

Efficient reading develops skills

Looking upon reading as a physical skill, Dr. Dwayne Martin and Dr. Malone created the Efficient Reading for College Students course now being taught for the next seven weeks.

Thirty-six students started the course this past week. The course involves eight 2½-hour sessions utilizing textbooks, lectures and demonstrations. It is recommended that the student read several novels outside of class to further increase his speed.

As the name of the course suggests, it seeks to improve reading efficiency — specifically, to at least double the reading speed, totally develop reading skills and comprehension.

The course was designed on the theory that reading involves a wide variety of skills. It is strictly oriented toward the college student or college-level person.

According to Martin, general reading handicaps a student who possesses a slow reading rate, caused by word-by-word reading and continuous passive reading. Passive reading refers to the reader's failure to interact with his subject matter. The material is read but not absorbed.

The course was first offered a year ago last June but long before that Martin and Malone, now at the medical school in Galveston, were aware of the failings of some of the commercial speed reading courses. Students had complained to them that the courses had increased their speed but their lack of comprehension nullified this.

"The overall method has not been changed," stated Martin as this year's course was compared to last. "A few modifications have been made." One lesson was dropped entirely, trimming the

course to eight sessions and a few drills and practices have been changed.

The primary difference between this course and others is the fact that the Efficient Reading course concentrates on comprehension and reader enjoyment. It is felt that after raising one's speed so high that the person no longer derives pleasure from reading, his comprehension is lowered.

An important aspect of any business is public relations or "word of mouth" publicity. Many of the new students have been referred to the course by friends or relatives.

For this semester only the student is allowed to pay the \$75 fee for the course in two parts.

Martin said that they, "essentially used each other as guinea pigs" in developing the course. A project still in the future is a book composed of summaries of their lectures.

Sore feet, blisters to highlight march

Sore feet and blisters may prove numerous Oct. 21 following a citywide walk-athon.

"Miles for the Retarded," sponsored by the Arlington TARS (Teens Aid the Retarded), will cover 20 miles beginning and ending at Arlington High School and will involve nearly 150 TARS and retarded children. Participants will obtain backers who agree to pay a set amount for each mile covered.

Money collected will be used to send the special education students in Arlington to the Special Olympics, tentatively set for Houston next spring.