

The Battalion

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Engineers' GPRs drop even though SATs high

BY KYLE CREWS

Thirty seven percent of the freshmen engineering majors at Texas A&M University posted G.P.R.'s under 2.0 at mid-semester. This is despite the fact that the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score for freshman engineering students this year was 1200 — 400 points higher than the University's requirement for admission.

This was one of the items discussed at the College of Engineering Industrial Representatives Committee meeting held on campus October 27-28. The semi-annual meetings are designed to bring industry into closer contact with higher education.

"We are not getting the same quality freshman and sophomore education as we did 12-15 years ago," said Fred J. Benson, dean of the College of Engineering. He said the major problem contributing to the

freshmen's low grades is the difficulty they are having with their required math courses.

Benson said the enrollment in the undergraduate college has increased from 4,913 in 1976 to 5,526 in 1977. He told the industrial representatives that if this increase continues, they will be forced to teach classes at night in order to have enough classroom space.

Dr. Ned Walton, associate research engineer for the college, told the representatives at their first meeting Thursday that the U.S. Government requires statistics on the races of students in the college. He said that other federal laws prohibit them from gathering information directly related to racial classifications.

"Our official statistics come from the Registrar's Office, but since so many students don't indicate their race on their pre-registration cards, these figures aren't too reliable. For example, their records show that there are 56 blacks enrolled at the University, and we know that there are more than that," Walton said.

Walton said that during pre-registration for the spring semester, card checkers would make sure that students have

checked either 'American Indian', 'Hispanic', 'Black' or 'Other' on the appropriate forms.

Representatives from companies such as General Dynamics, Cameron Iron, Dow Chemical Company and Gulf Oil attended the two-day meeting.

The new Doctorate of Engineering degree now available at Texas A&M was discussed by the group at their final meeting Friday.

The previously established PhD program in engineering was compared to the new doctorate degree. The industry representatives agreed that the new program prepared students better for their type of work. The practical training and electives that are included in the program were cited as strong points. One company representative urged Dr. Richard Thomas, associate dean, to keep the program flexible so that it can benefit a larger number of students.

In order to hear student suggestions for course offerings, the industrial representatives asked that they be given the opportunity to meet informally with senior-level students at the next meeting, scheduled for April 1978.

State Guard: way to beat high costs

By KEVIN PATTERSON

Some out of state students have found a means of bypassing high tuition rates at Texas A&M University — by joining the Texas State Guard (TSG).

Because of a provision in the state laws, an out of state student who joins or is a member of a military component is treated as a resident of the state for purposes of tuition. For the majority of those taking advantage of this, the savings are substantial.

An out of state student who is taking 15 hours and joins the TSG can save more than \$500 a semester.

The TSG's 50-member local unit, Charlie Company, is composed almost entirely of students and has a long waiting list of out of state students.

"Anything that will save me this much is worth one night a month," said Jeff Pranglin, a junior at A&M. Pranglin, a Mississippi resident, found out about the TSG from other out of state residents who were members.

"To deserving men and women we are able to offer compensation and financial assistance with their fees for their services to the state," said Col. Ira Scott, group commander of the TSG in this area.

Scott went on to list the basic goals and duties of the TSG. The TSG assumes the role of the National Guard whenever they are called out, plus during the summer when the guard is on training maneuvers. During these periods the 3,000-member TSG provides security to all armories and equipment.

In addition, the TSG assists the National Guard on request in civil disaster evacuation and relief.

A company of TSG, consisting of 15 enlisted personnel and two officers, is assigned to each armory in the state. Each of these companies is responsible for their particular area and therefore has a quicker reaction time in the event of disaster.

Members of Charlie Company, the local TSG unit, received such disaster preparedness training as riot and traffic control instruction, administered by the Bryan Police Department.

The students who get in have to maintain certain requirements or else lose their benefits. These requirements include mandatory attendance at the monthly meetings and training, a good uniform appearance and cooperation.

"If they miss a meeting they better have a very good excuse or they will be out," said Pranglin.

The benefits are a good incentive to keep the students there, because without their exemption they will have to pay the additional out of state fees to the University.

Charlie Company is the largest unit in the state and a new TSG ruling will limit future out-of-state students to five percent of the total strength of a company. To many out of state students this will be said news.

"I was just a little too late," said a sophomore from Virginia.

The new limitations will also create a manpower pinch until unit strengths balance out.

