

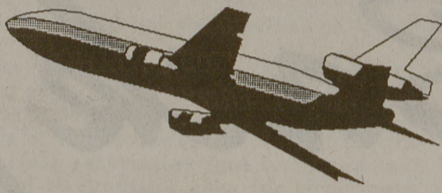
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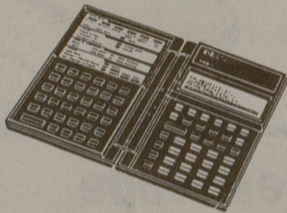
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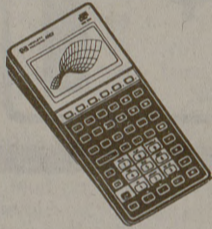
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Athletic office issues sports cards

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

The Athletic Ticket Office this summer has issued more than 22,000 new athletic cards and expects thousands more to be purchased.

The new athletic cards will now take the place of student I.D. cards when sports fans draw tickets for football games. The student drawing tickets, however, will still have to present their I.D.

Jim Kotch, athletic ticket manager, said the card will function the same as an I.D.

"If you're picking up the tickets you need to bring your ID and athletic card and cards for each person you're picking up tickets for," Kotch said. "At the game, bring your ID and your ticket."

Kotch said the ticket office switched to the new system so students won't have their I.D. cards tied up throughout the day.

"We were the only entity on campus that asked students to give their I.D.s away," he said. "Now, with these cards you

should be in possession of your I.D. at all times."

Kotch said the decision to use the athletic cards coincides with the University's attempt to go to a one-card system.

"If you gave your I.D. card to someone to pick up tickets for you, you couldn't eat," he said. "You couldn't use your Aggie Bucks to buy food or operate a vending machine. Now with the dorms going to a scan system, you couldn't even get in to your room."

Penny King, associate athletic director of business, said the new automated access to residence halls is the main reason the ticket office switched to the athletic cards.

"We need it because of the increased value of the student I.D. card," King said. "We haven't had any complaints, but some concerns were expressed. This is a proactive move to make sure no problems arise."

King said having one more card to carry is the only disadvantage of the new system.

"Another card to keep up with is a negative, but it's easier from a scheduling standpoint," King

said. "Before, you had to make an appointment with someone to get your I.D. back."

Jennifer Willis, a resident advisor in Rudder Hall, said she does not see the new cards as a problem.

"It's a lot better than your I.D.," Willis said. "If you mailed to returning students as Texas A&M and 4,800 cards were distributed this summer at the Pavilion State University freshmen and transfer students."

Kotch said he expects more cards will be needed as students who purchase passes after school starts.

"It will be nightmarish getting everything up and under," Kotch said. "We're seeing long lines for the pass. Everyone I've spoken to has been happy about the change."

Theater program separates from speech department

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M theater arts students could see a change for the better Sept. 1.

This is when the theater arts program will begin to operate separate from the speech communications department.

Dr. Linda Putman, professor and head of the Department of Speech Communications and Theater Arts, said the two programs united into one department after breaking away from the Department of English in 1985.

"The change will be a good one because while the two programs overlap for a few classes, they are separate otherwise," Putman said. "When the two were originally put together, things were different, with interests and classes coinciding. As the years have passed, both programs have changed and grown apart."

"Separating the two is a good move because it will give the theater arts program more freedom to do things beneficial for students," she said. "The College of Liberal Arts has already appointed a woman to coordinate the program."

Susan Kelley, new theater arts program coordinator, said her first day as coordinator was Sept. 15 and the job parallels that of a department chair.

"I will do the student advising and directing things for the program, such as help organizing theater arts productions," Kelley said. "Separating the programs was done for the students' benefit to give them more of a chance to actively participate in the theater program and productions."

"Hands-on experience is important along with the professional when I was a student," Kelley said. "That's why I want to help more internships and opportunities for students to share their experiences."

Kelley, who has been at A&M seven years, was appointed as coordinator in March.

"I started the preliminary planning for the program in March with the College of Liberal Arts help," she said. "Even though we make decisions separately from the speech communications department, we still work closely with the college."

Dr. Janis Stout, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the college is there to support the program.

The change will be a good one because while the two programs overlap for a few classes, they are separate otherwise.

-Dr. Linda Putman

A&M students, faculty serve mentors for middle-school children

By Amanda Fowle
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students and faculty are working with the Bryan community in a unique program as mentors for students at Jane Long Middle School.

Andrew McClain, a coordinator for the project, said the School Families Project is sponsored by A&M's College of Education and the Bryan Independent School District. The program began in Fall 1992 to provide a support group for middle school students.

"We try to get the students to talk about things that are bothering them or going on in their lives," McClain said.

McClain said the project does not try to create replacement families for students, but it allows them to speak about their lives with adults while they are

at school. "We call the groups families because there is such a diverse group of people from all ages working together," he said. "We are not trying to replace their families."

Rosalie Dwyer, a coordinator for the project, said the volunteers are not totally responsible for the students.

The groups consist of a teacher, volunteer mentors, and students. The groups are overseen by the coordinators and two psychologists.

"It is not a one-on-one interaction," Dwyer said. "It is a group mentoring program. This makes it easier for volunteers."

McClain said that because so many middle school students are interested in the program, the coordinators are in need of more volunteers.

"We are trying to increase the

number of volunteers," McClain said. "We need 100 to 150 volunteers from A&M and the community."

McClain said volunteers to be committed to giving one hour a week to their group. Each family meets one week from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., during the student's school year.

"We need people who can consistently every week," McClain said. "It helps the students to be more open."

Volunteers must also attend an orientation seminar next training seminar Sept. 16 in the MSC.

McClain said information sessions will be Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center and Sept. 13 at 3:30 p.m. in Rudder Hall.

Please see Mentors

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