

# March nets \$18,000...

By RUTH GRAVES  
Battalion Reporter

The Corps of Cadets, aided by six Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, raised a record \$18,000 for the March of Dimes with its annual March to the Brazos Saturday.

This year's march was the Corps' third for the March of Dimes. Each Corps member collected pledges for each mile of the 14-mile march.

This year's march took a new twist, however, as six Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders aided the muddy cadets with their costumes held at the river.

The Corps held competition between outfits in tug-of-war, stretcher race and sack race. Two cheerleaders were assigned to officiate each event, said Stephen Greenwade, coordinator of the march.

The cheerleaders met the Corps at the river, where they "tromped through the mud and stood out there and officiated in the events, screamed and hollered and signed autographs," said Steve Manley, the public relations coordinator for the march.

The cheerleaders braved mud, photographers and enthusiastic cadets at their appearance at the river.

"They were willing to help — nothing was too much trouble for them," Manley said.

The cheerleaders' decision to attend the event probably helped the Corps make more money for the March of Dimes, Manley said, by generating enthusiasm for the march.

"It just sort of spiced things up," said

David Jackson, who raised the most money in pledges.

Jackson, commanding officer of Squadron 12, received pledges of \$479 for the March of Dimes.

Since the Corps received about \$6,500 more in pledges for the March of Dimes than it did last year, the cheerleaders' trip was a "pretty good investment for the March of Dimes," Manley said. Although the cheerleaders' services were complimentary, the March of Dimes paid for the cheerleaders' transportation.

Manley said all of the cheerleaders told him that they were impressed with the Corps' March to the Brazos.

"They really seemed to enjoy it a whole lot," Greenwade said.

## ...and drizzle wets 17

By ANDY WILLIAMS  
Battalion Staff

Rain and a quick pace prevented a group of students who ran a relay from Galveston from joining Texas A&M University's Corps of Cadets in the annual competition and games at the Brazos River this weekend.

The 17 cadets from Moody College ran two five-mile legs apiece in covering the 173 miles. They left the gangway of the S. Texas Clipper, the Texas Maritime Academy's ship, at 6 a.m. Friday. They got to the river at 5:05 a.m. Saturday.

But the early morning arrival made most of the group miss the festivities.

"When we got there, we were so pooped that we all just went on separate ways and crashed," said Larry Chilton, one of the runners. He said Sunday night he thought

he was the only member of the group who went back later in the day.

"We just all went up to the dorms and took showers and got cleaned up," said Ed Bishop, one of the organizers of the run.

Bishop was disappointed to learn that he'd missed the six members of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

"We figured with all that rain, they didn't even come out," he said Sunday. "Well, I guess we really missed it, then."

Like the Corps, the runners had collected pledges for the March of Dimes, but Bishop said he didn't know yet how much money they'd raised.

Bishop said the group carried "a wooden baton, actually a piece of a broomstick. We figured we better carry something, since it was a relay."

Only a couple of the Moody group had

run in competition before, Bishop said. "I've run a marathon, and I ran cross-country in high school, and so on."

He said most of the runners only started training a month ago.

"We were kind of hesitant to talk about it because we were afraid it would fall through."

No one was exhausted by the running, Chilton said. "For the ones who've been training, it wasn't very tough. Just two five-mile legs separated by several hours wasn't like running a marathon."

But those in the cars got good and bored, Bishop said. In the daytime, the cars drove ahead of the runner, but at night one drove behind him to light his way.

"That was better than having to run in the dark, though."



Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader Connie Dolan officiates as Unit M-2 struggles in a tug-of-war contest during Saturday's March to the Brazos activities. Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

# Engineers begin try to cool reactor core

United Press International

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Nuclear engineers early today launched a new effort to convert hydrogen gas back to water at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. Success in the venture would help cool the atomic reactor and allow it to be shut down.

The new attempt began just hours after President Carter — himself a trained nuclear engineer — and Gov. Dick Thornburgh donned bright yellow protective boots, personally inspected the plant on the Susquehanna River island and reported the situation "stable."

Engineers hooked up hydrogen "recombiners" to the vents of the containment building, where the nuclear core is housed, to start today's operation.

The recombiners are designed to convert some of the hydrogen gas buildup in the containment building back into water by heating it with oxygen — a process similar to the way steam from a teapot is converted back into water vapor.

Once that is achieved, the engineers hope to use the reconverted water to help in the cooling process.

Success in the conversion attempt also

would reduce the possibility of a second hydrogen gas explosion. Officials believe such an explosion damaged the facility last Wednesday, less than 10 hours after the nation's worst nuclear accident began.

Authorities said the maneuver posed no new danger and Thornburgh — as if to stress the belief — ordered state employees to report for work as usual today in the state Capitol complex, 10 miles from the plant site.

Carter — who 27 years ago was part of a Navy team that helped avert a nuclear disaster in an experimental reactor at Chalk River in Canada — made a 26-minute on-site inspection of the mist-shrouded Three Mile Island plant Sunday.