"Until attrition opens some slots now filled, there can be no more enlistments of out of state students in this area and this is bound to crimp us a little," said Scott. "We won't be quite as effective in the future because there is now a quota."

Spook house aiming to attract 'older kids'

By TOUMONAVA MULLINS

The bloody corpse rises from his coffin and warns you not to enter the house of terror. But your black-hooded guide with the skeletal face urges you on.

Inside, the whirling time machine lands you in an eerie cavern. Voices cry out in the dark.

Frankenstein's monster feasts on a live head of lettuce and bloody eyeballs. The torture chamber and alien room hold still more frightening surprises.

It's all happening tonight in the old condemned metal house on the corner of Luther and Montclair, in College Station. The house is open from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

This spook house is aimed at the older kids — high school and college age, says Dale Gulick, project coordinator and roaming goon in the cave room.

"I don't recommend anybody under the sixth grade come," he said. The event is sponsored by the Wesley

Foundation, the college-age portion of the A&M United Methodist Church, Gulick said.

"The entrance fee of \$1 will be divided between the Wesley Foundation and the church," he said. "Unless we have 450 people visit, we won't break even."

The spook house opened Friday night. There, about 40 people stood in line, with their dollar bills. Nearby, lay several freshly dug graves. Nervous laughter could be heard after each dreadful moan and scream from the house of terror. The younger children held hands.

"We're taking them through in groups of five or six," Gulick said. Inside, a control house monitors the group's whereabouts at all time.

"We have about 30 people working each night," said Gulick.

Chris Hinds, guides chairman, said plans for the event started six weeks ago. The group has been working on the house for the last three and a half weeks.

Michael Murphey; a crowd-pleaser every time

By J. WAGNER TYNES

With three successful concerts at Texas A&M tucked under his belt, Michael Murphey may be on the way to becoming another Aggie tradition.

Murphey apparently offers Aggies a personality and type of music perfectly suited to their desires. And, judging from some of Murphey's comments, A&M suits him well, also.

Murphey arrived just late enough Friday (7:30 p.m.) to make the show's organizers, the Town Hall committee, a little edgy. But backstage after the show, with a satisfied crowd pouring from the building, no one seemed ready to complain.

The small crowd that waited outside

Murphey's dressing room door was a little more quiet than everyone else. Murphey had risen a little closer to God in their eyes that night, and they were about to meet him.

Occasionally, the door would open and someone would come out. Murphey's son, Ryan, 7, would run through the crowd holding comic books or wife Caroline would stroll through looking for one thing or another.

When Murphey finally appeared, everyone seemed embarrassed, including Murphey. He sidled down the line of autograph-seekers, shaking hands and smiling.

He called Ryan over for an introduction to two young girls. Ryan was unimpressed

and the girls were too absorbed in Murphey. Ryan said hi and was gone. Murphey smiled and moved to the next person.

After a few more signatures, Murphey met reporters in a locker room with only one long bench to sit on and a row of lockers to lean against.

He seemed happy and not ever slightly tired. He answered all the questions sincerely and readily despite the fact that he'd probably heard most of them a few hundred times before.

The credit for the success of his show, he unabashedly gave to Town Hall. "The program council here works about as hard as any I've ever seen," he said.

"The people who sell the tickets and put on the show are very well organized."

He was only willing to take part of the credit for the audience's response, although he failed to say what other reason could explain why they called him back for two encores. He simply noted that the same thing has happened two times before.

"I've worked hard to put on the best show that I possibly can here and they come back because of it, whether or not I had a hit," he said.

He noted that Aggies also support his music in other ways.

"The album sales down here are the best per capita of any place in the world," he said.

Someone asked whether he planned to attend midnight yell practice, which was about to begin.

"I've already had my yell practice," he replied.

Murphey said he thought the Texas music scene has changed for the better since he moved to Colorado to escape being identified too strongly with progressive country music.

"What's taking its place is many different forms of music," he said, "and there's actually more music going on here now than there was five years ago."

Murphey credited his special success at A&M to an overall school philosophy that closely corresponds to his own.

"It's not a pretentious school," he said. He told of an article he had read which rated various colleges and which, he said, had been unfairly slanted against A&M. He said he wrote an indignant letter defending the school, but it wasn't printed.

About that time, a Town Hall worker walked up to Murphey and extended his hand. "Mike, thank you very much, we really enjoyed it. Come back to see us. God bless you."

