

THE BATTALION

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Department head aims to limit engineering students' Q-drops

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

A department head's efforts to save money and curb Q-drops has left some students worried about their grades and their futures. Rayford Anthony, Department of Chemical Engineering head, announced via email that he will meet with a student committee to institute a new, stricter Q-drop policy to limit the number of Q-drops students may use for undergraduate chemical engineering classes. Anthony said he would like to institute as soon as next semester a policy under which students may Q-drop one chemical engineering class after demonstrating to the department head and dean that he or she has encountered a hardship impairing his or her ability to perform in the class. Under current University guidelines, students may Q-drop two courses during their first 60 class hours and two courses in the following 60 class hours without demonstrating a hardship, such as illness or death in the family. Anthony said the new policy would decrease the number of Q-drops within chemical engineering, saving his department up to \$10,000 a semester and saving students the \$400 they would pay to retake the course. "[Q-dropping] makes my faculty work harder from 21,000 less in the state and student pay more; and

Q-DROP

Proposed Q-Drop Policy for the Department of Chemical Engineering

Students may only drop a class after proving that a hardship has impaired their ability to work in a class.

ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

it allows a student who should have already finished the course to take a seat away from another student who may be trying to get into the class for the first time," he said. Johnathan Weatherly, a senior chemical engineering major, said the general response from chemical engineering majors is one of fear for their grade point ratios and their future. "Most of us [students] feel that this is taking away our right to make a mistake," he said. "Students may now be stuck with bad grades, and bad grades mean less money down the line." Andy Schaafs, a senior chemical engineering major, said the attempt to pose stricter regulations follows an incident last semester in

which 50 percent of two sections of a heat-transfer class Q-dropped after receiving their first two test grades.

"The professor basically gave the impression that students on the lower end of the scale didn't have much of a chance to pass," he said. "This really isn't a situation that is all that rare."

Anthony said that if students have problems with professors, they should contact the department head or dean to resolve the issue.

"We try to work with students as much as we possibly can to resolve any problems that may come up," he said. "Our professors are usually rated highly by the students who complete their courses."

Thomas Owens, a senior chemical engineering major, said the policy, if implemented, should be accompanied by an enforced minimum grade distribution under which no more than 10 percent of the class may receive a "D" or an "F." "Grades are highly dependent upon faculty," he said. "When grade distributions are irrational, the student needs more recourse [such as a Q-drop]."

Mary Broussard, coordinator for special functions in the office of the associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services, said any new restrictions imposed by Anthony must first be approved by the Academic Operations Committee, which consists of 25 academic representatives, including academic deans and representatives from the Student Government Association.

Center: Expo '99 not associated with University

BY MATT LOFTIS
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University Career Center has raised concerns about the impact the Career Expo '99 program could have on student organizations and groups associated with particular fields of study because of the Career Expo's misrepresentation as affiliated with A&M.

Since hearing of the event, officials have attempted to inform students the program is completely unaffiliated with the Career Center.

Confusion about the fair's relation to A&M became apparent after Glen Payne, associate director for placement at the Career Center, received a fax from Northwestern Mutual, a regular patron of A&M career fairs.

Northwestern had received correspondence from the Career Expo notifying them fair organizers had received their phone and fax numbers from the Career Center and that they were invited to represent themselves at the fair.

According to Career Center officials, the Career Expo never made an official attempt to contact the Career Center and had

Career fair draws 150 companies

The Association of Career Development will host a career fair in Reed Arena today through Friday. The job fair is today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the interview sessions are Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Career Expo '99 is an all-purpose job fair, emphasizing technical and general careers in the business, management, marketing, sales, health and education fields.

