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Ross Volunteers induct 2 women

A&M group breaks tradition

By Tammy Kirk
Staff Writer

Nancy Hedgecock, 20, of Hamburg, Ark., and Mandy Schubert, 19, of Houston, are the first women in Texas A&M's history to become members of the Ross Volunteers.

Monday night these two women, along with 70 other junior cadets, received their letters of acceptance into this elite organization.

"I was shocked," Hedgecock said. "But I was honored just like the rest of the juniors chosen."

Hedgecock, a member of Squadron 14, said she hadn't thought about becoming a member of the RVs as a freshman or sophomore, but as a junior she decided she'd apply and do the best she could. Hedgecock said she didn't think the earlier admission of three women into the Texas Aggie Band influenced the RVs' decision to select her.

"They're two totally different things," Hedgecock said.

Hedgecock, a civil engineering major, is a Kai Epsilon pledge, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is on the Corps public relations committee.

Schubert, a member of Corps staff, said the RVs was something she's worked towards for a long time and that she was honored just as any other RV would be.

"Only 72 of us made it," Schubert said. "And you know more than 72 were qualified."

Schubert believes the three women admitted into the band joined because they wanted to join, not because of any court case. The court case Schubert referred to is the Melanie Zentgraf case, a sex discrimination lawsuit against Texas A&M. A court order forced A&M to encourage women to join its previously all-male organizations.

Schubert said, like the women in the band, she applied for the RVs because she wanted to.

"I put my name down just like any other RV," she said. "And I was chosen on my qualifications just like any other RV."

Whitaker said the admission of women into the band was not a factor in the RVs' decision to select women. Out of 143 applicants, he said, six were women.

"They were not treated any better or any worse than the other juniors who applied," Whitaker said.

Although women have previously applied to the organization, which is the official honor guard of the governor of Texas, they have been turned down.

Whitaker said last spring, even before women had been admitted into the band, the senior RVs got together in small groups to discuss the selection of women. He said the RVs decided that although the group had been an all-male organization, it did not mean that it would continue to be so. And the question of whether a woman could do the rifle drills was not an issue because some men can't do the drills.

Schubert, Hedgecock and two male cadets said they were tense before finding out that they were chosen. Seniors in the organization slide the letters of acceptance under the juniors' doors while the applicants are at dinner.

Larry Anthis, a new inductee, said, "You could feel the tension in the air at dinner. And we kinda half-walked, half-ran back to the dorm to see if we had gotten a letter."

Jim Cunningham and Anthis, said they were elated when they discovered the letters under their doors.

Cunningham said the halls were filled with "Whoops!" from the cadets who made it.

The RVs are made of seniors and juniors who are selected based on how they uphold the ideals of the Corps at the University and in the state.

Whitaker said the seniors consider three things during the selection — the cadet's dress, bearing and conduct and how each reflects on the University and the Corps.

