

# Local

Short haircuts, conservative dress are orders of the day

## Allen Academy reflects popularity of private schools

By LEIGH McLEROY  
Battalion Reporter

What many Southwesterners know about private schools is limited to what they see on "The Facts of Life," a Wednesday night situation comedy. But these facts can be misleading.

No longer an all-male, upper-class, Eastern phenomenon, the private school is making strides in the Southwest as a business whose product is a high-quality, individualized education.

Allen Academy, the oldest preparatory school in Texas, is a co-educational, military-oriented pri-

private school located in north Bryan.

Little about the school's physical appearance is commanding. Its facilities, like most private schools its size, include classrooms, dormitories, tennis courts, a dining hall, gymnasium, a recently completed football field and a swimming pool.

Because males who board at the Academy are required to participate in the ROTC program, they can be seen on campus sporting short haircuts, green fatigues and combat boots. Female students dress conservatively in skirts and slacks worn with topsiders and Bass loafers.

In Lyra Pointer's English class, pictures of Hemingway, Dickinson, Twain and Fitzgerald line the classroom walls, along with a Ziggy calendar and a poster titled "Twelve Things to Do Instead of Smoke Cigarettes."

Fifteen students listen as Pointer reads assignments for the next nine weeks. They groan collectively at the mention of grammar. (Six weeks out of the nine week course include grammar studies.) After the assignments are given, the class continues reading a play aloud.

Pointer makes frequent comments during the play. She is enthusiastic and appears to enjoy what she is doing.

Although she has a public school background, Pointer, who has taught at the Academy two years, says she prefers Allen.

"I don't like to teach in public schools anymore," she says. "There are too many discipline problems and classes are too large."

Private school students are frequently stereotyped as a homogeneous and sheltered group. The Academy has students from seven states and 11 countries.

Headmaster Bill Creedon stressed the importance of exposing students to outside influences. The students take field trips regularly and each week hear speakers from the local community and the University.

During a chapel period where attendance is mandatory but participation is not, representatives from different religious groups present their views.

"These kids aren't in a glass bubble," Creedon said.

Creedin, a newcomer to the Allen Academy and the Southwest, is a product of Philadelphia

parochial schools. He majored in finance and spent a year on Wall Street before launching a career in school administration.

This background is helpful because private schools depend not

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on tax dollars, but on contributions and endowments for their operating funds.

While money problems plague many private schools, Headmaster Bill Creedon says the Academy is in good shape financially.

"We balanced our budget last year, and are \$25,000 away from balancing again this year," he said.

Alumni donations are responsible for some campus improvements. However, the restoration of a turn-of-the-century house on the premises is being made possi-

ble by a \$35,000 grant from a historical society. When restored, the home will house a faculty family and the Academy's nine seventh grade boarders.

School trustees are now developing a long range plan for improvements, and plans for several renovations and additions are already in the works.

Creedin chose Bryan and the Allen Academy from three job offers last year. "At the time my friends thought I was crazy," he said.

Now, however, he sees things differently. "It's a challenge," he said. "I see the Southwest as a sort of frontier for the private school and looked at the job as an adventure."

Today, more and more parents nationwide are choosing a private education for their children.

Assistant Headmaster Claude Lewis says most parents that he sees at the Academy are looking for one of two things: either their child is exceptionally gifted and they want him to have a more individualized education, or their child has had trouble in the regu-

lar school environment and needs a more structured, disciplined atmosphere.

"These two reasons are not as opposite as they appear," Lewis said. "A lot of times you'll find that the typical problem student has a very high I.Q."

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## First MSC spring auction to be held Wednesday

By KAREN KALEY  
Battalion Reporter

Calculators, clothes and books are just some of the items that will be auctioned off in Wednesday's lost and found auction sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Council Projects Committee.

The auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Viewing will begin at 9 a.m.

This is the first time a lost and found auction has been held in the spring. The committee decided to hold two auctions this year because the accumulation of articles was too much to handle in one auction, Merrie SoRelle, committee chairman, said.

The majority of articles auctioned off are calculators, sporting equipment, clothes and books. "The auction allows the students to buy items for a better-than-reasonable price," SoRelle

said. Proceeds from the auction are used to sponsor the MSC Christmas program, SoRelle said.

The auction consists of viewing tables, a bidding table, the auction and the cashier's table, SoRelle said.

Prospective buyers are allowed to view the articles to be auctioned off. If they see an item they want to bid for, a person at the bidding table is informed and the item is then put into line to await the auctioneer, she said.

The auctioneer, Keyes Carson, is a former student of Texas A&M University and has handled every lost-and-found auction at Texas A&M.

Items used in the auction are found all over the campus, she said. Building proctors are responsible for collecting lost items in all the buildings and taking

them to the MSC Main Desk.

Items not sold in the auction are stored for re-auction or given to the Twin City Mission in Bryan, SoRelle said.

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## Self care advocated by health group

United Press International

AUSTIN — Members of the Health Freedom Council, an organization advocating self health care, demonstrated Monday against legislation that would increase penalties for violations of state medical practices.

The demonstration took place outside a state building in Austin. The demonstrators, including several women carrying their infants, carried placards saying "Herbs make sense, doctors make money" and "I want to keep my choice."

The council is opposed to a Senate bill that would retain the existence of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, a panel that the demonstrators said sometimes practices "nefarious operations."

The Health Freedom Council contends that the board of medical examiners does not have the authority to determine what illegal medical practices are and the state should not penalize those who practice non-traditional but effective treatments of illnesses.

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**THE WATER POLO CLUB**  
will have a meeting  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 AT 8:30 P.M.**  
RM. 504 RUDDER TOWER  
Anyone interested should try to attend.  
For more information contact  
Mike: 845-3076 OR Mark 696-1158  
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Qualifications: Motivated Aggies enrolled at Texas A&M.  
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Residence Hall Association Presents  
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Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 - 12:30  
A NIGHT OF GAMBLING, PRIZES, AND ENTERTAINMENT  
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MSC Town Hall announces that once again Option Passes will be on sale in the MSC Box Office. The price per each Option Pass will be \$10.00. For more information, please call the MSC Box Office at 845-2916.  
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