

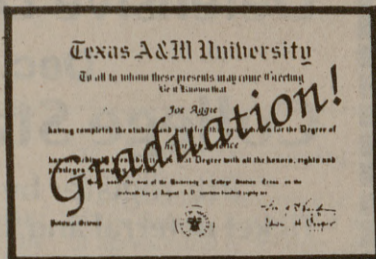
2,900 students to graduate during ceremonies at A&M

U.S. Congressman to offer address

An estimated 2,900 Texas A&M students will graduate Friday and Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

U.S. Rep. Eligio "Kika" de la Garza of Mission will speak to graduate students and undergraduates in the colleges of agriculture, business administration, education, geosciences and science at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Now in his 12th term in the House of Representatives, de la Garza serves as chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Before his election to the U.S. House, he served six terms in the Texas House of Representatives.



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

He has been active in agriculture and education programs and has worked to improve relations with developing nations.

Eugenia Charles, prime minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica, will address undergraduate degree candidates from the colleges of architecture and environmental design, engineering, liberal arts, veterinary medicine and A&M-Galveston at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Charles, a graduate of the University of Toronto and the London School of Economics and Political Science, is in her second five-year term as prime minister.

Her political career began in 1968 when she formed her own party in Dominica.

65 cadets to accept commissions

By Teresa Foster
Staff Writer

Sixty-five members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will be commissioned Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Fifteen cadets will be commissioned into the Army, 23 into the Air Force, 11 into the Navy and 16 into the Marine Corps, Corps Deputy Assistant Commandant Donald Henderson said.

The cadets who are commissioned into the Air Force, Army or Marine Corps will enter as second lieutenants and the cadets who are commissioned into the Navy will enter as ensigns, Henderson said.

The length of service for each cadet depends on the branch the cadet enters, he said.

Henderson said cadets sign a contract with the government for commissions during their junior or senior years. Those who do not sign a contract remain in the Corps as drill and ceremony cadets and do not take ROTC during their last two years of school, he said.

Henderson said the 65 cadets who

will be commissioned this weekend represent an increase over last year at this time; there were 51 cadets commissioned last December.

Assistant Commandant Donald Johnson said that the increase in commissions is due to a larger senior class.

"With it being a larger senior class, there are obviously more people signing contracts for commissions," he said.

Johnson said about 50 percent of the cadets are commissioned. Cadets who don't take commissions may stay in the Corps their final two years for many reasons, such as leadership training and the camaraderie and friendships that develop within a Corps outfit over four years.

Speaking at Saturday's ceremony will be Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Lutz, chief of staff at the United States Special Operations Command headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida.

Lutz, a 1955 graduate of St. Norbert College in DePere, Wis., was designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate. He received his mas-

ter's degree from Webster University.

During the ceremony, Lutz will present the Doherty Award, a \$3,000 award given to a graduating cadet who has spent four years in the Corps and has accepted a commission in the armed forces.

The winner must be recognized by the University as a valued and outstanding leader, Henderson said. The winner also must be in good standing academically and be held in high regard by the officers of the military establishment on campus, he said.

Senior Jeff Davis of Fort Worth will be one of the 16 cadets commissioned into the Marine Corps.

Davis, who said he accepted his commission because he believes in patriotism, said the commissioning will be an exciting moment for him and for the other cadets.

He said he is looking forward to joining the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant.

"I saw a commercial for the Marines and my friends almost had to hold me down," he said.

Poll shows Texans have faith in economy's ability to rise

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

Texans believe their state will rise again — at least economically — but they're not holding their breath yet; it may not happen any time soon, according to recent Texas Poll results.

So say a majority of the 1,002 people interviewed for the poll conducted in November. One of the topics featured in last month's poll, which is taken quarterly, was the effect of Texas' economic downturn.

Pollsters asked each person to predict the business condition in Texas over the next twelve months and then again over the next five years. In both cases, predictions of bad times prevailed.

Looking ahead at the next twelve months, 36 percent of those polled saw bad times ahead, while 33 percent expected good times. The gap widens concerning the five year predictions, with 42 percent of responses negative and only 30 percent positive.

Dr. James Dyer, director of the Texas Poll, comments, "Although (Texans) seem pessimistic here, they are feeling much better about things than they did a year and a quarter ago."

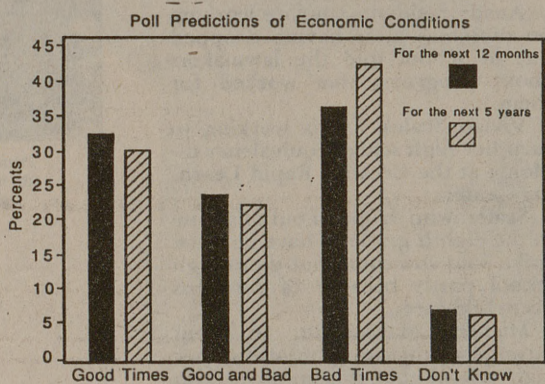
The poll conducted in the summer of 1986 showed that 54 percent foresaw bad times in the near future, 18 points more than in the November poll.

As far as the well-being of individuals in Texas, the numbers were equally pessimistic. While 63 percent of those polled said that they were doing the same as or better than they were doing last fall, only 37 percent saw any personal improvement in the upcoming year.

When asked how they had been affected, half of those polled said that, in the past three years, they had to use their savings to get by and one-third said that they had lost their jobs during the same period of time.

"This is not such an unreasonable number when you consider the fact that there is a great deal of turnover in jobs," Ryan said. "Just because they lost a job didn't mean that they didn't get one back."

"If you are talking about an unemployment rate of 8 percent to 9 percent, you figure that over the course of three years a very high percentage of households might well have had an experience like that."



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

When broken down into interest groups, the numbers show in greater detail that the effects of the economy on the individual went across the board.

Of those people interviewed who earned \$20,000 a year or less, 25 percent said they were hurt a great deal. Twenty-one percent of those who earned between \$20,000 and \$40,000 and 14 percent of those who earned more than \$40,000 also said they were hurt badly.

Educationally, the numbers followed the same lines. The number of high school dropouts who said they were hurt badly was only 5 points higher than the number of college graduates who said they hurt badly (26 percent versus 21 percent).

"There was some tendency for poor people to be hurt more," Ryan said, "but it wasn't as pronounced as you would expect. The economic downturn hurt people in all kinds of categories (jobs, education, income). So in that sense it was a very widespread effect."

The Texas Poll is conducted by the Public Policy Resources Laboratory at Texas A&M and is sponsored by Harte Hanks Communications. The margin of error on opinions of the test group as a whole is plus or minus 3 percent. That margin increases as the study group becomes more individualized.

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