

Organizations merge to combine resources

Conflict resolution among top goals

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

The Office of Students' Attorneys, Student Judicial Programs and Dispute Resolution Services have merged to form the Center for Conflict Resolution to provide legal assistance to students.

The merger, which was proposed last July by the Office of Student Affairs, will create one location for students to receive legal counsel and advice, said Gene Zdziarsky, coordinator for the Center for Conflict Resolutions.

"The combination of legal services will provide students with a variety of different ways to solve a conflict," Zdziarsky said.

"They can come to one place and get all their questions answered."

One branch of the new center, legal services, offers students a licensed attorney for information and counseling with a focus on avoiding court appearances through negotiation, arbitration and mediation.

Another branch of the center, judicial services, handles complaints and imposes disciplinary sanctions. Personal disputes are handled by the center's third branch, resolution services.

Rick Powell, assistant coordinator for legal services, said he believes offering legal services to the students is to their advantage.

"Our services are at no cost, so students are not forced to retain a private attorney unless they need one," Powell said.

Some of the most common problems the office deals with

"The combination of legal services will provide students with a variety of different ways to solve a conflict."

*-Gene Zdziarsky
Coordinator for the
Center for Conflict
Resolution*

involve roommates, landlords, traffic tickets, consumer protection, domestic relations, paternity suits and criminal matters.

"We will explain the legal process to them so they can decide what they want to do to face their legal challenge," Powell said. "Many times, this will be a student's first experience with the law or an attorney."

In that case, Powell will sit down with the student and explain his or hers legal situation.

"Sometimes when students come in, they don't even know what an arraignment is or what the punishment and penalties of an act are," Powell said. If it is necessary, Powell will suggest the student hire an attorney.

Zdziarsky said, "We try to nip a problem in the bud. Our goal is to solve problems at the lowest level possible. Going to court is a last resort."

The Center for Conflict Resolutions is located in Puryear Hall in the former office of Off-Campus Aggies.

College of Veterinary Medicine awaits buildings' completion

Construction fuels reaccreditation drive

By NATALIE GIEHL

The Battalion

The completion date for the new research building and large animal clinic at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine is in sight and ahead of schedule.

"The research building we should occupy by sometime in April or May, and the clinic building in late summer or early fall," said Dr. John A. Shaddock, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Maj. Gen. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said "With the research building they're about eight months ahead of schedule, and with the large animal clinic, about four months ahead of schedule."

The Vet School was placed under limited accreditation by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) during the fall of 1988 because the

school lacked adequate facilities and funds. The council will re-evaluate the school in October, Shaddock said.

He said the project's costs will exceed the original \$38 million budget by \$2 million. Shaddock said he wasn't certain whether completion of the new buildings would guarantee re-accreditation because the Vet School's operating budget is still too limiting.

To meet the council's budget requirements, the Vet School has made an appropriations request of \$26.1 million this year. This figure was given to the legislative budget board who recommended the smaller amount, \$22.4 million.

Shaddock said the conflict over the Vet School's budget will likely be the deciding factor in the committee's decision to re-accredit the school. Despite the accreditation problems, Shaddock said the Vet School is certainly in the top 10 and has the potential to be in the top two or three.

Plans for the new buildings began in 1984. The project was put on a waiting list to be approved before construction was to start. After the Vet School was placed on limited accreditation in 1988, there was an urgency to get the project done, Shaddock said.

In addition to the new facilities, the school has strived for re-accreditation by remodeling classrooms, buying new equipment, and hiring new faculty and new veterinary technicians, Shaddock said.

Finishing touches yet to be completed in the research building include work on lab benches, walls and floors.

The large animal clinic also needs work on interior walls and details on the specialized animal facilities. The remaining funds will be used for the renovations of the older facilities, and equipment to go in the new buildings.

Shaddock said the research building and large animal clinic should be finished in time for the Council's evaluation.

TSU 'bandits' to take class on ethics for readmittance

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A dozen members of Texas Southern University's disbanded "Ocean of Soul" marching band who were suspended after a shoplifting incident in Japan have been told can return to school if they take an ethics class, one of the students says.

Anita Johnson, one of the 12 suspended students, said Monday she will sign up for the class, although she doesn't know much about it.

"It doesn't bother me, it's fine," she said. "As long as I'm in school, it doesn't matter to me."

Johnson and 25 others were suspended or placed on probation in December after William Harris, president of the Houston school, dismantled the band and fired the band director and three of his assistants.

The action was prompted by reports that some band members stole \$22,000 worth of electronics during a trip to Tokyo to perform at the Coca-Cola Bowl.

Johnson, a freshman who



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Brown belt Douglas Korth, a senior ocean engineer major, redirects a fellow TAMU Karate Club member's kick and takes him to the floor in an exhibition held in G. Rollie White. Another exhibition will be held tonight at 6:30 p.m. in room 263 of G. Rollie White.

See TSU 'bandits'/Page 7

Correction

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, The Battalion mistakenly referred to Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, in a headline as a state official. Barton is a U.S. Congressman. The Battalion regrets the error.



SKIN INFECTION STUDY

VIP Research is seeking individuals 12 years of age or older with uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections. If you have a skin infection, you may qualify for a four week research study using a currently available antibiotic medication. Participants who qualify and complete the study will be paid \$200.

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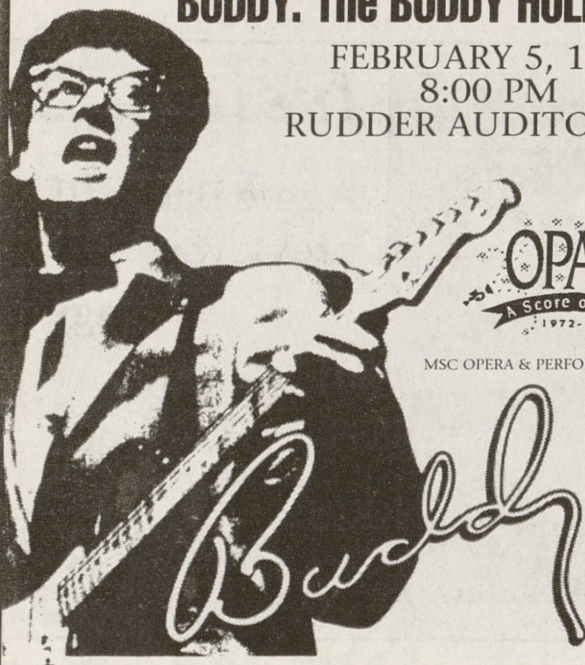
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