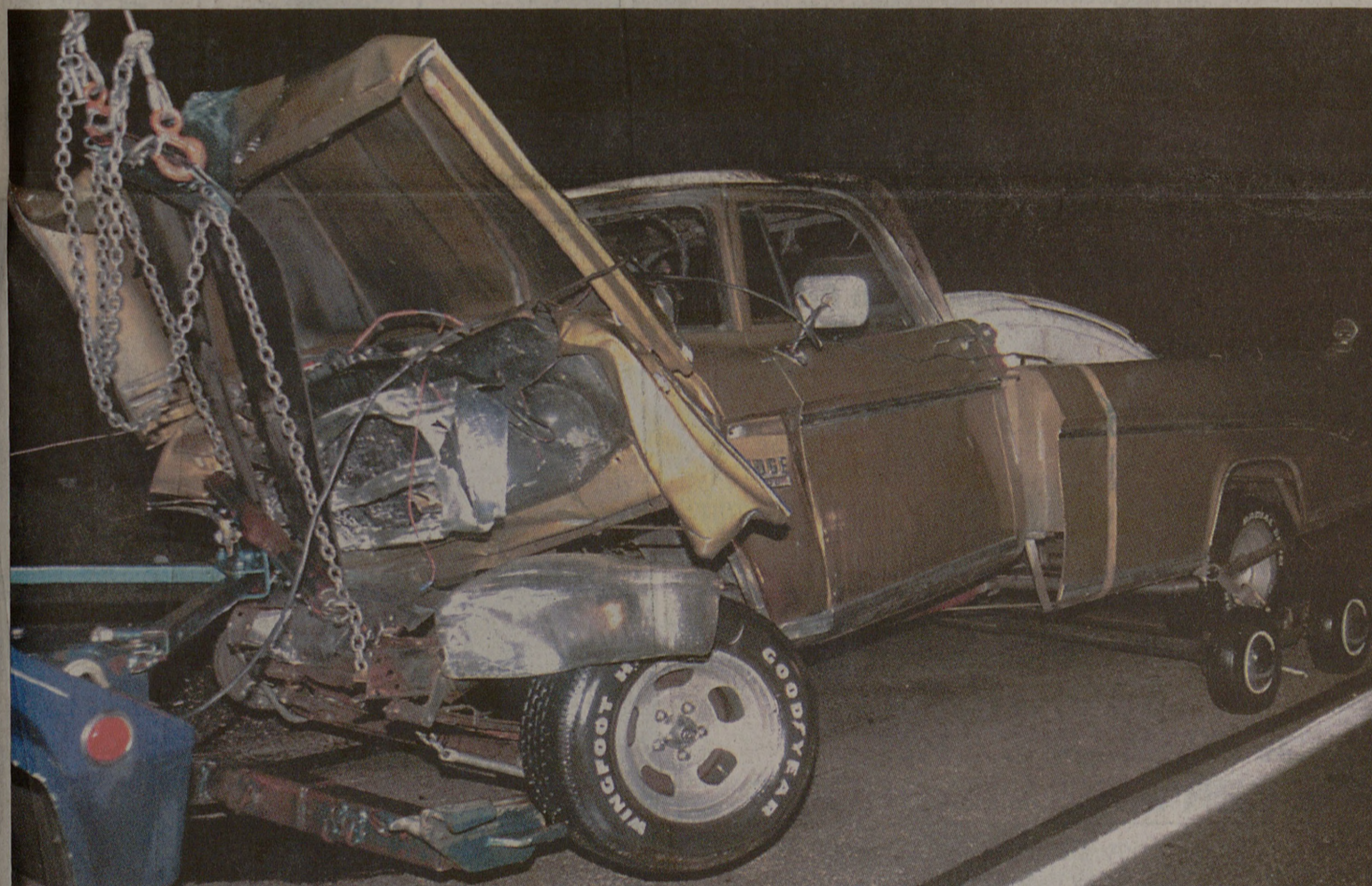
One hundred fifty employers will be recruiting at the Career Expo including American Express, Kroger, Hewlett-Packard, the San Antonio Independent School District and Sonic Restaurants.

no official relation of any kind to the center.

Danny Bower, Capitalizing on Engineering Opportunities Career Fair co-chair and a senior mechanical engineering major, said that although a fair like the

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Rain-slicked streets cause accidents



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

A two-car accident occurred on Highway 6 last night, approximately one mile from Old San Antonio Road, involving a truck (shown above being towed) and a van. It was one of many wrecks that took place yesterday as a result of the constant rain.

Professor to lecture on religion's past

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Dr. Daniel Bornstein, director of religious-studies program in the College of Liberal Arts and a history professor, will discuss teaching the history of Christianity tonight at 7 in the Banquet Room of the Clayton Williams Alumni Center. The lecture is part of the 1999 Fallon-Marshall Lecture series presented by the College of Liberal Arts.

