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**12th MAN STUDENT FOUNDATION**

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The 12th Man Student Foundation is now accepting applications for next semester!

**Positions available:**

Secretary	Publicity
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Newsletter	Organization/Hall Representative

Those interested in applying may pick up a description of positions and application at the 12th Man Foundation office in the **Koldus Building room 109**.

Due by Thursday, April 18 in the 12th Man Foundation office. Interviews will be scheduled April 22-16.

**Attention Students Force Dates for English 210 & 301**

The Department of English - Writing Programs Office announces forcing for **graduating seniors only for technical writing courses** (English 210 and English 301) in Blocker 224 on the dates below:

<b>Summer I and Fall Semesters</b> Wednesday, May 1 Thursday, May 2	<b>Summer I Only</b> Friday, May 31
<b>Fall Semester Only</b> Thursday, August 29	<b>Summer II Only</b> Wednesday, July 3

**Forcing Hours**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
and  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Graduating seniors must bring a signed letter from their academic advisor on departmental letterhead indicating the semester of graduation. Seats will be available for the semester of graduation only.

The Writing Programs office does **not** guarantee seats to graduating seniors in any class, including English 210 and English 301. However, we will do whatever we can to accommodate students who come to our office during announced force dates.

Once again, we will not be able to force students who do not come in during force dates. No forces will be done during pre-registration.

For more information see our Web page at this address:  
<http://engserve.tamu.edu/files/writingprograms/rulesforforcing.html>

**news BRIEFS**

**High school science projects shown today**

The Junior Academy of Science, a statewide competition sponsored by the Texas Academy of Science in which high school students present original research projects to be judged by university scientists, will be held today and Wednesday on the Texas A&M campus.

Twelve students will receive medals and certificates for their projects, and two overall winners will advance to the national Junior Academy of Science in Washington, D.C.

Winning projects at past academies include "The Use of Naturally Occurring Antimicrobials to Increase Shelf Life of Tortillas" and "Mechanisms of Disappearance of Salmonella on Cutting Boards."

The academy is hosted by the A&M Center for Mathematics and Science Education, and activities are slated to occur in the Rudder Tower Complex.

**Nubian Festival awards held Sunday**

The Texas A&M MSC Black Awareness Committee and the PanHellenic Council hosted the Nubian Festival awards ceremony Sunday.

The BAC, the PanHellenic Council, the National Association of Black Journalists and Zeta Phi Beta and Delta Sigma Theta sororities gave awards for student accomplishments.

The Academic Excellence award, requiring a 3.75 grade-point ratio, was given to Brian Bell, a sophomore chemical engineering major, and Jeridith Warren, a senior psychology major.

The Reginald Broadus award, requiring a 3.25 grade-point ratio and dedication to leadership and community service, was awarded to Steven Traylor, a junior finance major, and Tamara Jenkins, a freshman general studies major.

**Cracks in the sky: Three A&M professors study aircraft hazards**

*The Aggies have been researching ways to improve airplane structures*

By Eleanor Colvin  
THE BATTALION

Improving the efficiency of aircraft and developing better estimates of their structural life is the goal of three Texas A&M professors who are studying the hazards of cracks in aircraft.

Dr. David Allen, a professor of aerospace engineering who has studied aircraft cracks for 15 years, said A&M's research on this topic is unique and helpful because it involves strong theoretical and mathematical approaches.

**"Designing with more confidence will be a significant benefit of our research."**

—DR. DIMITRIS LAGODAS  
Associate professor of aerospace engineering

"The models used in the past were expensive," he said. "They were not accurate enough to be used as good predictors of the dangers of cracks."

Because cracks have caused one-third of all aircraft crashes in the past 20 years, Allen said his goal is to develop structures that will last longer and repair schedules for older aircrafts.

The cracks being studied are often not visible, Allen said. They measure from 1/3 of an inch to 1 foot long. He said the small cracks, if monitored, are usually not problematic.

"There are cracks in roads, bridges, cars and aircraft," he said, "but we're fortunate that most of them aren't critical cracks."

"We don't want to imply that the nation's fleet of planes is unsafe because of this — because it's not. We simply want to make it better."

Dr. Dimitris Lagoudas, an associate professor of aerospace engineering whose work concentrates on the environment's effect on aircraft aging, agreed

that improving aircraft quality is a top priority that will have benefits beyond safety.

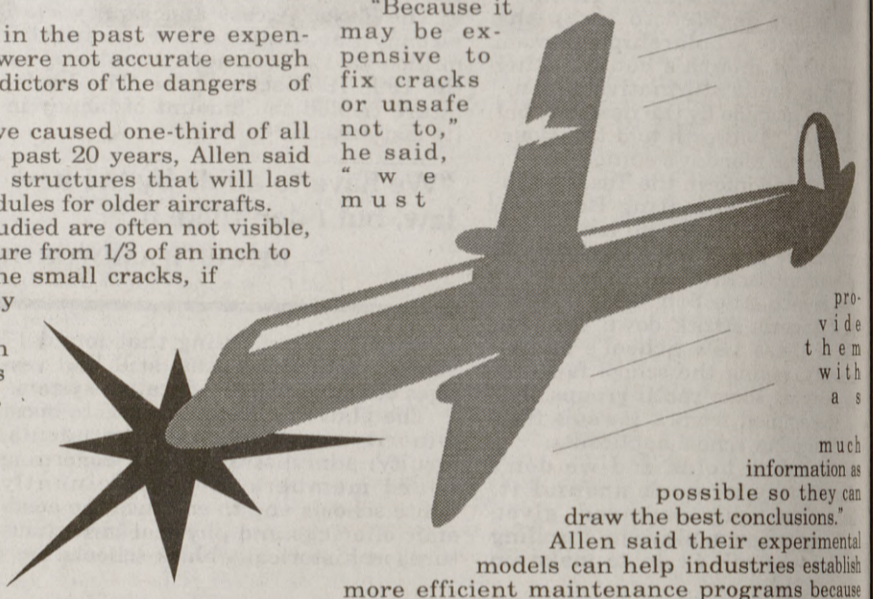
"Designing with more confidence will be a significant benefit of our research," he said. "Stronger designs should increase the operating speeds and engine efficiency of crafts, and that should decrease costs and travel time for consumers."

Dr. Jay Walton, a professor of mathematics and aerospace engineering, said the research is innovative because environmental effects have not been seriously explored before.

"Environmental processes, like oxidation, cause aging and some safety problems," he said. "We work with chemical engineers to study models of how oxidation occurs that are more realistic than simplified versions studied in the past."

Walton, who derives equations that estimate how cracks grow, said the research should educate aircraft industries about monitoring and repair options.

"Because it may be expensive to fix cracks or unsafe not to," he said, "we must



draw the best conclusions."

Allen said their experimental models can help industries establish more efficient maintenance programs because they estimate how rapidly cracks spread and how often they should be monitored. Increasing the intervals between maintenance or repair, he said, would reduce the cost of aircraft operations in general.

**1996 TEXAS MAN Model Search**

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Contest is open to all males ages 16 to 40 and live in Texas or currently attend a Texas college. Simply pick up an entry form between April 14th thru April 28th at your local FOLEY'S in the Young Men's Dept., or mail in a non-returnable photo (headshot or full length) with your name, height, weight, age, address, phone number, and name of person who referred you to this contest to:

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