

Thursday, April 20, 1989

Audience at debate says Corps still has viable purpose at A&M

By Richard Tijerina
STAFF WRITER

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets is vital to the continuing growth of the University because of its importance and its proud image, Brian Flood, a speaker at a debate concerning the Corps said Wednesday night.

that no longer serves a viable purpose at A&M?"

Flood, a junior political science major from Haslet, said the Corps is important to the school's future because it brings students together.

"The Corps is a unit that gives a cohesive spirit to the University," Flood said. "We have more spirit than most other universities and that is because of the Corps of Cadets."

Flood said the Corps is important to A&M because it represents time-honored traditions, including Aggie Muster, Silver Taps and the Ross Volunteers.

Flood said the Corps attracts students to the University, and without it, enrollment figures would drop sharply.

Jennifer Melton, a junior economics major from DeSoto, said that although the Corps might be an important institution, it isn't vital to A&M.

"It does not serve an important purpose as it did in the past," Melton said. "This University has grown despite the diminishing numbers in the Corps. If for some horrible reason the Corps was abolished, this University would continue to grow."

Melton said the Corps is no longer important because of its reduced role in the nation's military service and the bad reputation that often is associated with it, including racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination.

After about 30 minutes of discussion on the topic, the audience of almost 300 overwhelmingly voted against the resolution.

Audience members gave varied remarks to the resolution, but most agreed the Corps is an integral part

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Gramm mobilizes efforts to deploy missiles to Abilene

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm began mobilizing efforts Wednesday to deploy MX missiles to Dyess Air Force Base in Texas if the president agrees with a recommendation by Defense Secretary Dick Cheney to move the nuclear missiles from silos to railroad cars.

Gramm, a Texas Republican, said he anticipates intense competition among the states for the rail-garrison MX missiles.

In a time of tight defense spending, the Texas Republican said, rail garrison MX missiles may be among the few new major military undertakings.

Gramm said he began setting up a series of visits Wednesday with Pentagon officials "aimed at making a case for Abilene," after learning of Cheney's decision Tuesday.

Dyess Air Force Base, the home of the B-1B bomber, already has nuclear weapons and storage facilities for nuclear weapons that could be used for the MX missiles, Gramm said.

"The community has accepted nuclear weapons," Gramm said.

At the same time, Dyess may lose more than 330 jobs if the Pentagon goes ahead with a cost-cutting plan to move 10 C-130

cargo planes from the base to Japan. The base lost another 500 to 700 jobs in 1986 when the Air Force removed a squadron of cargo planes.

Gramm said the MX rail based missiles provide an opportunity to "more than replace the loss of personnel and jobs" from the C-130 move.

"We're talking about a mission that will last well into the 21st century," Gramm said.

The number of missile sites chosen for the MX rail garrison program would depend on the number of MX missiles being deployed, Gramm said.

"There will be intense competition," he said. "With the shrinking defense budget, a lot of communities are losing other (military) missions."

On Wednesday morning, hours after Cheney apparently issued his recommendation to President Bush, Gramm said he began "going back and touching all the bases we have contacted in the past. I want to do what we have to do to make sure Abilene is chosen. If the rail garrison MX program moves forward, I think we have a good chance of being chosen."

IRS auctions college homes for back taxes

WACO (AP) — A Paul Quinn College trustee said he is disappointed that the Internal Revenue Service decided to go through with its auction of two homes owned by the college, including the school president's residence.

"We had hoped something could be worked out with the IRS," said trustee Monte Hulse of Waco.

The IRS put the homes owned by the state's largest black private college on the auction block to collect back taxes. The IRS had filed \$303,129 in liens against the school in January.

McLennan County resident Gene Chapman purchased Paul Quinn President Warren Morgan's residence and 14 acres for \$60,000. The minimum bid was \$37,910.99.

Elizabeth Price, also of McLennan county, bought the other house for the minimum bid of

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FBI officials link cult leader, drug-smuggling ring to Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The alleged ringleader of ritual slayings in Matamoros, Mexico, has ties to the Houston area, and the same drug-smuggling ring believed responsible for the slayings is thought to be linked to area drug deals, FBI officials said.

Houston would be a logical place for cult ringleader Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo, Houston FBI agent John Joyce told the *Houston Post*.

"We've been aware of him being in and out of Houston for some time," Joyce said. For the past year, he said, Constanzo has had "very strong ties" to the city.

"With all that in mind, Houston is a logical place for him to come back to," Joyce said.

In the past year, Constanzo made several large purchases in Houston, including luxury cars, the *Post* reported Wednesday in a copyright story.

The cult has been blamed for the deaths of at least 15 people, 13 of whom were unearthed from the haystack-covered grounds of Santa Elena Ranch, 20 miles west of Mat-

amoros. One of those buried at the site was Mark Kilroy, 21, a pre-medical student at the University of Texas at Austin.

A Houston man and another victim were found in shallow graves near the ranch.

Jailed in Matamoros, four members of the cult have confessed to involvement in the slayings, four of which were said to have been human

sacrifices made to the group's faith, Palo Mayombe.

A federal grand jury in McAllen on Tuesday returned indictments against the jailed suspects in Houston and in Matamoros and against five suspects who remain at large.

Among those at large are Constanzo and Sara Villarreal Aldrete, 24, said to be the witch for the cult.

REACH designates day to raise awareness of needy

By Fiona Soltes

STAFF WRITER

As part of REACH Awareness Day, canned food will be collected, pamphlets distributed and a panel discussion will take place from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. today in the MSC flagroom.

Harry Cralle, faculty adviser to REACH, Relief Education and Concern for Hunger, said the purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the local needy and to discuss the ways they can be helped.

"We will discuss what hunger is and who is responsible for overcoming it," Cralle said.

"Most organizations say, 'Give me the money and I'll fight it,' but we need to look beyond charity and see what we're fighting and what we can do."

He said many controversial issues should be considered, including a new "birth control pill," which raises moral questions when suggested as an answer to the hunger problem.

The panel will consist of representatives from campus and religious organizations and faculty members specializing in nutrition. Cralle


will moderate.

REACH collects canned foods on a regular basis for the Brazos Food Bank at A&M Presbyterian Church, Wesley Foundation, Off-Campus LDS Institute and in Cralle's office at 217B Herman Heep.

The student organization was formed about four weeks ago to educate the public about area needy.

The group plans to become a frontal organization for other groups wanting to help the needy.

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