

# Corps sponsors program on A&M to encourage student enrollment

By Taani Baier  
Reporter



Illustration by Carol Wells

High school juniors and seniors are given the opportunity to "spend the night" with the Corps of Cadets in a program that introduces prospective students to life at Texas A&M.

Lt. Col. Donald R. Henderson, deputy assistant Corps commander, said the recruiting program allows the high school students to experience the Corps and A&M firsthand. The Corps works with A&M's Office of School Relations to get up tours of the campus for the visiting students. The students visit classes to help get a better understanding of what college is really like.

Information about the program is distributed in a variety of ways. Letters from Corps Commander Patrick Thomason, a senior mechanical engineering major, are sent out inviting high school students to participate in the program. Information sheets accompany the letters, which are returned for a reservation, Henderson said.

"Basically, (the letter) tells about the program," Henderson said. "In a nutshell, it says that we'd like for the student to come up here and see what the Corps is like because the stories you hear about the Corps

just don't do it justice. Most importantly, they can see what life as a freshman is really like here in the Corps."

Shannon O'Neal, a Corps member and senior journalism major, said the observers receive valuable insight into the Corps activities, but that observing the activities is not quite the same as being a part of the Corps.

"They can't really understand what it is like to be a participant," O'Neal said. "It's hard to compre-

hend how scary it really is to be a freshman in the Corps; it's so intense."

Cadets also visit high schools on college nights to present information about the Corps to the students. General recruiting information is handed out.

Henderson said that high school counselors, parents and former students request information on the program for high school students they know who have expressed an interest in A&M or the Corps.

Corps Public Relations Sergeant Ray Schmidt, a junior industrial distribution major, agrees that the high school counselors play a major part in the success of the program. He said it is the counselors who make or break the program.

"We have earned the faith of the high schools," Schmidt said. "The high school counselors are the ones who more or less advise the students on their future — where they're going to go to school or where they should focus their attention. We've had nothing but pluses. They strongly recommend that we continue to make the program available to the high school students."

The program has proven to be the most successful recruiting program of the Corps. About 600 high school

students participated in the program last year.

"We've found that no question about it, it's by far our best recruiting program as far as percentage of success," Henderson said.

Schmidt added, "It does work — we've had almost a 100 percent sign up rate."

All said they agree that the high school students get the royal treatment.

"We roll out the red carpet for the (high school) students," Henderson said. "The main thing we want to do is be friendly. We want to leave an impression."

O'Neal said, "Of course they (cadets) show them a good time — it's just like any other recruiting."

Goloboff agreed, saying, "We definitely don't let a high school student see the discipline of the freshmen, but they're not stupid. They know it's there."

Schmidt said, "From what I've heard and seen most of them definitely have a good time. On the other hand, occasionally there are those who don't enjoy it because it wasn't what they expected. All we can do is show them what we have and that's it. If they don't like it, that's not our problem."

## Animals face drug tests at Exposition

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Champion livestock will be tested for drugs this week at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, but a positive result won't stand in the way of a blue ribbon.

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association is conducting the testing of market steers, lambs and burrows as part of a survey, officials said.

"This is the first stock show where anything like this is being done in the nation," Dr. Larry Ehrlund, a San Antonio veterinarian who is coordinating the tests, said.

"We have no idea whether we have a problem or we don't have a problem," said livestock show spokesman Richard Traylor. "This is more of a survey for information."

Tests at three laboratories are designed to detect 25 different compounds, Ehrlund said.

He said the purpose of the testing was not merely for health reasons.

"The stock show is supposed to teach children how to raise animals and to compete fairly. Use of drugs is cheating," Ehrlund said. "It teaches chemical dependency."

Veterinarians nationwide are concerned that some show animals might be given drugs such as diuretics, tranquilizers or anabolic steroids, which give the owner an unfair advantage, Ehrlund said.

He said phenylbutazone is one drug that could show up in the tests.

"It is a pain reliever that would cause an animal to limp," he said. "But phenylbutazone in people could cause fatal bone marrow suppressant. The bone marrow stops making red blood cells."

"There's certainly a potential health hazard in using drugs," Ehrlund said some drugs are limited to a minimum time before slaughter and others are not allowed on animals intended for human consumption.

Texas veterinarians passed a resolution in August to design a screening program to help local stock shows, Ehrlund said.

A similar drug testing program will be conducted at the stock show in San Angelo next month, and at other shows in Texas.

