Walter said students should consider us-

"(If) students say they want to be treated

A common problem that mediators deal

"When there is a roommate problem and

quiet hours are broken, or other residence

hall policies are ignored, judicial services

will handle the policy aspect, but residents

are sent to mediation services to work it out

ences, judicial service officials create student

contracts, which, if broken, can result in the

If roommates do not work out their differ-

The only problem mediation services will

Rick Powell, coordinator for student legal

ing mediation services to settle personal dis-

like adults, then they need to learn to settle

their own problems and not let us (legal ser-

vices) solve problems for them," she said.

putes before legal action is required.

with is roommate disputes.

among themselves," she said

not handle is sexual assault.

loss of campus housing contracts.

There are court costs," Powell said. "And

uncertainty of the outcome are things stu-

dents do not even think about. It is ineffi-

cient and uneconomical (to go to court) when

you can use first use mediation services and

in an objective third party to facilitate ratio-

Powell said mediation works by bringing

Students meet with mediators for two-

Jackson said many students mistakenly

But mediators, he said, simply increase

"It is teaching them to negotiate, compro-

mise and work with people," Jackson said.

hour sessions until they reach verbal or

think that mediators force sanctions on par-

find some common ground.'

students' communication skills.

written agreements.

ticipating parties.

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services, said students benefit from choosing Construction program focuses on industry

Resolution center

The four-week long CEP attracts participants from around the globe.

Mediators help to resolve

y Courtney Walker

proceedings.

mommate disputes most often.

Twice as many Texas A&M students

ought campus mediation services in 1995

an in 1994, and fewer cases resulted in le-

The Conflict Resolution Center reported

nat 38 mediation cases, 288 judicial cases

d 507 legal cases were handled in Fall

ses and 650 legal cases were handled in

Kim Walter, coordinator for student judi-

al services, said more students are aware

at the consequences of legal action are not

lways desirable and that mediation ser-

995. Nine mediation cases, 623 judicial

y Pamela Benson

A Texas A&M construction rogram that began Sunday has rawn participants to campus rom as far as New Zealand and

The Construction Executive Program (CEP), hosted by memers of the Center for Construcion Education (CCE), deals with ssues affecting the construction industry. The four-week long program, which will end Feb. 16., examines topics ranging from human-resource management to contract-labor laws

In 1984, CCE members made a commitment to provide the best professional development opportunities in the construction industry.

The Construction Executive Program evolved from that commitment, and later an entire construction management program was formed.

Kaye Mizer, CEP coordinator, said the program focuses on computer literacy, public relations, ef-

fective communication and con-

struction finance. Dick Sloan, an ARCO Chemical administrator, will address awareness of environmental regulations and the need to be proactive in the workplace.

Course projects include preparing profiles that describe the participants' companies and job roles.

During the last week of the program, participants will apply skills they have acquired to a project called the Caperstone

The Caperstone study, designed specifically for the conference, requires participants to solve reallife problems that could occur in the workplace

Sonya Miller, a participant in last year's conference, said CEP had a tremendous impact on how she processes information and responds to changing environments. She said the conference also led

her to a higher respect for others in the construction industry

Participants receive continuingeducation credit for the course

Student loan default rate drops sharply

WASHINGTON (AP) - The student loan default rate has dropped sharply and government collection efforts have cut net default costs by more than two-thirds since 1992, Education Secretary Richard Riley said Monday.

These numbers reflect real and substantial progress," Riley said. "They are the product of several aggressive management decisions that were intended to get the default problem under control.'

The rate of borrowers defaulting on student loans dropped to 11.6 percent in fiscal 1993, the latest year for which figures are available.

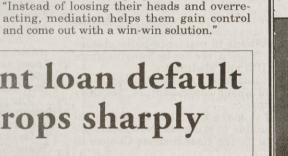
That was the lowest rate since official default rate reporting began in 1988. It has declined steadily since 1990, when it peaked at 22.4 percent. "The program was hemor-

Monday's news conference was aimed at countering congressional criticism by showing the department was improving its management of student loan funds. Republican budget-cutters have suggested closing the department. Education Department officials acknowledged that an

improving economy contributed to the improved rate and that Bush administration programs deserved some credit. But they said they accelerated those programs. When the Clinton administration came into office, I de-

clared that reducing the number of loan defaults was our No. 1 priority in the area of federal assistance for college loans," Riley said. "We have done just that.

Increased collections, combined with the lowering default rate, reduced the net cost of defaults to \$400 million in fiscal 1995, down from \$1.7 billion in fiscal 1992.



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