

Graduate student support needed

Research club makes comeback

by Brenda Bivona
Battalion Reporter
Increasing enrollment in the Texas A&M graduate school could mean added support for extracurricular student programs. One organization counting on the graduate students for support is the Operations Research Society of America.

ORAS is a professional society for students from any major interested in operations research — a process of applying mathematical models to complex systems in order to find a solution to a problem.

Determining the parts needed to build a car is an example of applying operations re-

search, Michael Ketcham, a Ph.D. student in Industrial Engineering, said. "First you would describe the system and then write a computer program to determine the parts needed."

The society is trying to make a comeback after several years of inactivity. ORAS stopped meeting in the early 70s.

"The society became inactive because it wasn't getting enough student support," Ketcham said. "The program is geared at graduate students and so I think we have a better chance of making it this time because there are more graduate students."

The group is reorganizing because it wants to offer a forum for students to discuss their operations research ideas and to learn from speakers in different fields, he said.

Rick Ingalls, a graduate student in Industrial Engineering said, "The local chapter will be an opportunity for students and

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faculty to share interests, learn about new features of their field and keep up with the state of the art."

The society is open to anyone who has had or is enrolled in an

operations research or management science class.

"The society is for a lot of different people. Research operations can include transportation problems, forest management and scheduling of workers, to name a few," Ingalls said.

Local membership fees are \$10 and national fees are \$5.

"There will be guest speakers at most of the meetings," Ingalls said. "The speakers this semester will be from our campus, but after we get rolling next semester we will try to bring in prominent speakers from other universities and industry."

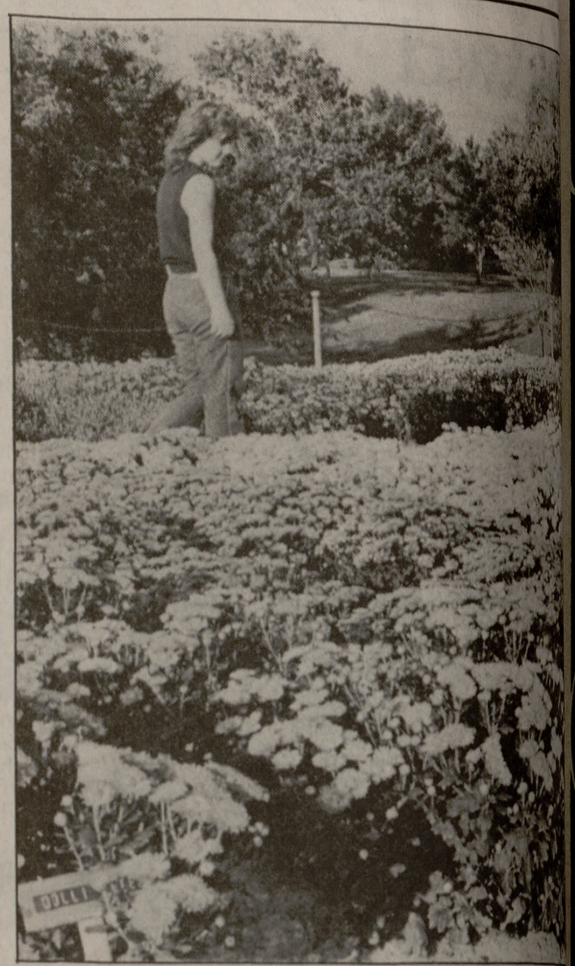
The first meeting of ORAS will be tonight at 7 p.m. in 507 Rudder Tower. Dr. David Olson, assistant professor of business analysis, will speak on the techniques of decision making.

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staff photo by Guy H...

A student admires the floral test gardens on Houston street across from KAMU-TV.

Floral gardens relaxing place

by Stephanie Marshall
Battalion Reporter

Some people are always trying to find a place, peaceful area to go to and relax, be by themselves and meditate. The Floral Test Gardens is such a place.

The garden, on Houston Street across from the KAMU television station, is one of 58 floral test gardens in the United States. The gardens are used to breed and test different variations of plants and flowers.

"There are about 500 to 600 different varieties of plants and flowers being grown in the gardens," William L. Vitopil, assistant director of grounds and maintenance, said.

You can walk through the gardens and feast your eyes on the array of plants and flowers any season of the year and any time of day — many people do. People can be seen roaming through the gardens at just about any time imaginable.

"We've been really lucky because we don't have the public going around and picking the flowers for their own use," Vitopil said. "There are a lot of other gardens that sometimes have that problem."

Seeds for the variations are donated by seed companies from different parts of the United States, but test seeds are

donated by the All-American Selection Organization of Illinois.

Flower breeders send seeds to the selection organization, which sends the seeds to different test gardens throughout the nation. A program report on the test plants is sent to the grounds and maintenance greenhouse grower, Wurbs.

When the flower is in its form it's graded on how well it grows in a particular soil and climate. The highest awarder breeder can hope to receive is the All-American Award.

The idea of starting a test garden at Texas A&M was introduced by Gen. Earl R. in 1967. In 1968, the Texas A&M Board of Regents approved the idea, and construction began.

If you happen to be among the sights, be sure to take one of the 40 to 50 varieties of ornamentals, 25 varieties of geraniums, eight varieties of ornamental peppers, marigolds and pansies.

Vitopil said the only time weather caused a problem was when the temperature fell below 32 degrees and killed everything in the gardens except the pansies.

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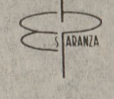
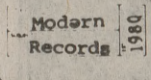
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Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Wednesday:

- THEFTS:**
- A green Schwinn 10-speed bicycle from the student parking lot west of Wofford Cain Pool.
- INDECENT EXPOSURE:**
- A woman was jogging on Swine Center Road when she passed a man who exposed himself to her.
 - A person was arrested on East Main Drive for indecent exposure while intoxicated. The person was taken to Brazos County Jail.

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