

Camp challenging to genius-level kids

Texas A&M University's Galveston Island Adventure is no ordinary summer camp. But for university children, it's not for ordinary children to establish.

The children who join this adventure enjoy a debate in the form lobby as much as a mud-fight. And when they do play games, it could just as easily be in German or French as in English.

Some 90 "very bright to genius kids" will spend three weeks studying veterinary medicine, microcomputers, space science, marine biology and technical architecture when the camp begins Sunday at the Texas A&M Galveston campus, said Dr. Wilton Nash, director of the Texas A&M Gifted and Talented Institute, which is sponsoring the camp for the third year.

The purpose of the camp is to provide each participant a broad

look at the field of study he or she has chosen, to offer training in some of the basic techniques of that field and to offer the opportunity to work on a related project.

Texas A&M professors and graduate students will serve as instructors for the five fields of study.

"These kids generally show a great deal of independence, a high curiosity level and a propensity for investigating the complex and the difficult," Nash said. "You find a lot more high-level discussions going on in the lobby of the dorm than you would among average kids and there are a lot of spontaneous debates and chess tournaments."

But for many of the children, the camp will be the first time they have been really challenged

intellectually, he said.

"A lot of bright kids in some school settings aren't really challenged and breeze through making the highest grades with little effort," Nash said. "Then they receive scholarships to outstanding universities and are forced to compete and some of them don't handle it very well and even flunk out."

Nash, who is currently the second vice president for the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), will become president in 1985.

"I feel that we can serve as a model for other universities to develop similar programs," he said. "Universities have tremendous resources that generally are not as tied up during the summer and a summer camp of this kind provides an excellent opportunity for those facilities to be put to use."

KKK to enter politics, recruit schoolchildren

United Press International
BAKER, La. — The Ku Klux Klan will throw its white hood into the political arena to achieve the racist organization's goal, Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson said.

The Invisible Empire should be a national convention in Baton Rouge over the weekend with a cross-burning and rally in this small, southeast Louisiana town, he said.

About 300 klansmen gathered in a rural field several miles from an all-black skating party attended by nearly 1,000 people, but authorities reported no clashes or trouble.

The cross-burning topped a convention at which klansmen voted to step up political activities and increase youth recruitment.

"The next phase is to move into the political arena both overtly and covertly, as klans-

men and through front groups we form," Wilkinson said Saturday. "We have come to the conclusion the time is ripe for us to enter political activity in the states."

Klan-backed candidates in several states have not won election, but have raised a few eyebrows with the number of votes they received, Wilkinson said. Klansmen believe a candidate they back will be elected soon.

"We are gaining expertise in the political arena that we need to eventually field a candidate that will win," he said.

"The political climate is in our favor at this time and we certainly intend to capitalize on it."

The Klan, which has grown in nationwide membership each month since March 1978, also will concentrate on bolstering its youth corps, Wilkinson said. He declined to reveal the number of members in the corps, which includes 10- to 17-year-olds.

"We will go straight to schools and pass out literature in schools where officials have tried to work against us," the Klan leader said.

Wilkinson said he was not aware the black skating party was occurring only miles from the Klan rally Saturday night. But he said residents of southeast Louisiana would not disturb a KKK meeting.

"The Klan is strong here and the vast majority of people are behind the Klan," he said. "No one would have the audacity or the courage to give us any trouble on our own property."

"We certainly don't go looking for trouble, but this is our property and we certainly would prevent any other race from coming on our property."

Baker is about 15 miles north of Baton Rouge and 20 miles west of Denham Springs, headquarters of the Invisible Empire Knights of the KKK.

San Antonio police chief denies force has low morale

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Management consulting firm Arthur Young & Co. has released its study of San Antonio's police department but Chief of Police Robert Heck disagrees with the \$150,000 management study showing 60 percent of city officers believe morale is bad.

While the report states, "Many officers do not believe the city places high regard on their services and thus they perform accordingly," Heck claims that is "just disgruntled talk."

The chief said: "We have a 6 percent turnover rate and many of those that leave come back to their old jobs. Why would they do that if it were so crummy?"

Heck did say he was not surprised by other parts of the study that found his department is inefficient and ineffective, and spends too much time in coffee shops.

The report said the department is understaffed, suffers from morale problems, has inefficient management and claims to arrest more people than it actually does.

The study also says managers allow their patrol officers to

spend too much time in coffee shops.

The report said: "Present management systems are not working, resulting in poor allocations of resources and ineffective and inefficient use of those resources."

The study said the patrol division, with 469 officers, needs 90 more people. Officers take an average of 47 minutes to respond to a call, the report said.

To solve the problems, the study suggested increasing the force from 1,200 to 1,269 officers and starting a recruitment drive to fill 100 vacancies in the department.



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