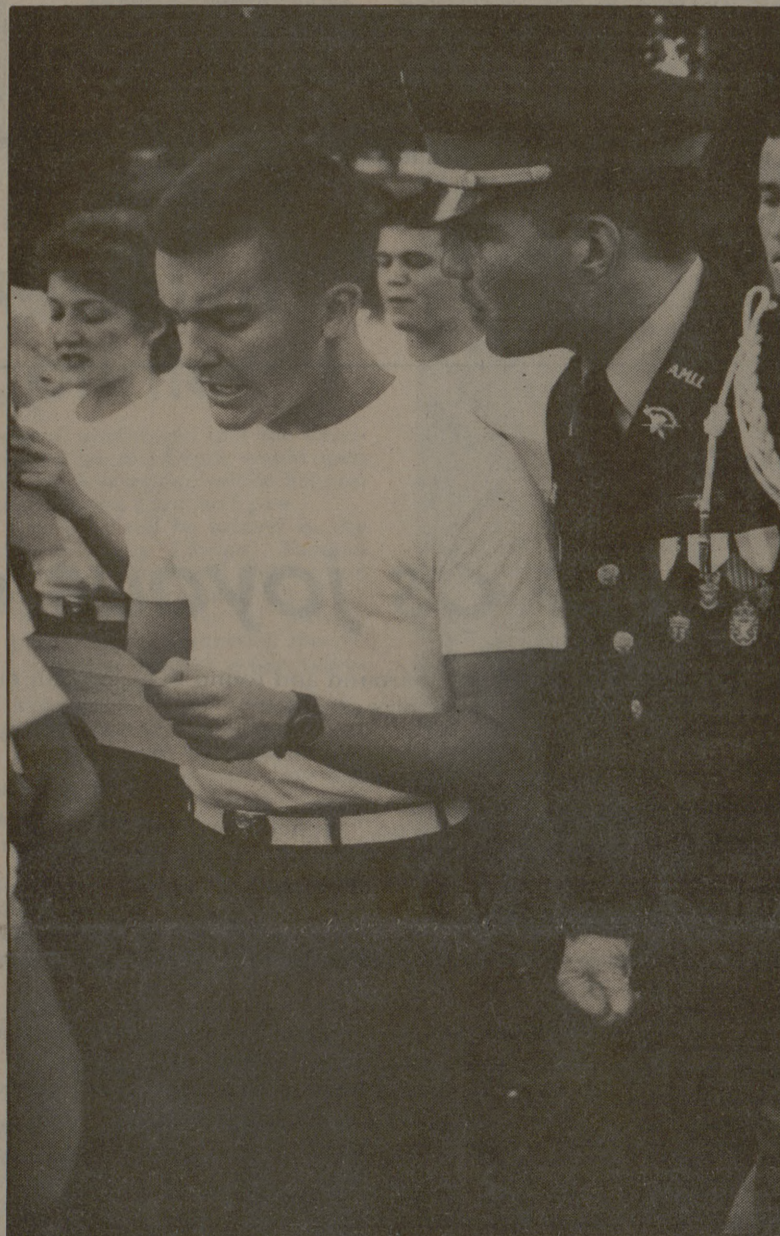


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

George Knox, left, a new member of the Ross Volunteers, reads his letter of acceptance as Jeff Brady, a senior RV, looks on. Mandy Schubert, far left, became one of the first two women to be admitted into the group in its 98-year history.

ing and conduct and how each reflects on the University and the Corps.

Also, a cadet must maintain a 2.3 grade-point ratio to be selected or to stay in as a senior, he said.

The juniors were selected Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and Oct. 2 by the senior members.

Palestinians hijack Italian cruise liner

Associated Press

PORT SAID, Egypt — Palestinian hijackers seized an Italian cruise liner at sea Monday with more than 400 people aboard, demanded that Israel release 50 prisoners and threatened to blow up the ship if attacked, officials reported.

Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini placed the nation's armed forces on alert.

An Italian Foreign Ministry report said 72 Americans were listed as passengers aboard the Achille Lauro.

Hours later, Patrizia Terese, a duty officer at the Foreign Ministry, told The Associated Press that 72 Americans and 20 Britons were among 600 passengers who left the ship in Alexandria for a day-long land tour. That would mean that all of the Americans and Britons listed in the previous ministry report had disembarked; but Terese emphasized that the figures were preliminary, and there could still have been Americans aboard the ship when it was hijacked.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mike Aastrian said the U.S. Embassy in Cairo was trying to locate the cruise organizers to find out how many Americans left the ship to visit Cairo and the nearby pyramids.

Egyptian officials said the Achille Lauro had left Alexandria and was about 30 miles west of Port Said, its next destination, when it was commandeered by an undetermined number of hijackers and headed farther out into the Mediterranean, its destination unknown.

Word of the takeover came in a ship-to-shore radio report by the hijackers' leader to Port Said at about 9:30 p.m. — 4:20 p.m. EDT. The guerrilla said the hijackers were members of the Palestine Liberation Front, a dissident faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Many of the passengers who left the Achille Lauro in Alexandria had been scheduled to rejoin the cruise at Port Said, the northern entrance to the Suez Canal and 150 miles east of Alexandria.

A Palestinian named Samir Konaitey headed the list of prisoners the hijackers said were being held in Israel and whose freedom was de-

manded in exchange for the ship and passengers, the officials reported.

In Tel Aviv, a spokesman said the Foreign Ministry was in close contact with Italian officials and the Israeli Cabinet was being summoned for a meeting this morning.

It was not known how the hijackers took control of the ship, which had been scheduled to dock in Port Said at 9 p.m. (4 p.m. EDT).

Italian news agencies quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying the hijackers were armed and had a large supply of explosives with which to blow up the ship.

An Italian official involved in the crisis command said there were 340 crew members and "about 60 to 80 passengers aboard the ship."

"The passengers seem to be treated well on the basis of what we've learned from Egyptian authorities" who were in radio contact with the ship, the official added.

In Rome, PLO representative Fuad Al-Bittar issued a statement saying the PLO had been informed by the Foreign Minister of the hijacking "and we have expressed our full readiness to offer all our collaboration to shed light on this episode which, above all, has hit the PLO."

The Italian AGI news agency said PLO chief Yasser Arafat, in a telephone conversation with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, condemned the hijacking.

GOP's Hance running for governor

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Kent Hance came to Austin Monday to announce what's been obvious during his several months on the early season campaign trail — he's running for governor.

The former Democratic congressman from Lubbock joined U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler and former Gov. Bill Clements as the major GOP contenders in the May primary.

At a Capitol news conference, Hance appealed to Republicans' desire to unseat Democratic Gov. Mark White. The possibility of beating White could emerge as the major issue in the Hance-Loeffler-Clements scramble.

"I've served as an elected official in Washington and Austin," Hance said. "I have the experience. . . it's a pretty well-known fact that I'm the one that can beat Mark White and will beat Mark White."

Local animal shelter helping pets find homes

By LORA BEST
Reporter

There are old and young ones and big and little ones. There are cats and dogs and puppies and kittens. But they all have one thing in common — they are all living at the Brazos Animal Shelter.

Some are strays, some have been surrendered by their owners, some

were abandoned and some were brought in by animal control workers.

