

NEWS BRIEFS

Loans help battle tuition woes

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
 THE BATTALION

Students at Texas A&M University who worry they will not have the money to pay their tuition by the deadline have other options to help prevent them from being dropped from classes.

Donald L. Gardner, associate registrar for Admissions and Records, said that at the beginning of this summer session, 1,000 students were dropped from enrollment because they did not make the necessary payments on time.

Students can prevent this by taking an emergency tuition and fees loan from the Texas A&M Department of Financial Aid.

Bob Piwonka, manager of student financial services, said 673 emergency tuition and fee loans totaling over \$450,000 were given out at the beginning of the first summer session. Students have three months to repay fees for the fall and spring semesters and have until the end of Session II for summer fees.

"Sometimes due dates fall before payday for students," Piwonka said. "This (a loan) offers them a quick fix so they will not get dropped."

Gardner said students need to realize that if they do not pay their tuition on time, they will be dropped.

"We just want students to stay enrolled and not have to go through a difficult process of being dropped and then reinstated," he said.

The enrollment for Summer Session I is 16,332. In the second summer session, Gardner said, fewer students are enrolled; therefore, the number of students dropped also will be lower.

Summer Session II enrollment statistics will be available after the fourth day of the session.

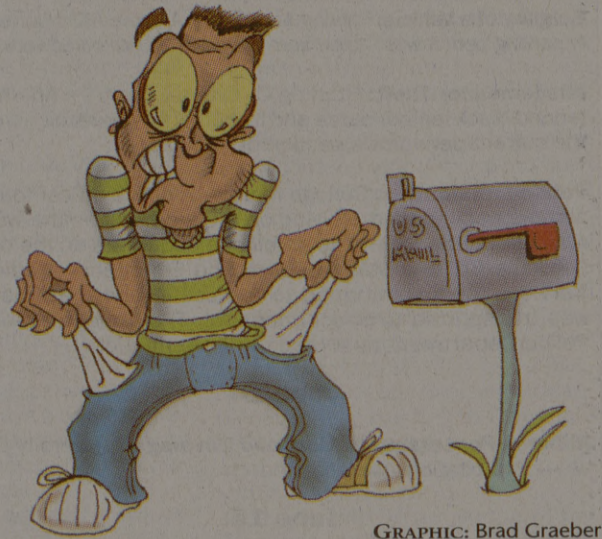
Students who receive financial aid for the summer will not be dropped.

Mark Cangelose, senior staff accountant for the Fiscal Department, said this is the first year the department has been involved with the New Student Conferences. He said the department is able to inform freshmen about deadlines and the importance of paying fees on time.

Cangelose said most students pay for their tuition by check. There is not a serious problem with checks bouncing, he said, but every semester some students wait until the last minute to pay.

"There are always unpredictable things that happen," Cangelose said. "Students just need to be aware of deadlines."

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GRAPHIC: Brad Graeber

Aeronautical society awards A&M prof

Dr. L.S. "Skip" Fletcher, the Thomas A. Dietz Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom.

Fletcher, the first member of the Texas A&M faculty to be given this honor, was cited for his research in aerodynamics and his contributions and leadership in the field of aerospace engineering.

Following is the highest grade awarded by the Royal Aeronautical Society, an 18,000-member professional organization dedicated to the worldwide aerospace community.

In other engineering news, Ernest A. Baetz Jr., Class of '48, earned a \$20,000 scholarship to the Lindsay Scholars Program for chemical engineering students and a \$5,000 gift to the engineering Faculty Fellows Program.

Baetz also has established a President's Endowed Scholarship in honor of his parents.

Report: No abuse in Nike's Asian factories

ATLANTA (AP) — Former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, hired by Nike to evaluate its labor practices, said in a report Tuesday that he saw no widespread abuse of workers at the company's shoe factories in Asia.

Young, who made a 15-day visit to factories in the Far East, said they were clean, well-lit and didn't resemble what Americans would call sweatshops.

Nike, the world's No. 1 athletic shoe manufacturer, has been accused by human rights groups of brutal work conditions and meager pay.

