

Texas A&M The Battalion

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, September 20, 1988

Vol. 88 No. 17 USPS 045360 14 Pages

Corps enrollment decreases for Fall '89

Freshman class cited as primary reason for fewer number of cadets

By Kathleen Reilly
Staff Writer

Enrollment in the Corps of Cadets decreased this year, with 2,169 cadets enrolled at the end of the first week of school, as compared with 2,252 at the same time last fall.

Lt. Col. Donald Johnson, assistant Corps commandant, said the decreased enrollment in the entire freshman class is the primary reason for the decreased Corps enrollment.

This year, 691 freshmen are Corps members. Last year, 888 freshmen joined.

The number of women joining the Corps this year remained almost the same, with 100 enrolling, compared with 103 last year.

Family, friends and former Corps members all help to recruit students to the Corps.

Lt. Col. Donald R. Henderson, deputy assistant commandant, said that more than 2,000 inquiries are received each year from high school students interested in the Corps.

The Corps of Cadets Development Council informs alumni and friends about activities in the Corps. The council consists of 67 people who are former Corps members, friends or mothers of former Corps commandants.

The Corps recruiting officer will be working with a statewide network of former students to identify and recruit outstanding high school students. This network should be set up completely by the beginning of next year.

Recruiting activities include dinners and special days spent with the Corps.

Twenty-two former students in Austin host an "Accept the Challenge" dinner for students accepted to A&M. Students from Travis, Williams and Hayes counties who may be interested in joining the Corps are invited to listen to speakers discuss the Corps and the leadership opportunities it offers.

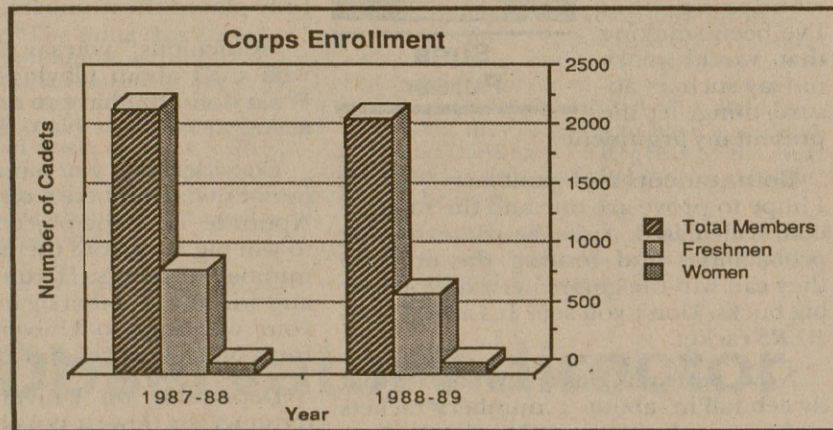
Since 1972, the "Aggie for a Day" program has brought junior ROTC units from Texas and Louisiana to the University to spend a day with

the Corps. Last year, the Corps hosted 33 units. Members of the units were given tours of the campus and were taken to a football game.

Prospective students also can "Spend the Night with the Corps." Juniors and seniors in high school can get a first-hand look at life in the Corps by eating, sleeping and studying with cadets. Funds for these visits come from non-state funds available to the Corps Development Council.

This year, 197 Sul Ross scholarships were offered to eligible cadets. These scholarships provide \$500 a semester for two years to high school seniors with outstanding athletic and extracurricular records. Recipients must remain in the Corps to receive the funds.

A permanent endowment fund is set up for the scholarships. The San Antonio A&M Mother's Club, the Dallas A&M Mother's Club, the San Antonio A&M Club and the Classes of 1960, 1967 and 1984 all have endowed scholarships.



Graphic by Elva Nolan

SAT scores fall despite increase in minority rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Average SAT scores lost ground in 1988 for the first time in eight years, but minority students continued a decade-long pattern of impressive gains, the College Board reported Monday.

Scores on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test fell two points to an average 428, while the average on the math section was unchanged at 476, according to the board's annual report.

Both portions of the multiple-choice exam taken each year by 1.1 million college-bound students are scored on a scale of 200-800, with a combined 1600 being perfect.

The combined math-verbal average of 904 marked the first decline in eight years. The national average hit a low of 890 in 1980, recovered a bit to 906 by 1985 and was unchanged until this year's slight decline.

Ironically, the release of the SAT averages coincided with the planned departure Tuesday of U.S. Education Secretary William J. Bennett, who during his 3 years in office had credited the Reagan administration with spurring reforms which until this year had helped produce gradually improving SAT scores.

In a statement Monday, Bennett blamed the school establishment for the falloff in scores: "No medals for America in this news. I said in April that the absolute level at which our

improvements are taking place is unacceptably low. Today it's a bit lower, and still not acceptable. C'mon, team! Back into training."

College Board officials nonetheless cheered the "stability" of test scores in recent years.

"We're pleased, frankly, that there is as much stability in the scores as the data suggests," board President Donald M. Stewart told reporters. He noted that scores were generally holding up even though the number of test-takers has risen 13 percent since 1986 and the number of minority test-takers was up 23,066, or 1 percent, in the last year alone.

