

W-1 will split, says commandant

Corps women form squadron in fall

By CONNIE BURKE
W-1, the women's Corps unit, will split and form an Air Force squadron next fall.

Colonel James Woodall, Corps Commandant said he decided Monday night that W-1 should split because the company has become too large to remain a single unit. W-1 has 57 members while most Corps units have 40 to 50 members.

The Air Force squadron will consist of Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC members until there are Air

Force upperclassmen who can command the squadron, Woodall said. However, he said, the squadron will eventually become an all Air Force unit.

The units will be independent of each other, each having their own commanding officers, and next fall each unit should have about 45 members, Woodall said. He added that the split will be advantageous to the women because it will create more leadership positions for them.

An increase in membership retention of W-1 was another reason

Woodall gave for deciding to split the company.

The Corps of Cadets opened membership to women in the fall of 1974. In September of that year 46 women joined the Corps. By May 1975 membership dropped to 26. That year W-1 retained 56.6 percent of its membership. From September 1975 to May 1976, 58.7 percent of membership for women in the Corps was retained. Last spring, W-1 had retained 60.6 percent of its membership for the 1976-1977 academic year. From September

1977 until now, W-1 has retained 79.2 percent of its membership.

Roxie Pranglin, commanding officer of W-1, said she is glad Woodall approved forming an Air Force squadron.

"I think the split will be advantageous because it will give the Air Force cadets the training they need to do well at summer camp and to excel as Air Force officers," Pranglin said.

Because of the expected membership increase, W-1 will need more

housing space next fall. There is a possibility that the civilians living on the second floor of Spence Hall, the dormitory for women in the Corps, will have to move next fall. Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he has sent a housing proposal to University President Jarvis Miller. The proposal suggests that next fall Dorm 12 be used for men in the Corps, Dorm 3 be used for women in the Corps, and Dorm One for a civilian women. However, he said, no definite plans have been made yet.

Panel discusses issues of migrant farmworkers

By BILL WHITE
The importance of unionizing farm workers in Texas was one of the topics discussed in Tuesday's panel discussion on the status of migrant farm workers.

The panel was a joint presentation of the Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC) and Great Issues. The four guest speakers were Carlos Truan, Texas State Senator, Joaquin Avila, member of the Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund (M.A.L.D.E.F.), Antonio Orendain of the Texas Farmworkers Union, and Jose A. Gomez of the United Farmworkers Union.

Orendain said farmers should organize like lawyers, who have formed the American Bar Association.

Truan answered by saying that migrant farmers are not organized and as a result have no clout in the legislature. He said he tried to introduce the creation of an agricultural relations board last year, but with little success. He called the migrant worker the "low man on the totem pole in any criteria dealing with human needs."

Migrant workers have the highest poverty levels, are plagued by disease, and have highest school drop-out rates, Truan said.

Avila said farmers need collective bargaining rights, and agreed that unionization would give them a power base from which to institute changes in the law.

Gomez answered that Texas farm workers are unionized to a certain extent. He said there are 5,000 to 10,000 union members of the United Farmworkers Union under contract to work in California and Florida but now reside in Texas.

Gomez said farmers should be unionized. He cited advantages of unionization such as establishing a stable work force, working under a contract, and having standardized wages. Gomez said farmworkers do not get the minimum wage of \$2.65.

Gomez said fear on the part of the farm workers hinders organization of a union. People do not understand the purpose or motives of the union, he said.

Avila said the issue of undocumented workers or aliens is a problem in the organization of a union. He said the workers are a "constant source of cheap labor."

If the union was possible, said Avila, the undocumented worker would no longer be the scapegoat. He added that workers' fear of losing jobs would be gone.

Orendain said farm workers cannot organize effectively because of their lack of education and money.

Truan said that from a political standpoint, the strongest force against unionization is the non-farmworkers who speak out for unionization. These people, many of whom are landowners, do not have a feeling for what it is like to work out in the fields, he said.

The impact of illegal aliens on the

socio-economic and legislative structure of the Texas Farmworkers was also discussed.

Gomez said the real problem concerns why these people leave Mexico and come to the United States.

Avila cited a study made on the effect of illegal aliens on Washington, D.C. Some of the popular beliefs, such as aliens being on welfare, having medical assistance and not paying taxes, were dispelled by the survey, he said.

He said aliens have an impact on the economic structure, but it is not as serious as many people believe.

Truan said workers' inability to organize a labor union hurts the economic structure. He said illegal aliens may work in fields during the day and go back across the border at night. Therefore it is difficult to organize a labor group under such conditions, he said.

Orendain noted that employers hire illegal aliens because their rates are cheaper. People need the money and are willing to come across the border to work for better wages, he said.

One member of the audience asked about differences between workers in Texas and California.

Avila answered that attitudes in the two states are completely different. He said conditions are bad for Mexican-Americans in Texas, but that California is more progressive in its legislation.

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Look at "Urban Transportation" America featuring Ronald W. Holder will be the second in Great Issues spring semester lecture series. It's scheduled for Feb. 21 at 7:30 in Room 701, Rudder Tower.

Holder, employed as transport operations program manager for the Texas Transportation Institute on the Texas A&M campus, Holder has been responsible for various research projects in transportation planning and operation. He is a graduate of Texas A&M, earning B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering in 1959 and 1965, respectively, as well as a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (Transportation) in 1972.

Holder is a registered professional engineer whose major interests are in transportation planning and design.

Since joining the Texas Transportation Institute as a research engineer in 1971, Holder has made numerous contributions to the field of urban transportation. He was responsible for the public transportation

portion of Texas' 1972 Transportation Study.

Holder directed an effort to provide data on and evaluate mass transportation systems in the United States and Texas.

He has also conducted a series of transit workshops for the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

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