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Page 2 • THE BATTALION • Thursday, July 11, 1996

# The dead shall teach the living Program enriches Aggies' education

By Ann Marie Hauser THE BATTALION

The Willed Body Program of the Texas A&M College of Medicine provides a rite of passage in the education of future physicians. Through the program, medical students benefit from hands-on experience working

on bodies donated by individuals.

Dr. Elvin E. Smith, interim vice president for Health Affairs, said the donations are an indispensable aid in medical teach-

ing and research.
"It's difficult to put a price on these donations," Smith said. "They are an extremely important contribution that we value very highly

To donate one's body, a copy of a bequest form must be completed, signed and wit-

nessed by two people.
Dr. James A. Knight, former dean of the College of Medicine and a professor of psychiatry and medical ethics, said students must have great respect when working with

"All kinds of efforts are made to humanize the cadavers in preparing the students,' Knight said.

Four students are assigned to one cadaver each semester. They begin their study at a designated area of the body until the dissec-

tion is complete. James Lange, a second-year medical student, said he was apprehensive before they uncovered the body but soon adjusted.

"The hardest part for me was working on the face, hands and fingers," Lange said. "I am very grateful to those people for

their donation. Knight emphasized the respect and reverence that must be given to the body during

"This is a big step for students in their education because they are in the presence of death all the time," Knight said. "It forces them to work through their feelings

Smith said students participating in the class undergo extensive instruction before working with the cadavers. physician's education is to experience

The program began when the Colle Medicine was established in the mid-70 The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act wa tablished 30 years ago to enable indiv to donate their bodies or parts of their bo

to medicine. Prior to the passage of the Act, the law trusted the deceased's body to the next-of-The State Anatomical Board development rules and regulations to ensure that

grams are conducted properly. Permission from the Board is requ to create this type of program within institution

Smith said the remains are usually turned to the families for a closed-caske

emony or cremation.

Knight said the importance of the gram is expressed in a Latin saying graved above the entrance to most Mortui vivos docent " (the dead shall t

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## More college freshmen dropping out of school

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 27 percent of college students drop out after their first year, according to a survey of 2,564 schools. It also shows the college graduation rate is at its lowest level in more than a decade at the surveyed schools.

A report released Wednesday by American College Testing reveals the freshman-to-sophomore dropout rate at the surveyed two- and four-year public and private institutions rose to 26.9 percent this year.

That's just a little above last year's rate of 26.2 percent, but it's nearly 2.5 percent higher than the dropout rate reported 13 years ago when ACT began

collecting data. "It's taking students a lot

longer to graduate," says David Merkowitz, a spokesman for the American Council on Education,

a group representing the nation's colleges and universities.

"We could be seeing a lot of stop-outs, not dropouts." More high school graduates are going to college, but rising tuitions mean some cannot afford to stay in school, he says. Also, increasing numbers of nontraditional students, who now make up more than 40 percent of the enrollment at two- and fouryear public and private schools, are forced to study in a startand-stop fashion, he said.

In addition, improving economic conditions mean more jobs, which can lure students from campus.

### Former Dole campaign official fined \$6 million

BOSTON (AP) — A former the 1992 Bush-Quayle vice chairman of Bob Dole's campaign, the Republican Nat paign finance committee agreed Wednesday to pay a record \$6 million in fines for funneling illegal contributions through his employees to the Dole camp and other political causes.

If the plea agreement entered by Simon C. Fireman is approved by a federal judge as expected, it would be by far the largest penalty in U.S. history for illegal campaign contributions.

Fireman, the owner of Aqua-Leisure Industries, was accused of getting employees of his company to make contributions and then reimbursing them through a cash flume running to Hong Kong and then back to the United States

He allegedly used \$120,000 to reimburse employees for contributions to the Dole campaign,

paign, the Republican Nat Committee and Democratic Joseph P. Kennedy II's 1 campaign for Congress. U.S. Attorney Donald 8

said there was no evidence any of the campaigns or com tees knew about the scheme

The Clinton and Dole of sought to turn the plea ag ment to their own advantag

Dole spokesman Ne Warfield stressed the campaign had cooperated ly with the probe, addition pointedly that "this approximation of the cooperated by the cooperat stands in stark contrast what the public has com expect from others. President Clinton's

paign spokesman, Joe hart, shot back that Dole obligated to explain how kind of criminal behavior.

By Quatro



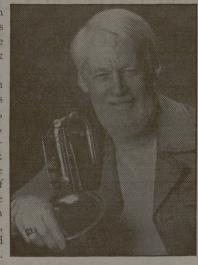
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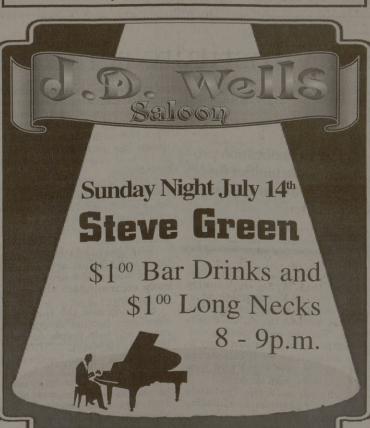
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