A limited number of these animals are actually available for adoption. Many cannot be adopted for health or behavioral reasons.

"We work very hard to keep animals that are adoptable in the shelter," says Kathy Ricker, the shelter's

executive director.

In fact, the Brazos Animal Shelter's adoption and claim rate is three times higher than the national rate, she says.

Ninety percent of the animals that are wearing tags when found will return to their homes, Ricker says. An adoptable animal also has a chance to go to a new home.

Ricker says the staff tries very hard to get an animal back to its owner or into a new home. But she says that keeping a high rate of adoption is not what is most important at the shelter.

"All that is important is how the animal will be cared for and incorporated into the home," Ricker says.

The shelter has an adoption pro-

cess every applicant must go through before a pet can be adopted.

An application must be filled out by all prospective owners, Ricker says. The application is reviewed by the shelter's adoption committee

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Kidnappers threaten U.S. and Soviet Union

Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A caller claiming to represent the captors of three Soviet Embassy employees said Monday they will be held until the United States and Soviet Union join forces to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

He also threatened the abductions of more Soviet and American citizens as a means of putting pressure on the superpowers. The authenticity of the call could not be determined.

An anonymous caller who said he represented a fundamentalist Sunni Moslem group named the Islamic Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for the kidnap of four Soviet Embassy staff members a week ago. One of them was killed and his body dumped in a vacant lot.

The group demanded that Moscow force Syria, its main Middle East ally, to call off leftist militias that were besieging fundamentalist Sunni fighters in the northern port city of Tripoli.

The body of Cultural attache Arkady Katkov, 32, was found Wednesday, and the Syrians declared a cease-fire in Tripoli on Thursday, ending 19 days of fighting in which more than 500 people had been killed.

The man who telephoned a Western news agency Monday called the truce in Tripoli move that does not necessarily mean the conspiracy against the Moslems is over.

"The heretics think they can invest this truce to deceive us into releasing the (Soviet) hostages," he said.

"We emphasize that this (kidnap) operation will not end that easily and it will not be the last. We shall not release the hostages."

The statement said no Soviet hostages would be freed unless President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev agree at their summit next month in Geneva to "terminate the Lebanese tragedy and the sufferings of the Lebanese people."

Aggies fare well in national stats

A&M grads hired, paid more

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND
Staff Writer

A comparison between national employment statistics and those for Texas A&M graduates reveals that Aggies are hired more and paid more. University deans say they aim to keep it that way.

Lynn Zimmerman, associate dean of business administration, says his department encourages students to get involved in activities on campus.

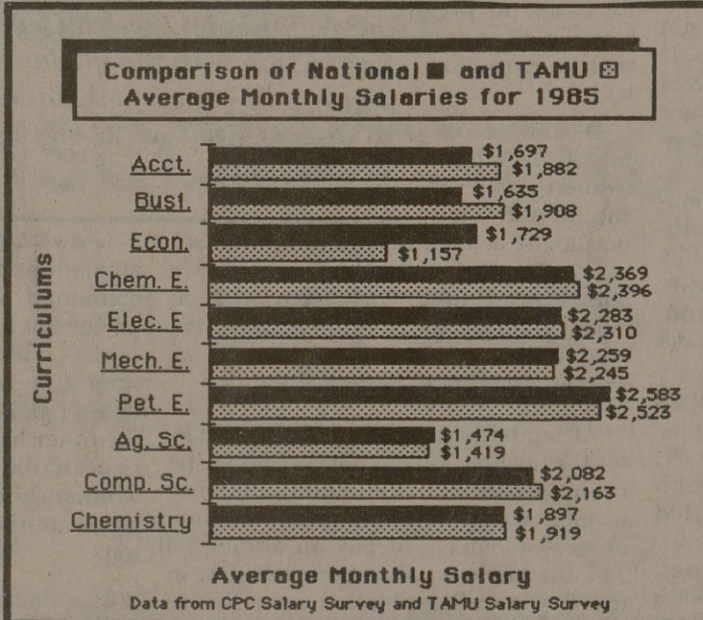
"Employers want students to show that they will be contributors, not only to the company but to the community they'll be living in as well," Zimmerman said.

Bart Childs, professor of computer science at A&M, says his department is encouraging students to broaden their fields of study if they want to increase their chances of getting the best jobs.

"Students with good grades, who are open minded, have a reasonable way with politics, and who contribute to their school . . . will land the best jobs," Childs said. He said students especially should

consider improving writing and speaking skills by taking courses in

those areas. In computer science, govern-



ments are predicting growth in employment for the next 13 years.

Childs says his department is thrilled about government predictions, but that it is not complacent.

In the past, A&M has been able to place computer science majors at salaries above the national average.

According to the College Placement Council survey, A&M computer science majors reported average salaries this year at \$1,000 per year above the national average.

Other departments also acknowledge the importance of a balanced education.

According to the council survey, A&M graduates fit this description.

A&M accounting graduates reported average salaries of \$1,882 per month, outpacing the national average by more than \$100 per month.

A&M business analysis graduates reported salaries of \$1,908 per month, \$173 per month above the national average.

Childs says the reason for higher

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