class or miss a test.

"I've killed thousands of grandmothers in my years of teaching," said Dr. Gary Halter, director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Political Science.

However, dead grandmothers are not the only reason students use to get out of their academic obligations.

Halter had one student who failed to fulfill an academic obligation because his lamp electrocuted him when he turned it off. Halter accepted the excuse when the student came to his office wearing a sling.

Some students show initiative, creativity and stick-to-it-ness.

Amy Wink, a teaching assistant in

the English Department, had a student call to get an extension on a paper. Wink refused to give him the extension and a few minutes later the student called back and said he was sick. Wink still did not give in, the student called again and said his computer would not print.

Wink's student was not granted

"I've killed thousands of grandmothers in my years of teaching."

-Dr. Gary Halter

the extension and he gave up.

Dr. Clint Magill, a genetics professor, said he too has had his fair share of interesting excuses from students.

Magill remembers one story, in particular, about one of his students who got her paper stuck in an antique dresser and she could not turn it in on time because she "couldn't afford to

get it out" of the dresser.

Another excuse students use is problems with relationships they're involved in.

Dr. Robert Newman, a professor of English, had a student who missed two weeks of class because he said his girlfriend was pregnant.

Soon after, the same student missed two more weeks. When Newman asked the student why he missed class the second time, the student said, "It wasn't my baby!"

Car trouble is another common reason students sometimes have a difficult time attending classes.

Jon Moritz, a graduate student and former teaching assistant in animal nutrition, had a student whose car had broken down five minutes before every exam.

The student came in crying, and Moritz was forced to give a make-up exam in every instance. "The professor wouldn't put his foot down," said Moritz.

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LACROSSED



Darrin Hill/The Battalion

Holly McHurlen (left), a sophomore health education major from San Antonio, tries to steal the ball from Sarah Street, a senior elementary education major from Graham, Texas. Both were playing Lacrosse out on the Polo Field with a couple of friends. McHurlen is trying to start a women's Lacrosse team for A&M because only a men's team exist. She used to play on the men's team but quit because the guys play more aggressively than she became used to while playing on a team in Pennsylvania.

Southside halls vote against going coed

By TANYA SASSER
Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

Although Krueger, Aston and Dunn dormitory residents voiced their disapproval of a proposal that would make two of the halls coed, there is still a possibility that they will be transformed, said the president of the Texas A&M Residence Hall Association.

Kim Tenpas said surveys were circulated through the halls in an effort to gather residents' opinions. The hall presidents and RHA delegates took a vote, according to the surveys, last Wednesday and the proposal was voted down.

"What happens now is that the RHA sends the results to Student Affairs as our recommendation," she said. "Student Affairs decides now if they still want to do it."

Tom Murray, assistant director of Student Affairs/Residence Life, said he met with the presidents and residence directors of all three halls on Sunday.

"We talked about feedback and pros and cons," he said. "The residents are clearly not in favor of it."

Murray said there is still discussion about converting other halls to coed and he hopes at least one hall will volunteer to

become coed. The final decision about the conversion should be made by Christmas so that it can be implemented by next fall, he said.

Raoul Rodriguez, president of Dunn Hall, said his hall does not want to be converted to coed.

"The general consensus was that 70 percent were against and 30 percent were for the proposal," he said. "It's a really odd issue; there are reasons to go (coed) and reasons not to."

Rodriguez said the vote at the RHA meeting to shoot down the proposal does not insure that Krueger, Aston or Dunn will not be converted.

"The vote we had at RHA may or may not mean anything," he said.

Paris Kharbat, president of Krueger, said the vote was based on the results of the survey and most of the residents opposed the change.

"We (Hall Council) did not sway the girls either way," she said. "We didn't vote according to the way we felt; we voted according to the survey."

Krueger had 111 girls vote against the proposal and 56 girls vote in favor of it.

Stephanie Harrington, Krueger resident, said she is against the proposal because she likes living in an all-girl dorm.

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