Minority students in the class of '88, especially blacks, posted the strongest gains. Verbal scores among blacks last year rose an average of two points to 353, and math scores rose seven points to 384 — doubly impressive since the number of black test-takers rose 39 percent in three years from 70,156 in 1985 to 97,483 last year, said the board's research director, Robert G. Cameron.

Stewart said it was unclear why minority students were gaining. One explanation is that federal programs such as Head Start begun in the 1960s and 1970s and aimed at assisting poor students are now paying off in higher minority SAT scores.

100,000 children remain homeless

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least 100,000 of America's children are homeless on any given night and that doesn't include those who have run away from home or been kicked out by their parents, the National Academy of Sciences estimated Monday.

While male alcoholics and former mental patients still make up a large portion of the homeless, the fastest growing group of people with no place to live are children under 18, said the academy's Institute of Medicine.

"The committee feels strongly that the growing phenomenon of homeless children is nothing short of a national disgrace that must be treated with the urgency that such a situation demands," the report said. One recommendation aimed directly at helping children: Federal support for enriched day care and Head Start programs should be expanded and coupled with outreach efforts to make homeless parents aware of help available for their children.

A recommendation for the homeless in general: Permit the use of food stamps at restaurants so prepared meals will be available to people who don't have kitchens.

The committee formed by the institute to do the study, which was ordered by Congress, applauded changes that allow use of food stamps at shelters and soup kitchens. But it said operators of those facilities need to be educated in the principles of sound nutrition and the special nutritional needs of the homeless.

The committee also sought to dis-

miss fears of city government officials who might conclude that increasing their efforts to help the homeless would only draw more homeless people to their cities.

The great majority of homeless people are long-term residents of the city where they live, the committee said. What's more, it said, what causes homeless people to move to another city is the prospect for work, not the prospect for welfare. If jobs aren't available, they tend not to stay long.

New students receive 'celebrity calls'

By Juliette Rizzo
Staff Writer

New Texas A&M students may receive a call some evening from the University president, the vice president for student services or the RHA president.

They will be "celebrity" callers for the First-Time Aggie Contact Team (FACT), an outreach program established to contact every new Texas A&M student personally to find out how he is doing.

Jan Winniford, assistant director of student affairs, said the program was created to target those students who have problems and those likely to drop out of school after their first semester or year.

"Since the University is growing at such a fast rate, our growing concern is that A&M is getting away from its friendly, personal nature," Winniford said. "The program is

geared to give individual contact to new students and to give them the opportunity to talk to somebody."

The program's goals are to identify any problems the students may be having and to assist the student in solving the problems through the use of referrals to appropriate departments on campus, she said.

"We will try to identify the students with problems and also identify the students' positive experiences with the campus," she said. "The program will help identify 'high risk' students who are having a hard time adjusting to the University and may consider dropping out."

The FACT program, conducted by the Division of Student Services and the Aggie Peer Orientation Leaders, will be conducted over a 10-day period beginning Sunday and continuing through Oct. 6. Calls will be made to approximately 3,000 new students from 5:00 p.m. - 9:30

p.m. by orientation leaders and the "celebrity" callers.

The celebrity callers, including University mentors, student government leaders, yell leaders and Student Services staff, will publicize the event by contacting students to them about the program and notify them that an orientation leader will call.

The information will be recorded, and if the student identifies a problem and wishes it to be referred, a referral card will be sent to the appropriate university official or mentor.

"We will refer the students' problems to faculty and appropriate offices such as Financial Aid, Area Offices or the Off Campus Center," Winniford said.

Betsy Benson, FACT committee member, said the program also will help identify the things that should be emphasized more at new-student

orientation programs.

"Orientation leaders will do the calling, because they have already been trained to answer such questions," Benson said. "This program will extend the role of orientation leader year-round and help us to determine what we should stress more."

At the end of the program, callers will mail follow-up cards to each student to remind them that if they have further problems they can contact Student Affairs or the orientation leaders.

Winniford said the program is modeled after a program established by the University of Florida.

"The program was successful there in terms of student retention," she said. "Students are more likely to stay in school if they feel that the university does really care about them as individuals."

A&M donation sites for new blood drive set up this week

By George Watson
Staff Writer

Students will be asked to roll up their sleeves this week and donate to the semiannual Aggie Blood Drive, which runs from Wednesday to Friday.

Blood will be collected at Rudder Tower from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and at the Commons from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

The drive, sponsored by the Texas A&M Student Government, the Red Cross and Alpha Phi Omega, is a contest between A&M and Baylor University to see which university can donate the most blood. Margie Lasek, blood drive committee vice chairman, said.

The school that collects the most blood will be recognized during the pre-game festivities of the A&M-Baylor football game on Oct. 15.

Baylor won the contest last year with a turnout of four percent of the student body compared with A&M's two percent.

"There is no particular goal we are trying to meet," Lasek says. "We hope to get students to donate and get as much as we can."

