

Friday, February 24, 1989

ROTC leaders assemble at A&M Cadets from 9 schools exchange ideas during Military Weekend

By Andrea Warrenburg
REPORTER

Twenty-five cadets from military schools across the nation will participate in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Military Weekend Feb. 23-26.

"The main purpose of the weekend is to bring cadets in from other military schools and exchange thoughts about each system," Jay Kregel, Deputy Commander of the Corps, said. "We have an opportunity to show others what A&M is all about."

The focus of the weekend will be a roundtable discussion Friday in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center lecture room at 9 a.m. Representatives from 10 schools will discuss their discipline systems. Most of the representatives are command-

ers and high-ranking cadets within their university's military organization.

Todd Reichert, Corps Commander, and John Heye, Squadron 3 Commander, will represent A&M in the discussions. The moderator of the discussion is Dr. Kurt Ritter, head of A&M's Department of Speech Communications and Theatre Arts.

Clay Whitaker, Corps public relations sergeant, said, "Each school has a different way of doing things. For example, most schools don't do physical things like push-ups. It's mostly mental."

The schools participating will be: the Citadel, North Georgia, Norwich, the U.S. Military Academy, Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute, New Mexico Military Institute, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Virginia Tech is the only institution attending

besides A&M that has a seven-day military ROTC program and a civilian student body.

"We have it good being a part-military, part-civilian institute," Kregel said. "For the others, the only time they have to be free is in class, because everywhere else they're being watched."

Other events include the "Combat Bash" mixer on Friday at the Lakeview Club in Bryan at 9 p.m., and a Military Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday in 201 MSC. U.S. Army Col. "Tex" Turner, from the U.S. Military Academy, will be the banquet guest speaker. A Military Ball will follow at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC Main Ballroom.

Military Weekend is a unique program with more schools participating each year. Cadets look forward to coming to A&M and participating, Kregel said.

"We're looking forward to showing off A&M," Kregel said.

A&M medical students teach facts about AIDS to local high schoolers

By Fiona Soltes
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M medical students are teaching area high school students about AIDS. But more than medical facts are included in the lesson plan.

As part of a national program sponsored by the medical students' section of the American Medical Association, the discussions attempt to dispel the myths about acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as well as teach sensitivity toward AIDS patients.

J. Scott Baker, an A&M medical student from Abilene, said two dozen second-year medical students from the University are involved in the program, which has visited Bryan and College Station high schools and Allen Academy in its first year.

"We want to educate the students so that they don't have to be overly fearful of AIDS patients," Baker said. "We want them to give less fear and more sympathy to someone with the disease."

Baker said the public seems to have a feeling of anger toward the patient, and may be unable to empathize.

The medical students travel to high schools in groups of three, with a local physician to answer practical questions, and a representative of the Brazos County Department of Health. The (high school) students are shown a film about the attack of the immunodeficiency virus and how it leads to AIDS. A wide-open question-and-answer session follows, along with distribution of take-home pamphlets about the disease.

"We get lots of questions that are technical," Charlise Buie, another medical student, said. "The students usually know something about the disease already. But at

one school, it was a new concept that you could be infectious and not show any symptoms."

Buie said many questions also are asked concerning the history of the disease.

Baker said, "It doesn't really matter where it came from. We don't want to divide or put the blame on any one race or culture when we need to work together instead."

Baker said the instructors try to direct the discussions away from these types of topics.

"We try to make an efficient presentation," he said. "We have students put down questions they'd like to talk about ahead of time so we can be prepared."

Baker said the presentation starts with basic information about the disease, then discusses transmission, avoidance, prevention and attempts to alleviate the myths that cause prejudice toward AIDS patients.

"We want the students to be able to protect themselves knowledgeably and not fear the disease more than they have to," he said. "Hopefully, if some of these students were to meet an AIDS patient, they'd be less anxious."

Baker said the program is useful to the medical students, too.

"In the first couple of years of medical school, there's a lot of book learning involved," he said. "As far as working with actual people, you don't get much experience. There's also a certain satisfaction in knowing that I'm involved in something that may make a difference."

Buie said the medical students are planning to expand their program to other high schools in the area.

The program has been supported by the College of Medicine, Brazos County Department of Health and the Brazos- Robertson County Medical Society.

Doctor defends practice of anesthetizing children with drug-laced lollipops

HOUSTON (AP) — A local doctor said a claim that the experimental practice of giving narcotic-laced lollipops to some children could lead to future drug abuse is absurd.

The experimental practice, which has been used at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston and two other hospitals, has been criticized by Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the Washington D.C.-based Public Citizen Health Research Group.

Wolfe is concerned that the combination of lollipops and narcotics will be such a pleasurable experience, children will be tempted to use drugs outside the hospital.

But Dr. Basil Leiman, a Houston anesthesiologist who tested the lollipops, said the idea of potential drug abuse was "absurd."

The still-experimental procedure was carried out under U.S.

Food and Drug Administration regulations, so Wolfe has objected about the test to the FDA.

Lollipops were used to administer the narcotic fentanyl to children before they underwent surgery or during painful medical procedures such as bone marrow tests, Wolfe said. Fentanyl is an approved narcotic in injectable form, but its oral form is still under FDA review.

Leiman used the lollipops under experimental rules on about 50 patients while a children's anesthesiologist at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He is puzzled by the controversy and Wolfe's opposition.

"Clearly, he knows nothing about anesthesia," Leiman said. "Narcotics are an integral part of anesthetic practice, he said, and physicians are always looking for better ways to deliver their drugs to patients."

Asylum applications decrease on 3rd day of new program

BAYVIEW (AP) — Immigration and Naturalization Service agents continued to arrange housing Thursday for the hundreds of Central Americans being detained on the Texas border as the number of political-asylum-seekers continued to decline.

Only 10 applicants were processed Thursday, compared to some 50 Wednesday and 233 Tuesday, the first day that tougher rules governing asylum applications went into effect.

Hundreds of immigration officials have been sent to the Rio Grande Valley to help weed out applications they said are being submitted by Central Americans coming to the United States for economic, not political reasons.

Thus far, only two applicants have been granted asylum while the rest have been placed at the INS Port Isabel Service Processing Center, about 15 miles northeast of Brownsville, or at a Red Cross Shelter in Brownsville.

They are being held in lieu of bonds between \$1,000 to \$4,000 as they await hearings before an INS administrative judge.

INS officials and attorneys representing Central Americans seeking political asylum said the dwindling number of applicants may mean that they are going underground and taking their chances getting to their destination in the United States. Under INS policy that took effect Tuesday, immigrants applying for asylum in South Texas must remain in the area until their cases are processed and those found to have submitted false or frivolous claims are jailed.

"Nobody is coming to apply for asylum, and that's sort of predictable when 99 percent of these folks are being thrown in jail here, so obviously people are going underground and they are not going to be going through the system anymore, which is a tragedy," said Mark Schneider, an attorney with the Harlingen-based Proyecto Libertad, which represents Central Americans.

"We really don't believe this repressive policy here in the Rio Grande Valley is going to do anything to stop refugees from coming to the United States," he said.



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