# Program trains counselors to deal with troubled youth

By Stan Goloboff  
Reporter

By providing troubled youngsters with a strict discipline policy and working with them at an early age, counselors can help rehabilitate a youth so he can function in society, Beverly Womack of Community Rehabilitation Professional Services said Tuesday.

Womack, founder and clinical service provider for Community Rehabilitation Professional Services, led a "Troubled Youth" seminar sponsored by the Brazos County Juvenile Services Department.

The seminar, held at the Brazos Center, attracted about 50 people that included everyone from school counselors to probation officers, said Irma Cauley, a juvenile probation officer and unit supervisor.

The purpose of the community rehabilitation organization is to train and prepare social workers to better serve those they care for, Womack said.

"If we can identify these kids, who are what we call a troubled youth, early enough, we can help them to function in society like normal people and avoid sending them into the Texas Youth Correction system," Womack said.

A troubled youth is usually someone who is angry, hostile, irresponsible and has low self-esteem, she said.

They usually let their physical appearance deteriorate, although a troubled youth can be someone who is the best-dressed kid in school.

There is usually some form of substance abuse involved sooner or later, Womack said.

"More and more these days we are finding youths who come from middle and upper classes that are troubled," Womack said. "In the past these troubled youths came from lower-income families."

These kids usually come from homes were with no consistent authority figure or with confusion over who is the authority figure.

The youth also can come from alcoholic and/or workaholic families, Womack said.

"Sometimes the parent tries to be the youth's friend, which tends to confuse the youth," she said. "These parents are so busy being the youth's friend that they don't discipline the youth or when they do, the youths get even more confused because a

*"If we can identify these kids, who are what we call a troubled youth, early enough, we can help them to function in society like normal people..."*

— Beverly Womack, founder of Community Rehabilitation Professional Services

friend isn't suppose to correct you like a parent does."

The seminar was conducted with small groups talking about these traits and characteristics that troubled youths share.

The talks helped to establish a basic definition of troubled youth.

While in these groups, there was discussion about how to effectively control the behavior of youth who tend to create problems in school and the community.

One of the ways discussed to control a youth's behavior was through a behavior contract that a counselor and a youth would sign.

The contract would outline the youth's rights and privileges. It also outlines what a youth can expect when he messes up, Womack said.

"Some youths are just looking for attention and these contracts are a way to show them that someone cares and it helps get them on the right track. It outlines exactly what a youth can expect," Womack said.

With some cases, though, just one person being involved is not enough to cause the youth to change his behavior.

Womack's behavior plan calls for team counseling that increases the team's size as a youth's actions become more undesirable, Womack said.

If a youth is just skipping class, then the team probably consists of just the counselor and maybe the truancy officer.

If the youth starts to steal while he is skipping school, then the team is expanded to include the probation officer and others, Womack said.

"My plan for behavioral manage-

ment of troubled kids calls for lots of documentation, good and bad, on the youth and a lot of coordination between organizations that deal with troubled youths," Womack said.

Some of these organization are school districts, juvenile probation officers, the Department of Human Services and the police department, Womack said.

Although most of her plan deals with youths who are already in the Texas Youth Correction system, she said her plan could be restructured to fit almost any environment, such as school or even the home.

After the seminar broke for lunch, Womack talked about youths and their involvement in substance abuse.

"Sometimes a youth's abnormal behavior is caused by a chemical substance, be it alcohol or cocaine, or their abnormal behavior, if not treated, will result in them abusing chemical substances," Womack said.

In a recent study of sophomores and seniors in high school, 30 percent said they have drunk enough to feel a little bit high.

Other research shows that by the age of 6 or 7, most children have knowledge of alcohol and have made up their minds on whether they are going to drink or not, Womack said.

Many of the symptoms of troubled youths are the same as for those who are abusing a chemical substance.

They usually have abrupt changes in their behavior. They are moody and have short attention spans.

They are secretive about what they are doing and where they have been.

They might go through rapid weight loss or gain. They usually will have no close family ties, Womack said.

Womack gave the group some tips on how to help youths stop abusing chemical substances and how not to get involved with them. She encouraged the counselors to get parents involved with the child and his rehabilitation.

"If you can get the whole family involved in the process and reward the whole family when the youth finishes his rehabilitation, the better," Womack said.

Because the response for this seminar was so great, Brazos County Juvenile Services will be holding another of these seminars in the future, Cauley said.

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