Later, he went to nearby Middletown, Pa., and told residents Thornburgh may have "to take further steps" to protect the population. He appealed to residents in the affected area to remain calm.

Civil Defense officials put six counties — or some 636,000 people — in central Pennsylvania on "advanced alert" Sunday for possible evacuation of the population in an area ranging up to 20 miles from the nuclear facility.

Thousands of residents already had fled

the area. There has been no official evacuation order, but Thornburgh suggested that pregnant women and pre-school children stay at least five miles away from the facility.

The main task now faced by the engineers is to cool the reactor core so they can shut it down cold. Unless the fuel core can be cooled, the danger of a melt-down of the core — the worst possible nuclear catastrophe — could arise.

Harold Denton, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's operation chief at the plant site, said the level of hydrogen in the containment building was increasing. But he said if the increase in hydrogen was due to a decrease in the size of the bubble, "that's what we hoped to achieve."

Joseph Hendrie, chairman of the NRC, has said it might be "prudent" to evacuate the entire population up to 20 miles away from the nuclear plant if the bubble which is complicating the cooling system cannot be eliminated by normal means and other, more risky methods must be attempted.

But Denton said Sunday the fuel was still cooling slowly and he believed the bubble was decreasing in size.

"Time is on our side in an event like this," Denton said.

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# Agua: Water the ways it gets to your home?

By DOUG GRAHAM  
Battalion Staff

Drips are the things that go "ploop" in the night. They sneak out of your faucet, leap into the sink with a loud "ploop," and disappear down the drain, leaving wet ploopprints behind.

You probably think they follow a vague path of pipes leading to a chrome-plated spigot, but you're wrong.

There is more to water than a drip from a faucet. A vast amount of water is pumped from the ground, chemically treated and stored for use.

Bryan used 211 million gallons of water in January, said Michael Collins, an assistant at Bryan's main pumping station. Twice that amount is used each month during the summer.

Bryan's water originates in well fields some three to four miles out on Highway 6, past its junction with Highway 21. Texas A&M University extracts water from wells near the old Bryan air base (Research and Extension Center) on Highway 21. College Station, which currently buys its water from the University, is going to drill wells on Sandy Point Road (FM 1687) about halfway between Texas A&M's and Bryan's wells.

All of the wells range from 600 to more than 2,500 feet deep. The shallower wells, in the Sparta Sand Strata, were sunk first and do not supply as much water as ones that go 2,500 feet or deeper to the Simsboro Sand or Wilcox-Carrizo layer. Orville Housden, water production superintendent at the main pumping station in Bryan, said the deep wells produce around 2,100 gallons per minute, compared to 400 gallons per minute for the shallower ones.

There is a hitch, however. The deep well water is hot — 116-120 degrees Fahrenheit. Bryan once used cooling towers to lower the temperature, but stopped because of the expense. Running the towers' fans helped bloat Bryan's \$275,000 elec-

tricity bill, Housden said.

The cooler water — from the shallow wells — also has a problem: sulphur. Aerating the water at the well fields lets the sulphur react in the air and escape. One of Bryan's two aerators is under repair, but the other still sprays water in the air like a fountain in a large screened wooden birdcage. Above the clean smell of wetness lurks the odor of rotten eggs.

If you were water destined for Bryan, you would probably come from a deep well, though nine of Bryan's 16 wells are shallow. You would be drawn out by an electric pump.

The pumps look functional. They are massive, clean, and painted battleship gray. They hum monotonously, and produce around 95 horsepower each, as much as many small economy cars. And they squat in plain sheds beside the cows out in green pastures.

It is spartan inside the pump houses. There is usually a locker which holds oil and a few other things, and a small galvanized garbage bucket feeding oil to the pump's bearings through plastic tubes.

From the pump, you, as hot water, would run through the cooling towers and mix with freshly-aerated cold water in one of two ground-level reservoirs at the well site. One, a concrete Depression-era public works project, holds 2 million gallons. The second, a steel structure, holds around 5 million gallons, says Ennis Owens, a certified water operator.

Owens, 63, and Raymond Leach are the first men who work with the water. Early each morning Owens makes the rounds of the pumps in a white pickup, and checks lubrication and does routine maintenance. Both men chlorinate the water, perform other maintenance where needed, and operate the pumps according to instructions from the main water production station.

Leach and Owens were certified and trained by the Texas Department of Health Resources.

# Auction sells dinner, chicks (poultry type)

By CATHY TERRELL  
Battalion Reporter

If you feel that your life is not complete without a football autographed by the Texas Aggie football team, tune in to Channel 15 and watch The Great KAMU-TV Auction.

The autographed football, sold for \$225, and many other items are being auctioned to provide money for the operation of KAMU-TV, Texas A&M University's public broadcasting station.

The auction began Sunday and will continue today and Tuesday starting at 8 p.m. and ending when all the merchandise for that night is sold.

As of 9:30 p.m. Sunday, \$1,500 had been raised.