The report said supervisors groped young women as they worked. He said the concept of workers' rights is poorly understood in the factories and Nike's code of conduct was not prominently displayed. He said factory workers need a better system for filing complaints and getting them investigated.

Study finds involved people get fewer colds

CHICAGO (AP) — Not only is variety the spice of life, it could protect you from the common cold.

People involved in a variety of activities such as work, church, family, soccer and barber shop quartets get fewer colds than those who are exposed to the same number of people but have only a few things to occupy their time, according to a study.

The findings, published in today's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, bolster the notion that mental well-being affects physical health. One of the researchers, Dr. David G. Clark at the University of Pittsburgh, speculated that being happy and involved keeps a person's immune system strong.



PHOTOGRAPH: Robert McKay

Trail Rider Paul Bickerton, a senior construction science major, hones his riding skills at Lake Bryan Tuesday afternoon.

Making a difference Student honored for MDA contributions

By ROBERT SMITH
 THE BATTALION

Angela Wrigglesworth, a junior elementary education major at Texas A&M, has been making a positive difference in peoples' lives for years. She recently was awarded for her contributions and volunteer achievements by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The MDA announced last month that Wrigglesworth has received its 1997 Personal Achievement Award for Texas.

The national award series recognizes the accomplishments and community service of people with disabilities resulting from neuromuscular diseases. Wrigglesworth was recognized for her contributions to the MDA, her work for physically disabled students at A&M and her community service.

Wrigglesworth, 19, has been affected since infancy by spinal muscular atrophy, a neuromuscular disorder that severely weakens muscles. She uses an electric wheelchair for mobility.

Robert Ross, senior vice president and executive director of the MDA, said he is happy to honor Wrigglesworth.

"We're honored to count such an accomplished individual as Angela Wrigglesworth among MDA's friends and leaders in Texas," Ross said. "She's using her outstanding abilities to make important contributions to her community."

Wrigglesworth, a 1995 graduate of Klein Forest High School in Houston, has taken many leadership roles in the MDA. She has appeared on the local broadcast of the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon since 1983.

"I've been involved with the MDA since I was 6," Wrigglesworth said. "I was very nervous the first time I went on TV

because I was shy when I was younger. But as I got older, I got comfortable with it. It's really fun."

Wrigglesworth has demonstrated leadership qualities throughout her life. At Klein Forest, she was senior class treasurer and junior class president.

Wrigglesworth has attended MDA summer camp each year and personally has raised more than \$40,000 for the MDA.

"We're honored to count such an accomplished individual ... among MDA's friends and leaders in Texas."

Robert Ross
 Senior vice president and executive director of the MDA

"The camp is indescribable," Wrigglesworth said. "Every year, I come back and tell my mom, 'This was the best year ever.' We hang out together and we swim, play sports and do arts and crafts."

Wrigglesworth also was chosen as the Texas MDA Poster Child in 1985 and 1986, the first person to receive the honor in consecutive years. As the MDA Poster Child, Wrigglesworth traveled with the MDA making speeches.

Please see WRIGGLESWORTH on Page 6.

Canyon Lake tourism suffers because of flooding

CANYON LAKE (AP) — Flooding has raised the level of Canyon Lake nearly to its spillway and will shut down tubing on the nearby Guadalupe River for a month, potentially causing millions of dollars in losses.

"The recreation business for Canyon Lake is over for most of the summer," reservoir manager Jerry Brite was quoted as saying in Tuesday's San Antonio Express-News.

Most public picnic shelters, campgrounds and restrooms are under water and boat ramps are closed. The Canyon Lake Marina and Papa Docks Restaurant are now on an island, cut off from shore by 12 feet of water.

Downstream, on a popular stretch of the

Guadalupe River near New Braunfels, business will be difficult for river outfitters until the lake stops releasing floodwater, Brite said.

Teased by an exceptional Memorial Day weekend, outfitters who rent inner tubes and other water equipment were looking forward to this summer, particularly after last year's drought kept the river level low.

It is unclear how badly the flooding will hurt river outfitters, but many say they do half of their annual business from the last week of June through the first week of August, especially around the July Fourth weekend.

