

Big demand in math, science

A&M easing teacher decline

by Scott Griffin
Battalion Reporter

Many educators say our nation is faced with a shortage of qualified math and science teachers in high schools and Texas A&M University is one of only a handful of schools nationwide that has taken action to reduce this shortage.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics reported in December that there has been a 77 percent decline in the number of high school level math teachers coming out of the 600 nationwide teacher training programs.

The council also reported that only 20 new math teachers graduated in Texas last year and only seven of them chose to teach.

The National Science Board reported in October that from

1971 to 1980, student teachers in science and math decreased — threefold in science and fourfold in math — and only half of them have entered the teaching field.

Texas A&M is one of only three state schools to show an increase of graduates in secondary math and science education since 1975. Texas A&M had an increase of 16.9 percent, Southwest Texas State University had a 16.1 percent increase and the University of Texas at El Paso showed an increase of 2 percent over the same time span.

Sixty-eight students are currently enrolled in secondary math teaching areas, the largest enrollment in the state, and 112 in science at Texas A&M. This represents more than 40 percent

of the students seeking secondary education certification at the University.

This number also represents about 20 percent of the total enrollment in the College of Education.

Dave Armstrong, head of secondary education at Texas A&M, says the University has shown an increase in these areas because of the nature of the school. Many of the secondary education students at Texas A&M are transfer students from technical-oriented areas such as engineering, physics or science.

One reason many students are leaving technical curricula, says Armstrong, is because many schools offer better salaries for qualified teachers.

The base salary for a first-year teacher is now about

\$11,100 in Texas, he says. However, Armstrong says, these salaries are often augmented by as much as \$6,000 in school districts where heavy industries provide numerous tax dollars.

In addition, the House Committee on Education and Labor this month approved a \$400 million to reduce the shortage of math and science teachers in elementary and secondary schools.

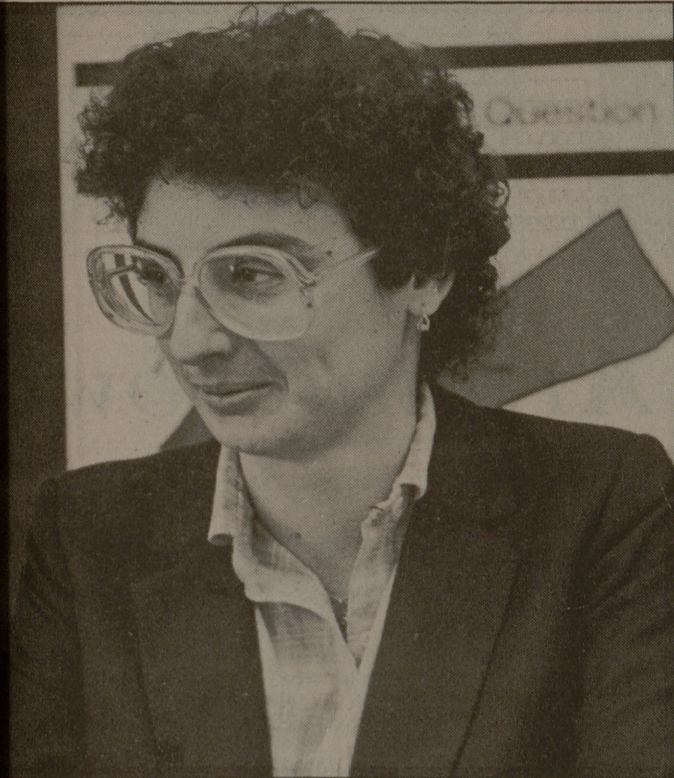
The secondary education program here also is becoming more popular because of a successful placement record by the University, Armstrong says. About 93 percent of the Texas A&M secondary education graduates have a job in their field. Many of these students receive multiple job offers upon graduation, he says, and other de-

partments find it difficult to match this record.

One reason for the successful placement record is that students here are qualified within their fields of study, Armstrong says. Students in the secondary education program must complete a curriculum of one 48-hour specialization, such as math or science, or a two 24-hour course curriculum, which will lead to certification in two subjects.

Education majors must maintain a minimum GPR of 2.25, he says.

As for the future of secondary education, Armstrong says, the government is predicting a wide-spread shortage of teachers by 1985, which means better opportunities for qualified graduates.



staff photo by Irene Mees
Vice-consul Liora Herzl speaks about Israel Tuesday on the Texas A&M campus.

Israel struggle for peace told

by Patrice Koranek
Battalion Staff

The people of Israel are trying to achieve security and normalization in their country, the vice-consul of the Consulate General of Israel for the Southwest said here Tuesday.