Bornstein, whose history class covers the 1,500 years of history from Jesus to the reformation will discuss the problems associated in teaching a class about sensitive issues.

"The talk is about the intellectual and pedagogical theories in teaching Christianity in a secular, public university in the Bible Belt," he said.

Bornstein said the second part of the lecture will discuss the handling of sensitive subjects in teaching Christianity and how it can sometimes conflict with broader is-

suess, such as academic freedom and responsibility.

"It is a reflection on classroom experiences when teaching and scholarship intersect," he said.

Bornstein received his undergraduate degree in religious studies from Oberlin College and his Ph.D. from the Interdisciplinary Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.

Adam Mikeal, a sophomore history major who is taking Bornstein's class, said Bornstein is a respectful professor.

"A lot of what is covered in class causes problems with other student's belief systems, but [Bornstein] always respects the views of others," he said.

The Fallon-Marshall Lecture series, established in 1994 by philanthropist Marry Marshall, is an annual forum for the discussion of issues in humanities and social sciences. Bornstein was selected by the Academic Standards Committee from proposals by the College of Liberal Arts.

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Mandy Davidson, a senior and Aggie soccer team captain shows leadership skills on the field.
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Batt Radio
Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on the theft of a police cruiser by teens.

Historian to speak about World War II

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

A United States Defense Department historian will discuss the involvement of the United States and Japan in World War II in two lectures today. Edward J. Drea's first lecture, "The Atomic Bomb and Japan's Response: The Continuing Controversy," dealing with America's awareness of Japan's defense against its invasion during World War II, will be presented at 10 a.m. in the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center in the Deshield Conference Room.

Drea said the lecture will focus on both the American and Japanese views of the subject. "You get both sides of the story," he said. "I use actual documents in both languages to illustrate the discussion."

Drea's second lecture, "Emperor Hirohito's Role in Japan's Strategy During World War II," is based on his recently published book, *In the Service of the Emperor: Essays on the Imperial Japanese Army*.

The lecture begins at 4 p.m. in the Eller Oceanography and Meteorology Building 210.

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JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

Drea said the second lecture will focus on the Japanese emperor's role during the Pacific War and World War II.

"I will discuss if [Emperor Hirohito] was a pacifist, a warmonger or a dupe," he said.

Joseph Dawson, director of the Military Studies Institute, said the Institute presents two speakers each semester and invited Drea because of his familiarity with Japanese culture and history.

Drea said he always has been interested in

SEE HISTORIAN ON PAGE 2.

Sterling C. Evan Library to build new coffee shop

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Starbucks' Coffee fans at Texas A&M University will be happy to know that plans are in the works for a coffee shop to be built on the first floor of Sterling C. Evans Library.

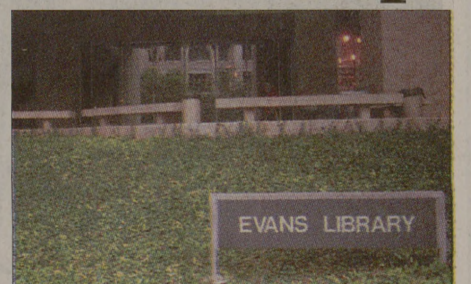
Dr. Frank Heath, dean and director of Evans Library, said the coffee shop will offer Starbucks' brand coffee as well as other drinks, snacks and cold sandwiches.

The project should be finished in June or August, depending on present renovations, he said.

Heath said the only products allowed in the library will still be drinks in resealable bottles. He said the shop's proximity to the facility and extended hours of operation are designed to meet the needs of students.

"We wanted something in the library because of the long hours that students spend working in the library and because the [Pavilion's snack bar] closes relatively early," he said.

The coffee shop will be under the overhang on the east side of the building, near the revolving doors, and will have the same hours of operation as the library.



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

A Starbucks' coffee shop will be available on the first floor of Evans Library in June or August of 2000.

Heath said this project is a collaborative effort between the library, the Department of Food Services and the A&M administration.

"This is [former vice president for administration] Dr. Jerry Gaston's last hoorah for the students," he said. "The student advisory group to the library has always been keen to more services in the library. I think that this is a good compromise."

Ron Beard, director of Food Services, said plans for the shop should be finalized by April or May.