



'Fish' at work

Battalion photo by Beth Dzikowski

Members of the Corps of Cadets are doing what they love best—hard labor. Here, "fish" are clearing the cutting area in preparation for the Nov. 25 bonfire.

Spring Branch counselors visit

Twenty counselors from Spring Branch School District, which in the past two years has supplied about eight percent of Texas A&M University's freshmen enrollment, met with campus officials Friday in a special information program.

In welcoming the counselors to Texas A&M, Dean of Admissions and Records Ed Cooper said of Spring Branch students, "Their success reflects their preparation and they are excellently prepared in your school system. They're the kind of student any university would be proud to enroll."

SBISD asked for the special pres-

entation for its counselors in order to better equip them to advise their charges.

Cooper said that Spring Branch and Harris County account for more than 6,000 of the current 29,414 enrollment at Texas A&M and that 9,000 former students now live in Harris County.

In other portions of the day-long program, the counselors heard presentations by Texas A&M officials on admission policy, academic counseling, student life, housing, ROTC and Corp of Cadets opportunities, medical education and general information on the university.

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George Ann Hoke, Judy Fondy,
Kathy Grimes, Vickie Matthews,
Judy McCann.

(not pictured: Jane Kroll)

SEBRING

Better Business Bureau— what's in store for students?

(Continued from page 1)

Darby suggested that if the BBB would have an answering service where he could answer the complaint over the phone he might be more tempted to use the service. Darby also said that he thought that the arbitration service provided by the BBB was helpful in settling consumer-business disputes.

Individual citizens, however, are not allowed to join the BBB. The organization's by-laws state that only businesses may be dues-paying members.

The dues are based on the number of full-time personnel the store employs. Membership dues for a business with one to four persons employed are \$60 per year. Businesses with 175 to 200 employees pay \$52 annually.

Balmain would not release figures on the operating budget for the BBB, but an approximate budget of \$4,200 per year can be obtained from the above figures.

The bulk of these membership dues pay the salaries of Balmain and Botkin, says Carl Bussell, president of the board of directors. He also said that part of the budget is for national dues (about \$100 per year), newsletters, communication bills and building rent.

The BBB is located in downtown Bryan in the Varisco Building in a carpeted and paneled office. A secretary for Varisco Brazos Estates said that an office like this one rents for \$79.20 annually. The rent includes utilities and maid and janitorial services.

"We are working with a limited budget," Botkin says. "The pamphlets which we purchase are given to consumers free."

The BBB is reviewed once a month by the 21-person board of directors who are elected by the membership. The directors serve three-year terms with seven new directors being elected each year. The main duty of the directors is to vote on new

members and police present members, Bussell says.

A business must be invited to join the Better Business Bureau.

"Not all businesses are invited to join. We first check into the businessman's background in the town from which he came," Bussell says. "Then there is a six-month period which the businessman has to be open before he will be invited to join."

A member must meet certain BBB standards. He must be willing to supply background information on his company, cooperate with the bureau's activities and efforts to promote voluntary self-regulation, respond to all complaints and supply upon request the evidence that any advertising or selling claim is based upon.

If a member violates these stan-

dards, the board of directors will ask him to resign from his the membership.

"We have had several businesses whom we have had to drop from the membership because they did not answer complaints against them," Bussell says.

One of Balmain's duties as executive director is to visit new businesses in town and introduce them to the Better Business Bureau.

"I go out to some businesses and some come to me," Balmain says.

Despite the BBB's efforts, a number of students do not get results from their services.

Chris Kling, student legal adviser, says many students come to him after first having been to the bureau. The BBB collects students' complaints, Kling says, but rather than take action, they send students to the legal adviser.

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