

campus

AF volunteers tutor A&M cadets

Some Texas A&M University cadets will graduate with higher grade point averages because they got free tutoring sessions provided by a gang of Air Force officers. The officers are assigned for graduate degree studies at Texas A&M through the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT).

Second Lt. Rick Moon matches the 20 volunteer tutors with cadets who need help from lists provided by Maj. Don McCroskey. McCroskey is part of the Air Force contingent that teaches Air Force ROTC subjects.

"Most of us in AFIT are working on master's degrees, some are after doctorates, and we've been where these cadets are now, starting on a bachelor degree," Moon said.

The AFIT students are on temporary duty at the University, and are organized under Air Force Col. Marvin Bishop, liaison officer with Durham and the instructor detachment.

AFIT students help cadets in a variety of courses, but the majority of problems occur in math, chemistry and physics. Second Lt. David McFerren of Austin is one of the busiest AFIT tutors, assisting cadets who need help with physics.

The Air Force sent McFerren to Texas A&M for a master's degree in meteorology, the most common degree program among AFIT students.

Second Lt. Charles Kennedy of Tyler and Moon conduct a regular chemistry help session every Monday evening. Second Lt. Norma Weissend of Victor, N.Y., is a math-statistics specialist.

Capt. Dan Ruble of Corpus Christi runs help sessions in computer science, in which he is seeking a master's degree.

The tutoring program was kicked



Senior cadet Jimmy Sullivan of Panama City, Fla., gets pointers from Air Force 2nd Lt. Rick Moon of Huntsville, who is studying for a master's degree in meteorology. Moon is as-

signed for graduate degree studies at Texas A&M through the Air Force Institute of Technology, offers free tutoring to cadets.

off in August, 1978, by Lt. Andy White, now in research and development at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton Ohio. White turned it over to Moon when he graduated last December.

The program features benefits other than boosting Corps of Cadets members' grade point ratios.

"These are future Air Force officers and we can help them," Moon said. "The contact helps cadets see

the kinds of responsibilities they are getting into in military life. It's good PR for us too. The tutoring program shows we're not completely separate from the Air Force ROTC detachment."

The tutor program manager expects to complete his degree work in December and then goes to Ramstein, Germany, for a duty tour. He will be looking for another AFIT officer to run the program.

Reliability of high voltage power lines will be significantly enhanced in about five years by a protection system designed by a Texas A&M University professor.

The protection system is the work of Dr. Don Russell, electrical engineering professor.

The design will protect the biggest power transmission lines, those handling 345,000 to 765,000 volts, from short circuit faults or similar power system

disturbance. These could be caused by lightning, an airplane crash into lines or other factors. The Russell system consists of two microcomputers and associated sensing devices and circuitry per power line.

Russell recently received a patent assignment notice from the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif. He did research at Palo Alto under EPRI funding that led to the "Digital Protection System for Transmis-

sion Lines and Associated Power Equipment." The institute is supported by all major power industries in the U.S.

"For that reason, patents obtained through EPRI-funded research immediately go into the public domain," Russell noted.

He said the protection system is just now being commercially investigated by several manufacturers and "will probably be adopted commercially in the next five years."

The electrical engineering professor said several projects at Texas A&M are under way to further develop and improve the technique. EPRI provides principal support of Russell's current research, and he has been a consultant for the institute.

He indicated security of major power lines, such as connect Houston Power and Light and Texas Power and Light in Dallas, is a "critical protection problem."

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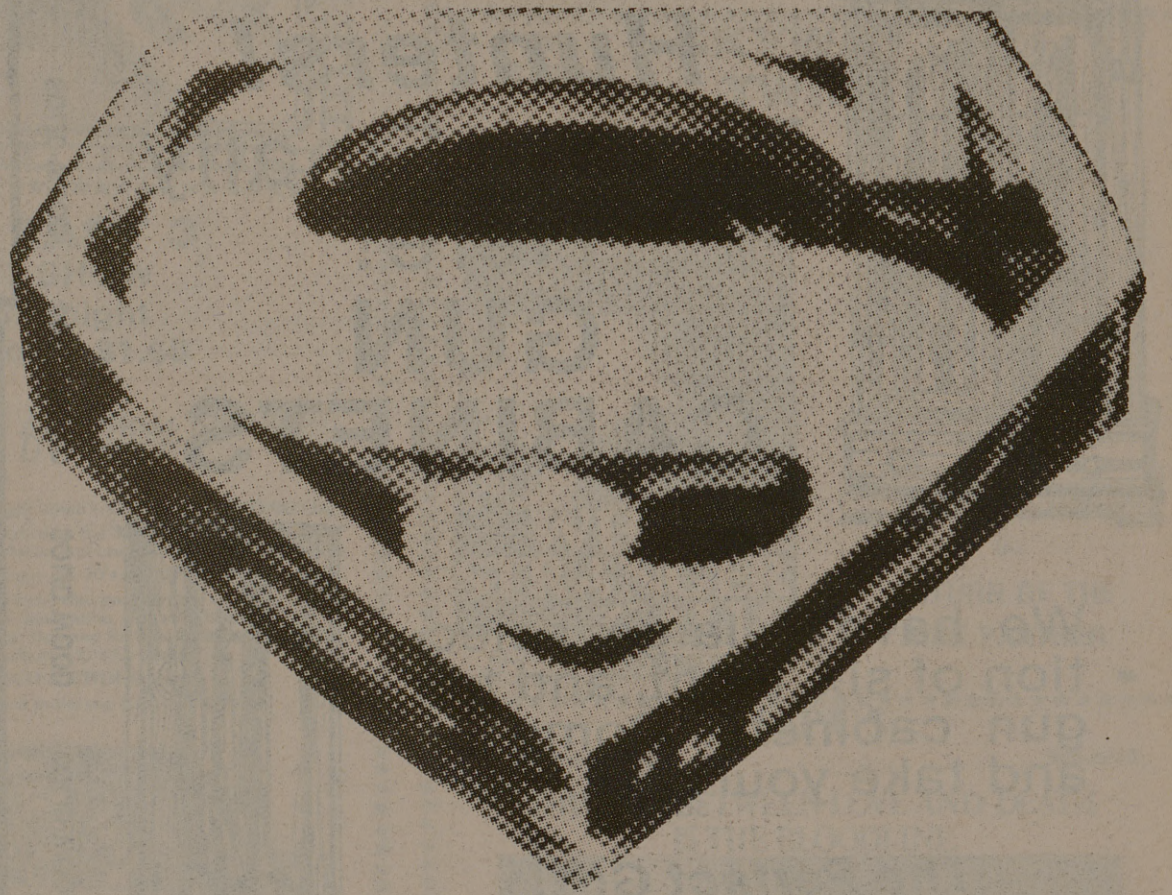


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