Donated blood is tested as soon as it is given, and any bad blood is destroyed. All diseased blood is destroyed, and the donors are notified immediately.

The blood is sent to the Central Texas Red Cross blood bank in Waco to replenish dwindling supplies.

During the blood drive, the APO will register donors and serve re-

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— Margie Lasek,
committee vice chairman

freshments. Domino's Pizza will serve free pizza and give coupons, and McDonalds will give fruit juice and coupons.

Blood donors must be at least 18 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Blood center workers recommend having a meal before donating blood.

The Red Cross and the Wadley Blood Center of Dallas both hold blood drives during the semester. It is required that 56 days elapse between blood donations.

However, the two drives were scheduled only 52 days apart, so students who give to the Red Cross will not be able to donate at the Wadley drive scheduled for November 7 through 11.

Carol Hill, Wadley's A&M representative, said that it is unfortunate that the two drives run together, but the important part of the drive is that students donate to at least one of the banks.

For more information contact Student Government at 845-1133.

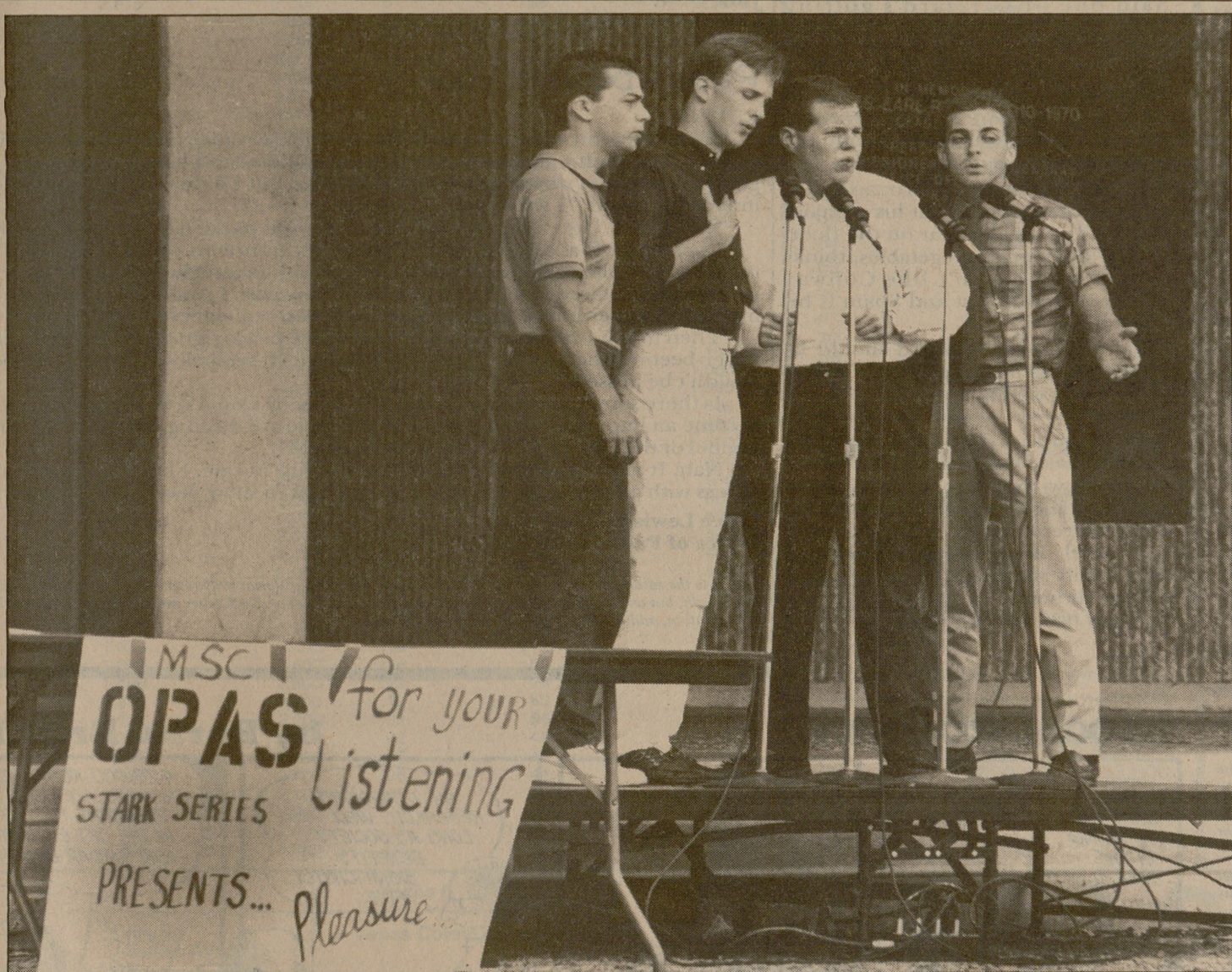


Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

An Aggienizing sound???

The "Aggienizers," members of the singing cadets, perform in front of Rudder fountain Monday. The performance was presented by the

Stark Series, a division of MSC OPAS that programs cultural performances for students.