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with companies by four criteria — major, degree, graduation date and citizenship. The system cannot recognize links be-

Page 2 • THE BATTALION • Thursday, June 27, 1996

Officials at the Texas A&M Career Center

are planning changes in their computer sys-

tem to better assist students looking for jobs.

Under the current system, students are required to create a résumé disk with infor-

mation including their majors, expected de-

grees, grade-point ratios and expected dates

of graduation. Students are able to enter up

to three codes providing information about their majors or the department under which

Firms seeking employees submit forms in-

dicating the type of student they are looking

for. From these forms, students are matched

tween certain majors, however. For example,

if a firm is interested in hiring someone to be a salesperson, only students who have entered the abbreviation for marketing will be given the opportunity to interview with that company, even though there might be other students in different majors who are equally

Career center works to update system

qualified to do the job.

Also, because of the number of college departments in the nation, companies may not recognize which A&M code fulfills their needs.

Dr. Glen Payne, associate director of the Career Center, said the companies should be

given information to help them find the right person for the job.

'Companies don't know what certain majors are," he said. "One of the purposes of this change is to create a way for employers to know the distinction of every major. There are so many subspecialties in all disciplines."

Engineering technology majors, for exam-

ple, may be called mechanical technol electronic technology or telecommunication

technology, to name a few. Dr. Leigh Turner, director of the Ca Center, said employers may not know w students of different disciplines may be a

ified for positions. "It's a daunting task for employers tok all specialties and majors at Texas A&M said. "In addition to employers listing m they are interested in, we can establish

between a broader field of expertise." Despite its perceived shortcomings, reer Center officials hope students use its resources to assist them in find

"I'm concerned too about the credibility the computer system, so if any stude have any questions, I'd be happy to entain them," he said. "I want it (the compa system) to be user-friendly.

## SEE brings engineering hopefuls to A&A

"v Brandon Hausenfluck

By Brandon Hausenfluck

THE BATTALION

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their major is listed.

For one w this summer, 100 high school s. 'ents representing schools from all over Texas will get a taste of university life — Aggie style.

The purpose of the Summer Enrichment Program in Engineering (SEE) is to increase the number of under-represented groups in engineering at Texas A&M. Eleventh and 12th grade students will have the chance to overview the different disciplines in engineering and experience campus life at a major university.

Jan Rinehart, engineering program coordinator of the Texas A&M Dwight Look College of Engineering, said the program has made an impact on high school students and A&M.

The program has been very successful," Rinehart said. About 50 to 60 percent of the SEE students later enroll in engineering at Texas A&M.

The program, now in its 15th year, offers two sessions, June 16 to 21 and June 23 to 28. Students live and eat on campus and attend classes in lecture halls and research and comput-

Throughout the week, the students attend seminars on engineering disciplines and are given the chance to do computer programming and computeraided design work. They also have the opportunity to attend lectures on creative thinking and cultural diversity.

Theresa Cordona, a student in the science and engineering program at Highland High School in San Antonio, said she thinks the program is a good opportunity for students interested in becoming engineers.

"It's neat because we get to see some of the different fields in engineering," she said. "We get a lot of hands-on experience without too many lectures."

Lydia Peters, a senior from Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Texas, said the program is very effective and a fraction of the cost of comparable programs.

'It's (the SEE program) a really good opportunity because it's really inexpensive for the students," Peters said. "There's no guarantee on what you're going to get out of it. Other programs like this can cost up to

\$1,000; this one only costs \$25." Rinehart said admission to the program is extremely competitive.

'As with admission at A&M, admission to the SEE program is very competitive," she said. "Only half the applicants are accepted, and those who are boast high math and science test scores and contribute to greater diversity among engineering undergraduates in the future.

Kevin Escontrias, SEE counselor and a senior industrial engineering major, said the program is very effective, and it helped him decide to attend A&M.

"The program is definitely a good indicator of what kind of students will attend A&M in the future," Escontrias said. "I was chosen for the SEE program and after I attended it, I was sure I wanted to come to A&M. I can hear the students saying they want to come here and be a part of the engineering program.

Toward the end of the session the students are required to design and build a roller coaster using only popsicle sticks and hot glue. After constructing the roller coasters, the students present and sell the structures to a group of judges who take the

role of theme park owners. Using Power Point for vi affects, the students must vince the panel their rol coasters are well-built, safe a

cost-efficient. Leon Turner, SEE judge a a doctoral candidate in ele cal engineering, said the dents must follow cert guidelines while construct

the roller coasters. They are given a specs which gives them a cer square footage allotment," T er said. "They have to be abl make four marbles move al the tracks simultaneously minimum of ten seconds. working together, they le originality, creativity and we eration skills."

Charlie Aguilar, a senio Edinburg High School in inburg, Texas, said he w not worried about doing we in the competition becaus and his group put a lot work into the project.

"I'm very confident about because I helped design it, I'm very confident with work," Aguilar said. "Our gr did a lot of math computations

## Lawmakers scrutinize student fees at colleges, universities

AUSTIN (AP) — A sharp rise in student fees at colleges and universities in Texas has state lawmakers studying if the increases are justified and just what the money is paying for.

There's page after page after page of fees," Rep. Steve Ogden, vice-chairman of a House higher education subcommittee, said Wednesday. "The Legislature is confused. The students and parents are confused, and I wouldn't be surprised if most university presidents are confused.'

Officials with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board told the subcommittee that 16 universities in the state have increased fees to the point where they exceed tuition, including the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, UT-El Paso and the Univer-

sity of North Texas.
"We have a fee system that is incredibly complicated and it's difficult to tell what students are being asked to pay for," said

Ogden, R-Bryan. 'As a minimum, I think the Legislature should look to simplify the fee structure so parents have a better idea why

they are paying so much and what the

money is going for."

The Legislature convenes in January 1997. Under a law approved by lawmakers 1995, institutions of higher learning we allowed to up their general use fee from \$15 to a maximum of \$32 per credit hour, whi translates to an increase of roughly \$60 per semester, or \$1200 per year for the a erage student.

Students also pay an array of other fee that subsidize everything from a school athletic budget and construction to parking

Fee amounts and what they pay for var from school to school.

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Finicky dinosaurs

by Chuck Johnson Sketch

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