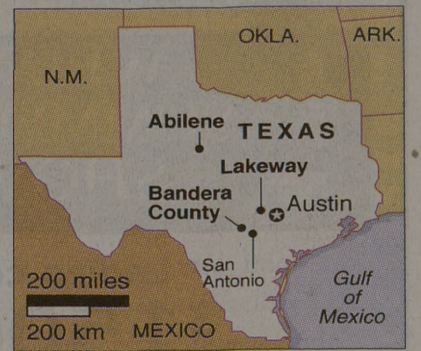
Tourism in Comal County creates 7,000 summer jobs and has a \$220 million economic impact, in-

cluding \$140 million from water-oriented tourism, according to the Chamber of Commerce.

The near-record Canyon Lake level means water will have to be discharged from the reservoir for weeks at 5,500 cubic feet per second — a rate too high for tubing on the Guadalupe River downstream.

"We'll be blowing out 5,500 cubic feet of water per second, and that will be too much for everyone but the very experienced raft guides," Brite said.

The good news is white-water rafting can be done on the Guadalupe River at a level not usually experienced in Texas, said Paul Rich owner of Mountain Breeze Camp. And the calmer Comal River remains open for tubing.



AP

TODAY IN BATTALION

SPORTS

Athletic Director Wally Groff remains loyal to Texas A&M for over 30 years.

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OPINION

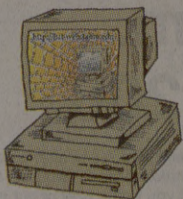
Water: Infant deaths in America reveal parental neglect, murderous intentions.

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ONLINE

<http://bat-web.tamu.edu>

Look for archived stories online.



Teen charged with murder

Woman is accused of strangling baby after giving birth at prom

FREEHOLD, N.J. (AP) — A teen-ager who gave birth at her prom and then returned to the dance floor was charged with murder Tuesday after an autopsy concluded the baby was strangled and left in a plastic bag taken from the sanitary-napkin receptacle in the bathroom.

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Prosecutors said 18-year-old Melissa Drexler may have even used the sharp edge of the receptacle to cut the umbilical cord before dumping the body of the newborn boy in a trash can June 6.

"Go tell the boys we'll be right out," Drexler yelled to a friend in the bathroom before coming out of the stall, according to prosecutor John Kaye. He said she put her loose-fitting black gown back on and went back to the prom dance floor, leaving the bathroom splattered with blood.

A grim-looking Drexler, wearing a flowered

skirt and a blue denim top with matching nail polish, surrendered with her parents and stood before a judge Tuesday to face the charges of murder and endangering the welfare of a child.

If convicted, Drexler could get life in prison. Prosecutors said they do not plan to seek the death penalty.

Her attorney entered a plea of innocent on her behalf. She spoke only to answer "yes" to questions from Superior Court Judge John A. Ricciardi.

About an hour later, after posting \$50,000 bail, Drexler emerged from the courthouse and walked into a sea of reporters, photographers and cameramen. She got into a black Chevy Blazer and appeared on the verge of tears.

"She's not very happy," attorney Steven Secare said after Drexler had left. "She's very nervous."

Drexler's 19-year-old prom date has said that he believes he was the father but that he was unaware she was pregnant.

Air Force denies UFO rumors

Government claims 'aliens' were life-size dummies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force is sticking to its story. Those weren't alien bodies secretly recovered from a UFO crash site in New Mexico half a century ago. They were dummies.

"Case closed," the Air Force insists in a 231-page report released Tuesday on the so-called Roswell "incident."

Not so fast, say believers. "If you've seen an alien, you would know the difference between that and a stupid crash dummy," said Barb Sauerman, the switchboard operator at the mayor's office.

And Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, said the report raised more questions than it answered — and certainly was not sufficient to let the Air

Force wash its hands of the controversy.

"It's not going to do that at all," she said. "The most likely explanation for the unverified alien reports made in July 1947, the Air Force said, relates to life-size dummies dropped from the skies during a series of experiments in the 1950s. What is not fully explained is how people could have confused events that happened a decade apart."

"If you find that people talk about things over a period of time, they begin to lose exactly when the date was," said Col. John Haynes, an Air Force declassification officer who presented the report at a Pentagon news conference.

"I have no other explanation."

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