

Orientation helps parents

Leaving home to attend college is often frightening to the student, but can be traumatic for the parents as well, says Dr. Ronald Lewis, assistant director of the Academic Counseling Center at Texas A&M University.

That is why this university includes both students and parents in the freshman orientation program," says Lewis. "It helps reduce anxiety."

He says parents are able to make personal contact with university personnel who will be associated with their son or daughter during the student's academic career. These deans, departmental advisers and faculty members are available to assist with the family and answer questions the parents or student may have. Texas A&M pioneered the parent-student summer orientation program and limits the attendance to 200 per session. Freshmen must attend as a pre-enrollment requirement.

"Parents are usually more aware of what is going on during orientation than students," says Lewis. Students, he explains, are usually excited to gather all the information given during the program. The parents are more concerned about what the university has to say because it will affect them as well as their student.

Lewis says parents, once aware of facilities such as the Academic Counseling Center, will urge their son or daughter to take advantage of the service if needed. Students often get lost in the maze of schoolwork and other activities and don't realize the university employs advisers to help them with personal and academic problems.

About 40 percent of the parents of incoming freshmen attend the orientation programs held during the summer, but Lewis thinks it would be best if all parents attended.

He feels the program not only aids parents, but also allows the university to make personal contact with the family, giving Texas A&M a better understanding of student needs.



Battalion photo by David Keahy

Foreign foods delight Ags

Hundreds of foreign foods fans packed room 226 of the MSC Tuesday night during the International Food Festival, part of International Week at Texas A&M. Yajira Cachonegrete (left) and Machelia Rijero (right) serve "Ensalada de Pollo," a Venezuelan dish.

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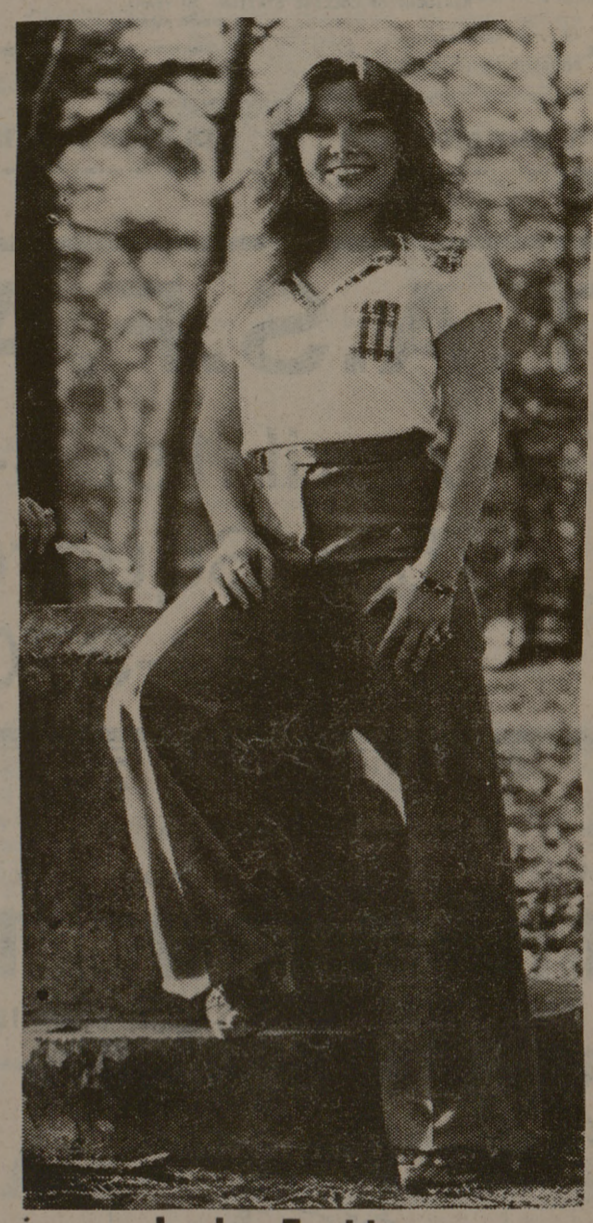
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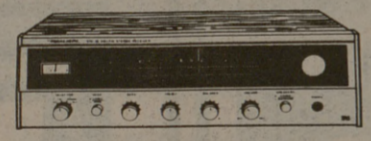
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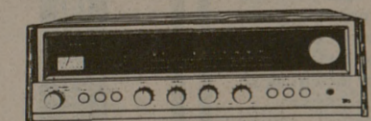
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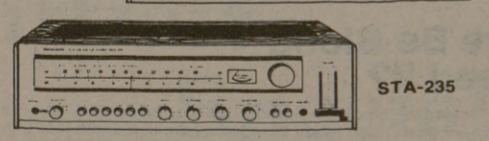
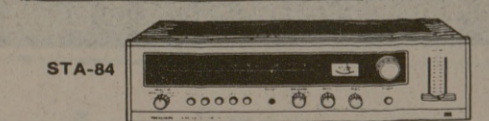
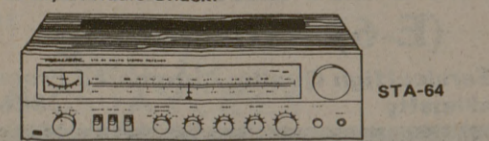
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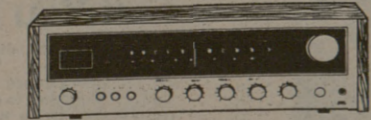


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