The vice-consul, Liora Herzl, who acts as an information officer for the consulate, travels throughout the Southwest speaking to college classes, community organizations and church groups to bring the Israel perspective to the American public. She visited the Texas A&M campus to speak to several classes and to hold meetings with student groups.

Herzl said there are two ways to approach the problems of the Middle East — through military action or through negotiations.

She also said the Palestine Liberation Organization, based in Lebanon, is using military tactics to try to erase Israel.

"The PLO won't recognize Israel as a state that is different but equal to other countries of

the world," she said.

The peace plan developed at Camp David between Israel and Egypt is an example of peaceful negotiations designed to end the conflict over Israel, Herzl said. The borders between the two countries are open to commerce and tourism she said, and slowly the peace process is working.

"Both sides don't have to change their plans, but they have to be willing to come to the peace table and listen," she said. "That is what happened at Camp David."

The United States is the only country that can influence both sides involved in the conflict, she said, because it is the only one that can gain everyone's support. The Soviet Union could not work out peace negotiations because it couldn't gain Israel's support.

"If the Soviets can't get something through positive efforts, they get it negatively," Herzl said. When the Soviets can't take over something, they jeopardize the work of others.

Aggie blood drive to be evaluated

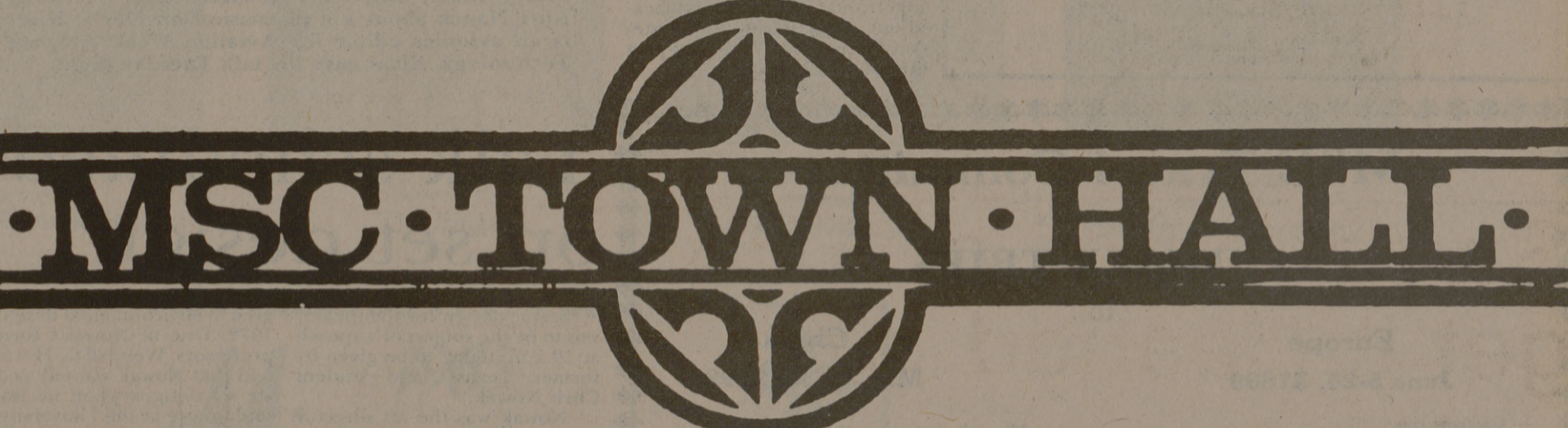

Representatives from Student Government, the Wadley Blood Bank and Red Cross were scheduled to meet this morning at 9 in Rudder to evaluate the Texas A&M blood drive program.

Since the mid-1950s the University has contracted with Wadley Blood Bank to hold three campus blood drives each year. But the Brazos County Red Cross claims that it should be the blood drive sponsor, since Texas A&M students and faculty who need blood deplete the Red Cross supply in local hospitals.

Phyllis Swanton, administrator of the Central Texas Red


Cross Blood Center, and Chris Lang, chairman of the Brazos County Red Cross, were to represent the Red Cross at the meeting. Dr. Norwood Hill, president of Wadley Blood Bank, and Bob Mahuiri, the Wadley representative who helps the Student Government organize the blood drives, were to represent the Wadley Blood Bank.

Representatives from the Student Government and from two service fraternities, Alpha Phi Omega and Omega Phi Alpha, also were scheduled to attend the meeting.

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