

Fall work over for drill team

The Fish Drill Team closes out fall semester work Thursday toward a fourth national championship with a two-unit appearance in the annual Bryan and College Station Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade.

FDT units headed by Cleo D. Moore of Houston and John W. Richard of Port Arthur will be the 30th and 44th elements in the 70-unit Thursday night parade.

The Ross Volunteer Company and a police escort leads off the 7 p.m. parade at South Bryan and West 28th Streets.

FDT senior advisor Richard A. Hanes of San Antonio said the Thursday performance by the 50-man team will be its last work until the start of the spring semester Jan. 18.

For the first time in several years, the team which won the National Intercollegiate ROTC Drill Championship in 1968, 1969 and 1970 will not compete in a fall semester meet. The FDT appeared as a unit for two home football game march-ins, performed an exhibition at the Tyler Rose Festival and for a group meeting at A&M.

"A solid month of inactivity will be pretty tough," Hanes said. "We'll have to buckle down quick at the start of the spring semester. The team will have a tight schedule, with nearly every weekend accounted for."

He added that the Gulf Coast Drill Competition in which the fish usually march was postponed from next weekend until Jan. 30.

Hanes said that the team's 50 members were divided 30-20 between units "A" and "B" for the Bryan Christmas parade. Junior advisors Louis B. Ullrich and Michael L. Burkett of San Antonio have supervised preparation of the two teams.

They will compete with Sam Houston State's Lowman Rifles, two teams from Allen Military Academy and a Texas National Guard-sponsored Boy Scout team in the parade's drill unit category.



Registrar Robert A. Lacey, standing, and System Analyst Elliott O. Bray work the Sanders 720 Cathode Ray Tube terminal in the Student Records Office. The new computerized information system makes student data available in less than one second.

Computer information system stores student's full records

A&M has developed a computerized information system to provide faster and more accurate student record service.

Registrar Robert A. Lacey said the remote system consists of Sanders 720 Cathode Ray Tube terminals connected to the Data Processing Center's IBM 360/65 computer by a private telephone line.

The Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) is similar to a television screen. Lacey noted A&M is the only Texas college or university using the CRT system.

Eleven displays on each student are stored in a data cell, a direct access device which replaces magnetic tape. Each display takes less than one second to be shown.

Purpose of the system is to have up-to-date information on all students, Lacey explained.

Currently the Richard Coke Building has three CRT sender-receiver sets, one used exclusively for information input on new or returning students.

Another CRT is located in the YMCA Housing Office to handle all student address changes.

Approximately five percent of the data cell capacity is used for the fall semester enrollment of 14,406 students.

Elliott O. Bray, systems analyst who developed the program, said a student's academic record can

now be updated in a matter of seconds. The magnetic tape computer process sometimes took three to four weeks.

The registration card packet was the start of the uniform record system in February, 1966. It is the basis for all student information.

Students update personal history during registration. Academic updating goes through the Registrar's Office and usually deals with grade point ratios, graduation checks, course of study, hours completed, classification and name changes.

While students tend to disregard personal history mistakes, academic errors generate quick responses, the registrar said.

Lacey said the new system will eliminate many of the errors and bring confidence to the records system.

New student records were put on the data cell on Feb. 1, 1970, and the entire student enrollment was completed Oct. 15.

Bray added the uniform records are the heart of the system.

Other current benefits from the terminal are classroom assignments for the spring semester and enrollment reports to the Coordinating Board, Texas Colleges and University System.

Future plans include updating

student record files for graduation candidates, add and drop courses after the 12th class day, faculty teaching data, master class schedules and possibly instant registration and scheduling for all students.

The Graduate College currently has a terminal system for all graduate students, Lacey pointed out.

The registrar said his office is working closely with the Association of Former Students to get it connected to the system and have former students' records on a data cell.

\$278,100 granted to sea research

The National Science Foundation has awarded A&M a \$278,100 grant for continued assistance in operating the R/V Alaminos, the institution's oceanographic research vessel.

Dr. Richard A. Geyer, head of the Oceanography Department, noted the 1971 award represents a \$41,100 increase over NSF support for the current year.

The Alaminos is a 180-foot vessel used for a variety of studies in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

Theater arts being moved to building J

Theater arts instruction will continue through the spring semester, although the English Department section will be changing location.

The theater arts section directed by C. K. Esten expects to move from Guion Hall to Building "J" during the next few months.

Guion Hall is facing imminent removal to make way for construction of an auditorium complex and the continuing education tower in connection with Memorial Student Center expansion.

Esten noted that 21 semester hours of the theater arts section's 58 hours course work will be offered during the spring semester. The seven three-hour courses, most of which are available to all students for elective credit, include technical theater, directing I, acting II, voice, children's creative dramatics, theater history II and theater arts problems.

Robert W. Wenck of the section said students may elect the theater arts program as a minor.

Secondary education students may take it as a second teaching major or elementary education students can use theater arts as an area of academic specialization, he added.

The program includes 12 hours each of acting and directing, theater history and criticism and theater electives, 13 hours of design and technical production and nine in theater education.

Study is enhanced through participation in productions of the Aggie Players, directed by Esten.

Chess tournament begins Saturday

The annual Brazos Open Chess Tournament squares off 50 players Saturday at A&M for competition sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Chess Committee.

Play set up under five-round U. S. Chess Federation-rated Swiss procedure will begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the MSC Assembly Room, announced George Lockwood, committee chairman of Fort Worth. The competition continues through Sunday.

Lockwood said observers and visitors are welcome.

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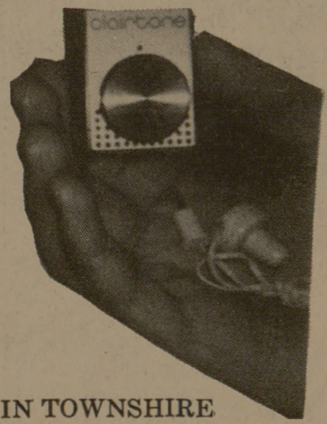
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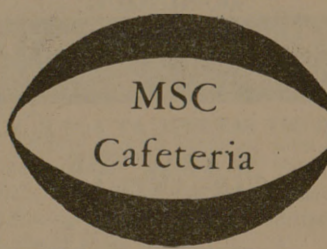
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