As the guy left, Murphey said, "There's a good example right there, you know. That guy's not gonna walk in and start running down some philosophical business or law trip on me or try to ask me some deep philosophical question. And yet, he's probably just as smart as anyone in an Eastern university."

Murphey said his next album, Loner's Paradise, to be released in January, will be simpler and more band-oriented than previous albums.

After the interview, Murphey said



Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

New seal for the Academic

The new look of the Academic Building's rotunda was dedicated Saturday morning under the direction of Andie Duffie, senior class president. The Class of '78 gift, a mosaic of the University's official seal, lies below Texas A&M's replica of the Liberty Bell.

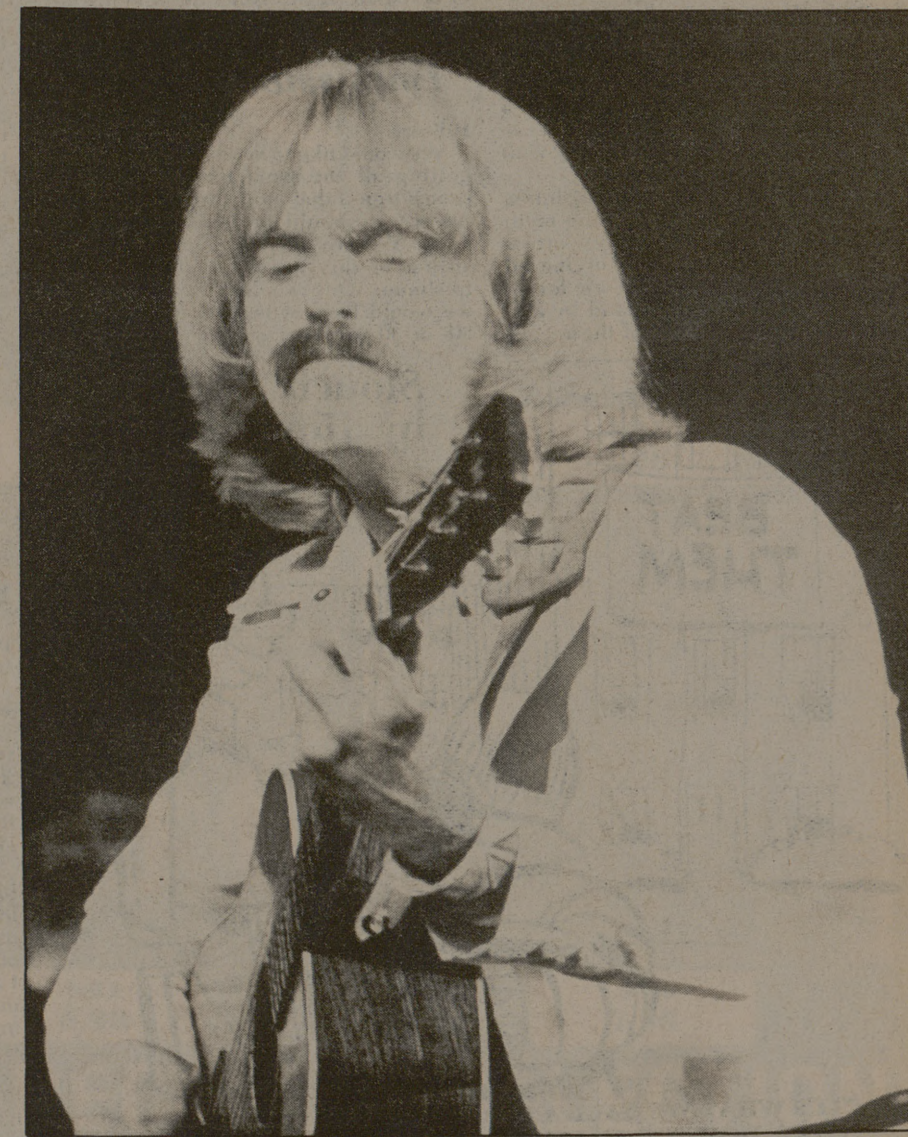


Yum, yum, yum

They may not be Graham Kerr and Julia Child, but these two gourmets do prove the old adage to be true: You are what you eat. In this case, gross. This pair, and their many friends and relatives,

may be observed at a spook house on the corner of Luther and Montclair in College Station tonight from 7:30 to 10:30.

Battalion photo by Kathy Curtis



Michael Murphey ...

... another Aggie tradition