

10 from Ecuadoran family are Aggies

by Darla Bucaram

Battalion Reporter
Ten members of one family at one university within a 12-year period is uncommon, but when they are all from as far away as Ecuador, South America, it's even more unusual.

In the past 12 years, 10 members of the Castro family have studied at Texas A&M. Of those 10, seven are brothers and sisters, and the other three are first cousins.

Monica Castro says that when

one of the family leaves home to come to Texas A&M, they really are coming home.

The "A&M fever" began when her cousin Billy Wright came here on a tennis scholarship. He graduated in 1975, Monica says.

Since then, Texas A&M has been invaded by the Castros, she says. First, her brother Eduardo came, then her two sisters, Beatriz and Margarita, were flown up. They have graduated.

Now, the Castro tradition continues with Mauricio, 22, a graduate student in business administration who received his mechanical engineering degree here in 1982; his wife Lysis, 20, a senior in microbiology; Monica, 20, a sophomore in communications and the "baby," Isabel, or Isa, 18, a freshman elementary education major.

Having the whole family together, except for Mom, while so far from home has been wonderful, all four Castros say. The freedom that one always dreams of when one leaves home hasn't been lessened in any way by having older brothers and sisters around, they agree.

For Isa, having her brother and sister here when she arrived this fall has been great because, she says, "I didn't have to do a thing, I left it all to them."

Having the family around is a help in every way. Family always can be counted on for help and support, they say.

But, coming from a one parent home, it hasn't been easy for the Castros to study here. Financing the schooling for the seven Castros has been difficult. For that reason, the Castros say they have a special love for their mother Grace.

Mauricio says his dream is to have a plaque hung somewhere in the University in her name, as a thanks from all of them.

Good, but not up to par

'King' concert troubled

by Cary Stegall

Battalion Staff

Joe Carrasco, the self-styled "King" of Tex-Mex music, made his second appearance in Bryan-College Station this year at the Heavy Metal Coliseum Saturday night. Carrasco and the Crowns opened what may be a continuing series of concerts sponsored by Roadrunner Productions at the renovated warehouse facility.

The Crowns began the set with "Let's Go" off the latest album. Problems with the sound were evident immediately (I learned later that sound checks weren't completed at the concert's beginning because the band arrived late). It wasn't until the third song that Joe's guitar was back into the mix. "Person Person," with its dialogue between Joe and keyboardist Kris Cummings, allowed the band to joke about the SMU game on Saturday, but lacked its usual flair.

Carrasco soon moved into several new songs, such as "Body Program" and "Condo Lavaca." In general the songs showed a greater variety of styles, from melodic ballads to some reggae beats, than Carrasco's previous work. Although the band wasn't as tight on these as on its older material, the new songs gave a little spark to the performance for Carrasco veterans like my-

self.

Starting off with "Cantina," the band pulled back into its usual jumpy style for the last few tunes. The audience was firmly entrenched in the beat, both dancing and yelling, as Joe finished with "Lupe" and "Party Weekend."

"96 Tears" led the encores. The audience clamored for more, so the Crowns pulled out one more new tune, "Monkey on the Frisbee" and ended the show with a medley of "Woolly Bully," "La Bamba" and "Twist and Shout."

Any Carrasco performance is good, but this time the "King" had some instrumental problems, including timing and missed parts, but there certainly were enough good things happening to keep the band playing for an hour and a half.

Carrasco, in addition to his energetic dancing, flung himself off the stage and was caught by the crowd, a trademark "King" move. He then found enough energy to come back for four encores.

Although this was not Carrasco and the Crowns at their best, we can only hope for that the next time they make town.

Opening for Carrasco was the local band Rackitt. For a first performance, the group's



Joe "King" Carrasco in concert at the Heavy Metal Coliseum Saturday.

first two songs were fairly dynamic. But problems with sound made lyrics in later songs difficult to understand. At times lead singer Kevin

Bomar seemed to be lost in his lyrics rather than the group also had some problems, both guitar and vocal, later in the show.

Ban of pesticide worries farmers

United Press International
MCALLEN — The federal government's recent moves to ban ethylene dibromide (EDB) on grounds it may cause cancer has put citrus growers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley between a rock and a hard place in their battle to control the Mexican fruit fly, industry officials report.

"The dilemma is this: We are being told by the government on the one hand that we have to treat citrus going to other citrus-producing states to protect against the spread of the Mexican Fruit Fly. But on the other hand, the government has not

approved an alternate to EDB that is proven to be a cost-effective control," said Ray Prewett, executive vice president of Texas Citrus Mutual, the Valley's largest grower organization.

Until now, the federal government has required that Valley grapefruit and oranges be fumigated with EDB before it is shipped to other citrus-producing areas in California, Arizona, Florida and 10 parishes of Louisiana.

Prewett said the main rub comes because California, although a citrus-growing state itself, is the main destination for

Texas oranges and grapefruit. About 10 percent of the Valley's grapefruit and 20 percent of its oranges are shipped each year to California, Valley producers say, because Texas citrus has a higher sugar content and is preferred by many consumers on the West Coast.

The EPA recently banned EDB as a soil fumigant after traces of the pesticide were discovered in water samples in California and Florida. The EPA also laid down proposed guidelines on the amount of EDB workers may be exposed to in handling the fruit.

By Sept. 1, 1984, before next year's citrus harvest, EDB will be forbidden also as a fruit fumigant, leaving citrus growers with limited options on what they can do to control Mex-Fly, Prewett said.

Although full impact of the

EDB ban will not be felt for nearly a year, Prewett said citrus growers in Texas and Florida both are anxiously awaiting word on what stance the government of Japan will take on his season's citrus exports. Florida growers also used EDB to fumigate fruit heading for the Orient because of their problem with the Caribbean fruit fly.

"The immediate impact for this year will depend on the extent to which Japan limits EDB-fumigated fruit. The Japanese government has not taken official action, but some Japanese import companies and chain stores have said they will not take any fruit that has been fumigated with EDB," Prewett said.

This year, citrus growers are limited to using a Malathion bait spray in an effort to control any Mex-Fly infestations in the groves. The U.S. Department of

Agriculture has approved fumigants of fruit from the groves where the ban program is completed. The USDA also has considered a Valley-wide ban on the Mex-Fly threat.

A "cold treatment" of citrus fruit also is an option, but citrus industry officials say the cost prohibitive except fruit is being sent overseas can be refrigerated and in ships while en route to markets.

The main hope for a sterile fly program similar to the one the USDA used to combat the bothersome screwworm from the United States Valley-wide program is slow in coming because of funding.

This season, a sterile fly program is being used in two Valley's four Mex-Fly groves. The 3.5 million sterile flies produced at a radiation facility in Monterrey, Mexico, not enough to treat the Valley, according to Tim Holler, a researcher for the Plant Health Inspection at old Moore Field near where the screwworm eradication program was headquartered.

Holler said construction could begin as early as next on a sterile fly laboratory at Moore Field, but the state needs to approve funding for a concerted sterile fly program can begin. He said 10 million sterile flies each year need to be concentrated throughout the Valley for full control can come about

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Dec. 5-9 juniors
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