

Marine Corps celebrates 208th birthday

by Kellie Dworaczyk
Battalion Reporter
Thursday marks the 208th birthday of the Marine Corps, and according to tradition, wherever there are Marines, there will be a celebration. "On Nov. 10, every Marine stands up a little bit straighter," said a senior Marine officer instructor at Texas A&M, Maj. R.J. Fawcett, said. "There is always some form of commemoration." Fawcett has taken part in

Marine birthday celebrations in many different places, including the island of Okinawa, in Vietnam and in London. At Texas A&M there are 14 active duty Marines and 89 members of the Corps of Cadets approved Marine options. "Nov. 10 is a lot like the Fourth of July," Dan Sharp, a senior Marine option cadet, said. "It is a chance to remember what Marines were in the past, and what we are today. The

birthday celebration connects the two." On Thursday U.S. Marines everywhere recall their history and hold celebrations, Fawcett said. Marines are as old as war at sea. The Greeks, Romans, Moors and early Spanish explorers used marines in their armed forces. Before formation of the United States, the individual states kept their own marine forces.

The colonial marines battled pirates and settled territorial disputes. On Nov. 10, 1775, the Continental Congress of the United States created a Corps of Marines. "The Marine Corps holds very close to traditions," Fawcett said. All celebrations follow a general pattern set down in the Marine Corps Manual. Addresses from the current Marine

Corps Commandant and a speech written by John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, are read. There is a traditional cake cutting ceremony, designed to recognize all Marines, in which the first piece of cake is given to the guest of honor, the second piece to the youngest marine present and the third piece to the oldest marine present. The address from Gen. P.X. Kelley, commandant of the

Marine Corps, and Lejeune's traditional speech reading and the national cake cutting ceremony take place at the formal birthday celebration at the Sea Services Ball Friday. A celebration and cake cutting will be held Thursday in the Military Science Building at 4 p.m. The Recon Company of the Navy ROTC is sponsoring a three mile Birthday Run to honor the Marine Corps that day

also. Sharp, a political science major from Temple and commanding officer of the Recon Company, said the company chose to celebrate the birthday with a run because Marines are known for their physical fitness. This year at the birthday celebrations everywhere there will be a moment of silence for the Marine casualties in Beirut, Lebanon and the island of Grenada.

SCONA readies spring event

by Pat Allen
Battalion Reporter
Fund raising for the 29th annual Student Conference on National Affairs is in full force, Chairman of Student Development Pat Foster says. SCONA is a three day conference attended by American and international student delegates for discussions of topics of international concern. SCONA 29 began its fund raising last summer, but the main push occurs every fall. The conference is designed to create intelligent interest among young people concerning the problems and challenges facing the world today. The program allows students of different backgrounds to exchange cultural and intellectual ideas and discuss solutions to problems. SCONA's budget is raised entirely by students; it receives no funds from the University. Brian Hickert, vice chairman of the Houston fund drive, says SCONA 29 has a budget set for \$92,000 but would like to surpass that goal so it can invest money in next year's conference. SCONA visits about 15 cities on its fund drive. Of those cities, the largest amount of contributions are collected in Houston. Funds are also raised in New York City and Canada for college students in those areas to attend SCONA. Two weeks before a fund drive, SCONA members call their contacts to set up interviews to answer questions concerning SCONA and its topic.

"The majority of our contacts are former students," Foster says. "We have contacts that donate money to SCONA yearly, and many of them help us contact other former students and other individuals interested in our organization." "SCONA also contacts people who are interested in our topic. For instance, this year's topic is 'Media: Behind the Headlines,' therefore we're contacting television stations, radio stations and newspapers." Other sources of funding are the foundations set up by wealthy people, Foster says. "These people have a lot of money and they set up a charity foundation to give money to organizations that need it," he says. "We also have contacts with foundations set up strictly for Texas A&M." SCONA fund raisers don't ask contributors for a specific amount of money, however those who donate \$100 or more have their name listed in the conference proceedings. "Of course the main purpose of the fund drive is to raise money," Hickert says, "but we also want SCONA members to gain a better insight to the business world. Fund drives give people good experience in dealing with professionals and establishing contacts for future reference." SCONA 29 will be Feb. 14 to 18. Applications for student hosts and delegates will be open at the beginning of the spring semester.

Council helps campus communication

by Rusty Roberts
Battalion Staff
The Academic Administrative Council is the first step in bringing concerns of administrators and faculty to the attention of the president and the provost. Council Secretary Thomas Adair says communication is essential for the smooth workings of any administrative system. The most recent topic the

council considered was that of promotion and tenure. At its first meeting, the council heard a lawyer's opinion on how to handle the issue at Texas A&M. The council also approved its new bylaws at the initial meeting. President Frank E. Vandiver, council chairman, uses the council as a source for feedback from administrators concerning general academic and University matters he considers important. Council members include the

provost, vice presidents, associate provosts, deans, department heads, the registrar, student body president, head of the School of Military Science and all directors reporting to the president and provost. Prior to the formation of the Academic Administrative Council, both administrators and faculty served on the same advisory group known as the Academic Council. Last spring, the University renamed the Academic Council the Academic

Administrative Council and formed the Faculty Senate.

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Black acquitted in 'racist' case

United Press International
DALLAS — An all-white jury Tuesday acquitted a young black engineer from South Carolina of an armed robbery charge that sparked claims of racism and shoddy police work. The jury deliberated 2 hours and 17 minutes in finding Anthony Williams, 25, innocent of stealing \$31 at gunpoint from a 7-Eleven store in the Dallas suburb of Garland on Aug. 22, 1982. The verdict evoked a cheer from a packed courtroom crowd and prayerful relief from Williams. Williams said his first reaction to the verdict was, "Praise the Lord." "I was praying. I had my mind on the Lord," said Williams. Williams said he believed his prosecution was motivated by racism. "I was one of the first black engineers in Greenville, and I

could feel the animosity the first day," Williams said. At the time of his arrest he worked as an engineer at E-Systems Inc. in Greenville, Texas, about 50 miles northeast of Dallas. The case received extensive publicity because Williams' roommate, Lenell Geter, also a native of South Carolina and also an engineer at E-Systems, currently is appealing a life sentence for another robbery conviction. George Hairston, who was hired by the NAACP to defend Williams, said he also would represent Geter in his appeal. He was critical of Dallas County authorities for allowing the case against Williams to come to trial. "Race was a factor," Hairston said. "I fault the Dallas district attorney's office for wasting the taxpayers' money."

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