

High school crunch

CS students increase

By CATHY RANDALL
Battalion Staff Writer

Although school enrollment is decreasing across the United States, the number of public school students enrolling in College Station is increasing steadily.

Last year, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) reported total enrollment dropped one-quarter of one per cent across the nation. The decrease was attributed to a declining birth rate, HEW said.

The A&M Consolidated School System has seen an 8.1 per cent increase in enrollment since last year, from 2,763 to 2,988.

"Our increase, not only in the school system, but in the community, is directly proportional to the increase at A&M University," Fred A. Hopson, A&M Consolidated Superintendent, said Monday.

Along with an increase of nearly 3,000 A&M University students, the faculty and service personnel add to the growth which affects public schools, Hopson said.

Elementary school enrollment has declined nationally, according to HEW, but in College Station most of the increase is being felt in the city's two elementary schools.

What's happening to us is that we have a transient population, coming and going," Hopson explained. "The majority of the kids we enroll are in grades two through 10."

Crowded conditions are the major problem created by the additional students, an A&M Consolidated High School teacher said.

"When you have 39 kids in a classroom set up for only 28, it is hard to pinpoint problems in students," Rhonda Cavender, a sophomore English teacher, said Tuesday.

She said the quality of education could be improved with smaller classes.

"It's not that the students are getting a raw deal," she said. "They're getting the best we can give them."

Hopson said he would like to maintain a 25 students-per-teacher

ratio in the schools.

The school is feeling the pinch of soaring educational costs, Hopson said.

"We are now printing on both sides of paper, and students are copying more off the blackboard," he said. "We are learning to conserve."

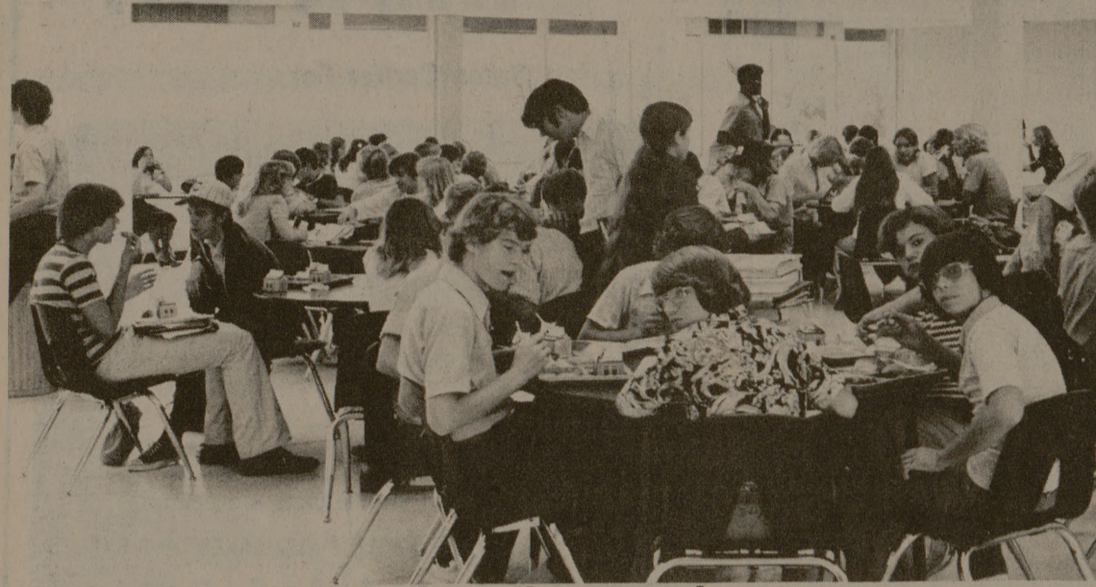
Because more classrooms are needed and enrollment is expected to increase, the school board is meeting Sept. 22 to decide whether to hold a \$7.2 million bond election

to finance additional classrooms and buildings.

Although the school receives federal and state funds for its operations, any new building program would have to be financed through local taxes.

The projected enrollment for the school district in 1980 is 3,635. Enrollment in September was 2,988.

The highest enrollment increase was in the second grade class, with 241 students this year compared to 227 last year.



Lunch crunch

The population explosion seems to be affecting the A&M Consolidated school district, as students crowd the lunch room at lunch hour.

Staff photo by Mike Hodgson

Father asks court to let daughter die

Associated Press

MORRISTOWN — Joseph T. Quinlan says he is convinced after many prayers it is "our Lord's will" that his adopted daughter Karen be allowed to die.

Karen Ann Quinlan, 21, has been in a coma since April 15 and only a hospital's respirator stands between her and death. Her father has filed suit in Superior Court here asking permission to disconnect the machine.

Quinlan, his wife Julia and two younger children, all devout Roman Catholics, disapprove of euthanasia — mercy killing — and believe Karen already is dead except for the functions provided by the machine.

The 50-year-old Quinlan said of his decision Tuesday, "I was the last to hold out because both my wife and my other daughter were critically ill in the past and the Lord always answered my prayers before. But after a lot of prayers I became convinced this is what God's will was, that Karen was being called by Him."

Mrs. Quinlan said, "She is just a vegetable. She is not alive."

The Quinlans, who live in Roxbury Township, sought the counsel of Catholic priests at their parish, Our Lady of the Lake, in nearby Mount Arlington. Paul W. Armstrong, Quinlan's attorney, said priests concurred in their decision.

Armstrong said his research showed Catholic doctrine differentiates between acting to take a life and removing devices that "artificially" sustain life in a hopeless case.

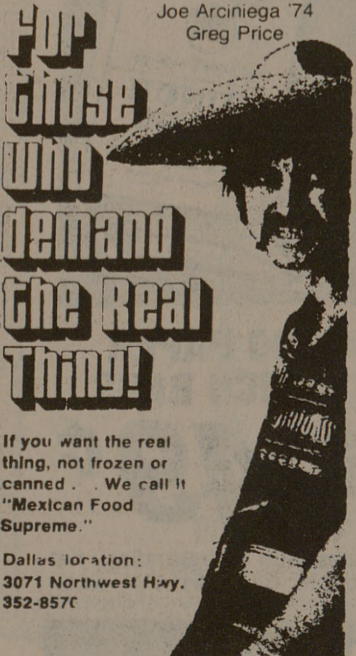
In the court papers filed last Friday, Armstrong said doctors have determined the young woman has suffered irreparable brain damage during her five months in a coma.

Quinlan's suit has brought to court the question of defining life and death. Morris County Prosecutor Donald G. Colletter Jr. said he has intervened in the case because if Karen is alive, shutting off the machine to end the life would be a homicide. Colletter also said there is a legal question as to "who has jurisdiction over such matters."

Armstrong said Karen became ill April 15 and has been sustained by a respirator for five months. Doctors at St. Clare's hospital in Denville, where the young woman has lain comatose since being admitted, have not diagnosed Karen's illness.

Tupinamba

Eddie Dominguez '66
Joe Arniega '74
Greg Price



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