

# A&M given minority grant Corps' pumpkin will fly again

**By MARY ANNE SNOWDEN**  
Battalion Reporter

A \$4,000 grant for engineering minority student programs was presented to Texas A&M University in mid-September by the Amoco Foundation.

Amoco, a multi-national oil firm, has been presenting these types of scholarships to Texas A&M since 1976. They are aimed at encouraging the growth of minority students in the field of engineering.

Dr. Terry Shoup, assistant dean in the College of Engineering, said, "The grant is for stimulation of minority activities and will be used for scholarships and/or minority recruiting activities" in the field of engineering.

Shoup said some of the activities aimed at the influx of minorities into the engineering profession will be geared toward high school students.

For instance, he said, the engineering department is hoping to provide money to help high school students come to Texas A&M for a summer program. Shoup said they could come to the campus and see the engineering labs and what Texas A&M has to offer in this field of study.

"Our aim is to see that the money is used in the best possible way for recruiting minorities," Shoup said.

He said the money would be used primarily for scholarships.

Kathy Shearer, administrative assistant to the College of Engineering, said the minimum amount that would be given in a scholarship is \$250, while the maximum would be \$1,000.

Shearer said there is no problem concerning a lack of scholarship applications in engineering as there is in other fields. She said the College of Engineering receives several hundred every year.

Shoup said the College of Engineering is the largest undergraduate program in the University and is growing rapidly. Consequently, he

said, there is a demand for scholarships.

Shoup said 17 of such grants were awarded to the College of Engineering at Texas A&M during the last year. He said the grants usually come from industries and people who hire engineering students when they graduate.

Shearer said there is presently an enrollment of 596 minority students in engineering at Texas A&M. The total number of graduate and undergraduate students in engineering at Texas A&M is 10,214. Texas A&M's College of Engineering does not include computer science as some other universities do.

**By MARCY BOYCE**  
Battalion Staff

Beware, members of the Fighting Texas Aggie Band! Company C-2's Great Pumpkin will "fly" at 11 p.m. Thursday.

But if previous years are any indication of its fate, maybe the Great Pumpkin had better beware of members of the Aggie Band who last year demolished it.

The Great Pumpkin is a Halloween festivity staged every year by juniors and seniors of Company C-2.

The object is for a junior of the company, wearing a huge pumpkin

on his head, to run from the Quad in front of the Corps dormitories, through members of the Aggie Band awaiting him at Duncan Dining Hall, through dormitory 11, and back through the band in one piece, Starnes said.

Remaining juniors of the company wearing shorts and combat boots, and seniors carrying torches accompany the Great Pumpkin on its trek, but Starnes said they provide little protection through the band armed with buckets of water and ax handles for bursting the pumpkin.

In fact, the feat has never been accomplished, he said.

Last year the Great Pumpkin made it to the end of dormitory 9, said Starnes, who got the honor.

"It was so heavy and my feet tripped out from under me," he said.

Freshmen in the company begin a countryside search for the largest possible pumpkin as early as a week before the Great Pumpkin is to "fly," Starnes said.

Last year's pumpkin weighed 75 pounds and freshmen had to go to Hempstead to find it, he said. They

have not yet found this year's pumpkin.

Being the Great Pumpkin wearing the monstrosity which freshmen have "grod out" is not considered an honor, Starnes said.

The junior designated to be Great Pumpkin is chosen in an undisclosed ritual starting about 11 p.m. the night he is to make flight, Starnes said.

The chosen one then dons a pumpkin by approximately 11 p.m. at which time he and his protection assemble on the quad.

## Minister charged in killing

LEOTI, Kan. — The 44-year-old minister of the Church of the First Born in this western Kansas community has been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of a Texas minister of the same denomination.

Fidel A. Rodriguez was charged Tuesday in the slaying of Gustave Ornelas, 46, a minister of the Church of the First Born in Dimmit, Texas. Wichita County Judge John Ley set bond for Rodriguez at \$100,000.

Ornelas suffered a .38-caliber gunshot wound to his side, apparently during an argument between the two ministers involving furniture. Ornelas died in Scott City late Saturday en route to a Garden City hospital.

Rodriguez, a minister of the small, predominantly Mexican-American church for more than two years, surrendered to authorities Saturday night.

## Sea turtle trial gets under way

United Press International  
BROWNSVILLE — The trial of a Brownsville businessman and a Philadelphia, Pa., man accused of exporting more than 8½ tons of meat from the endangered Pacific Ridley sea turtle is believed to be the largest turtle products suit ever prosecuted.

The trial of Pat Leroy Pace, owner of Pace Fish Co. Inc., and Philadelphia sea food distributor Ben Soloff, owner of Ben Soloff Inc., began Tuesday.

About 12 pounds of meat in the form of steaks, tips and chunks can be cut from an 85 pound Ridley. The government has estimated at least 1,300 turtles were killed for the 8½ tons of meat. The sea turtle is protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Pace, Soloff and their firms were named in a 12-count indictment handed down by a federal grand jury in Brownsville in late July. The government claims the two men were involved in the importing and selling of 17,377 pounds of Pacific Ridley turtle meat in September and October of 1978.

The indictment also alleges Pace's firm was involved in trucking the meat, falsely labeled as fish filets, through the Brownsville port of entry to get it past U.S. Customs inspectors.

Both Pace and Soloff were charged with illegally receiving, concealing and selling the meat. Pace also was charged with illegally importing the meat five different times between Sept. 25 and Oct. 17, 1978. Soloff, whose firm allegedly distributed the Ridley meat to restaurants in New Orleans and throughout the East Coast, also is charged with soliciting Pace to violate the Endangered Species Act.

Officials from several federal agencies who comprised the Justice Department task force spent a year investigating the shipments of turtle meat.

They said Pace apparently purchased the meat from an area in Mexico near Oaxaca and had it shipped to Brownsville by truck where the meat was placed in cold storage before it was sent to Philadelphia.

"There is a good market for the product across the United States," said Jose A. Toro, a special assistant U.S. attorney with the Justice Department's wildlife division. "They are sold to restaurants and soup companies."

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