"We're really excited," said Rod Zent, station manager. "Some people have bid over the retail price, while others have gotten real bargains."

Zent estimates that \$10,000 to \$15,000 will be raised in the three nights.

"We have about \$10,000 worth of art for Monday night."

Sunday night's auction master John Henry Faulk, a star of "Hee Haw," was also pleased.

"It looks like it's going great. I'm really

proud of the Brazos Valley citizens."

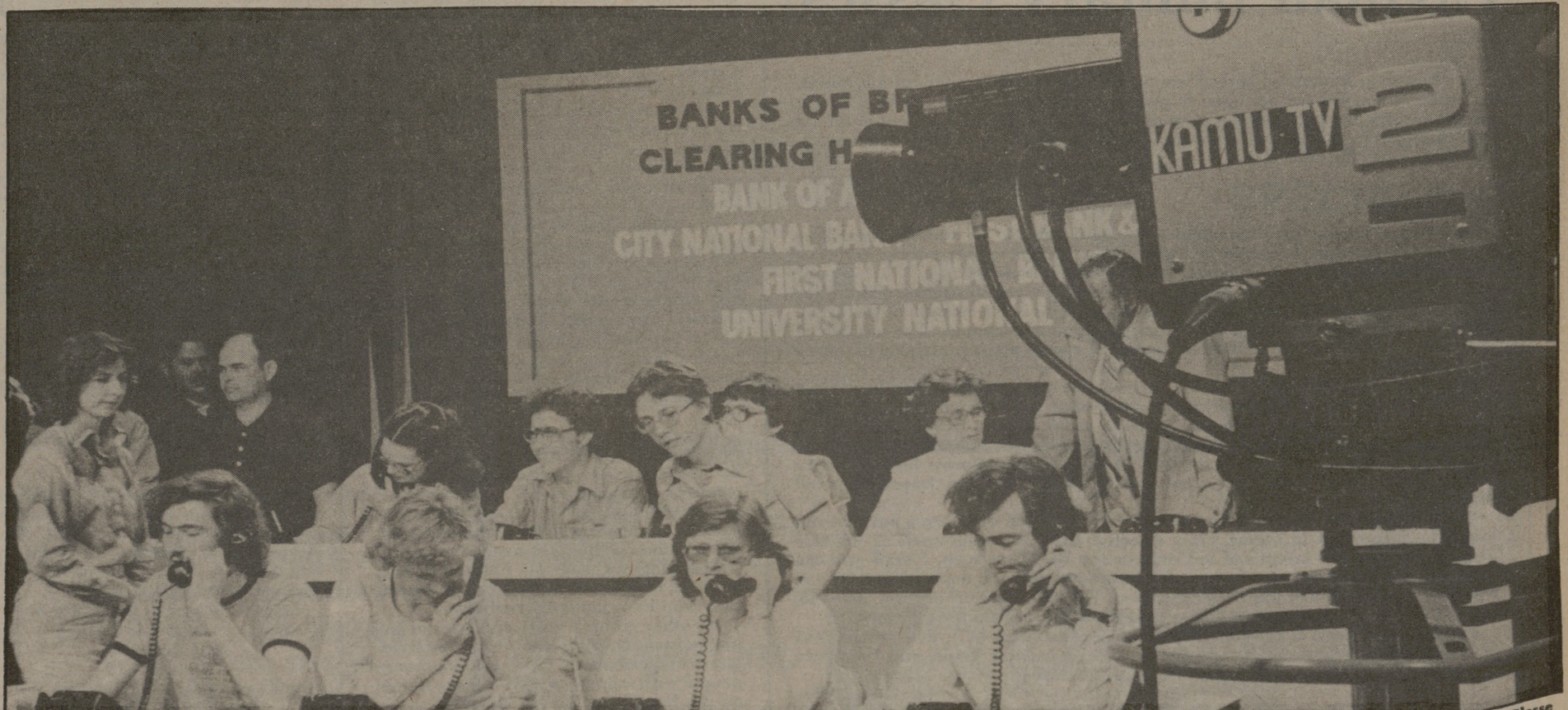
Faulk said he enjoyed doing this for KAMU-TV even though "the Navasota River almost came up and flooded me" on his drive here from Madisonville Sunday evening.

Master of ceremonies for tonight will be Dr. Diane Strommer, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Roger Feldman, associate professor of Veterinary Pathology, will host Tuesday night.

If you desire something — 100 baby chicks (poultry, not women) for instance, a \$50 retail value, or five hours of house cleaning by a service, or dinner with President Jarvis Miller and his wife — tune to the auction.

First, pick out the item and remember which one of the six boards lists it. Call the station at 696-2211 and make a bid for the item by its number. High bidders will be announced on the air and called to confirm the bid. The items may be picked up in Studio B of the station after this confirmation.

In the "pick-up and pay" area is the Country Store, which has an assortment of lower priced items on sale that may be bought without bidding.



Volunteers take bids at KAMU-TV's auction, which started Sunday night.

Battalion photo by Kayce Glasse