



Recent figures show A&M's enrollment surpassing 40,000

By Holly Becka

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M, the University with a reputation of "the largest school of fish in the nation," has an even larger freshman class and more Corps of Cadets members enrolled this fall compared to last, with total enrollment figures at A&M surpassing 40,000 for the first time.

Figures from Friday's last drop-add day show 8,739 freshmen, 6,485 sophomores, 8,318 juniors and 9,437 seniors enrolled, to total 32,979 undergraduate students. Graduate and professional students account for an additional 7,372 of the University's total enrollment of 40,351.

Associate Provost Dr. Jerry Gaston said these numbers may change slightly by Tuesday, when fall enrollment figures will be reported as "official" to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Last fall, total enrollment num-

bered 39,163, with 8,136 freshmen, 6,822 sophomores, 7,660 juniors and 9,200 seniors. Fall 1988 had 31,843 undergraduate and 7,320 graduate and professional students enrolled.

Cadet enrollment increased slightly this fall, with 2,186 registered at the end of last week, compared to 2,169 at the same time last year.

With the addition of 47 transfer students and 769 incoming freshmen, new Corps students totaled 816. Female cadets number 102, an increase of two from last year, and minorities account for 17 percent of total enrollment, about the same as last fall.

Women students at A&M account for 44 percent of the total enrollment, while men account for 56 percent. Gaston said the totals are about the same as last year at this time. Minority students make up 3,920 of the University's enrollment, 1,113

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White elections anger South African blacks

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of blacks angered at being shut out of national elections walked off their jobs Tuesday. It was the biggest show of defiance in a month-long campaign to discredit the balloting.

The National Party, despite gains made by white leftist and rightist forces, expects to retain power in Wednesday's parliamentary voting, but it probably will suffer its biggest losses since coming to power 41 years ago.

Hundreds rallied at universities and barricaded streets with flaming tires around the country to protest the elections, and police arrested 350 people.

Witnesses said police used tear gas, whips, rubber bullets and gunshot to break up demonstrations.

The protests were the latest in a mass campaign launched a month ago to defy apartheid laws that segregate the society and to protest the elections that exclude the country's 28 million blacks.

"The elections are addressing irrelevancies," said Titus Mafolo, a leader of the defiance campaign. "Once more the ruling bloc is going to elections, and . . . the main concern is the protection of white affluence and privilege."

Some black leaders have called for boycotts of the mixed-race and Indian voting because their respective houses have no power to overrule the white chamber of Parliament.

For the first time since 1953, political analysts predict the Nationalists could receive less than half the white vote.

Theft leaves woman hospitalized; assailants flee from scene of crime

Gunmen fire on Texas Coin Exchange with automatic weapon

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

A 42-year-old area resident was listed in critical condition at Humana Hospital Tuesday night after an armed robber shot her in the back of the head with an automatic weapon at Texas Coin Exchange Tuesday morning.

Eyewitnesses reported that two Hispanic men entered the store, located at 404 University Drive, shortly after 10 a.m. and appeared to browse. The store owner was helping another customer and Dorothy McNew, an

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employee of Texas Coin Exchange, was in an office at the back of the store.

McNew came out of the office briefly, and when she turned to go back into the office, one of the men shot her in the back of the head with what was described as an automatic weapon, possibly an Uzi or Mac 10 type. Witnesses said the other man carried a semi-automatic, chrome-plated or silver gun.

It is not known whether McNew saw that the men were armed, but it is possible that the men thought she was returning to the office to telephone for help or sound an alarm. The witnesses said the man gave her no warning and only fired one shot.

The two customers and two other employees in the store were ordered to lay down on the floor behind the jewelry counter while the suspects emptied trays of gold chains and loose and mounted diamonds from the display cases.

The suspects left through the front door and fled through a field to the east of the store.

Police received calls from two people who said they saw the men escape across the field on foot, but could not determine whether the suspects reached a car or continued to flee on foot.

Police alerted nearby residents to watch for the suspects and began in late morning an extensive



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

A College Station police officer links up with a Department of Public Safety helicopter flown in from Austin. The helicopter was used to aid in the search for the Texas

Coin Exchange robbery and shooting suspects. The shooting occurred at the University Drive store at approximately 10 a.m. Tuesday.

search of the neighboring area which extended into the early afternoon. College Station's Special Operations Response Team, a specially-trained group equivalent to a SWAT team, was on hand along with a helicopter from the Department of Public Safety and an airplane from Easternwood Airport.

Tracking dogs were brought in from the Texas Department of Corrections Pack Unit south of Navasota shortly before noon. The dogs were released in front of the store and led officials to the nearby Lines Park area, where police said it is possible the suspects had a vehicle waiting to exit the area immediately after the crime. No escape vehicle has been

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Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

A College Station police car sits outside of Texas Coin Exchange, where the robbery took place, Tuesday.

Bush wants harsher drug penalties

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, calling drugs "the gravest domestic threat facing our nation," Tuesday night proposed a \$7.9 billion war on narcotics emphasizing harsher penalties for users and more money for prisons, treatment programs and education.

Bush warned Latin American drug lords that "the rules have changed" and for the first time pledged U.S. military help to any government that requests it.

"Drugs are sapping our strength as a nation," the president said in his first nationally televised address from the Oval Office. He punctuated his address by displaying a plastic bag of crack cocaine seized across the street from the White House.

To attack cocaine at its source, Bush proposed a four-fold increase in the amount of military and law enforcement aid for Colombia, Bolivia and Peru, to \$261.2 million in 1990. He called it the downpayment on a \$2 billion, five-year pro-

gram for the Andean region, with allocations earmarked on the basis of progress in eradicating drugs.

To help offset the cost of his program, Bush proposed diverting \$751 million from other areas, including juvenile justice, housing, immigration and economic development programs.

"We can pay for this fight against drugs without raising taxes or adding to the budget deficit," he said.

He singled out for praise President Virgilio Barco of Colombia, where drug barons have declared war on the government.

"We have a responsibility not to leave our brave friends in Colombia to fight alone," Bush said.

With cocaine and crack dealing creating violence and record homicide rates across the country, Americans appear ready for a new assault against drugs.

A Gallup Poll released at the White House last

month said a record 27 percent of Americans consider drugs the most important problem facing the nation, above poverty, the economy, the environment and fear of war.

"All of us agree that the gravest domestic threat facing our nation today is drugs," Bush said.

Bush held up the bag of cocaine, and said it was as "innocent looking as candy."

But the president added, "If we fight this war as a divided nation, then the war is lost. But if we face this evil as a nation united, this will be nothing but a handful of useless chemicals."

Even before the speech, Bush's program was praised by the head of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Charles D. Reynolds, who said in a statement that "the criminal justice recommendations of this report are responsive to critical needs."

U.S. delivers Hueys to assist crackdown on Colombian drugs

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Two gunmen killed an army colonel's wife at a supermarket Tuesday, and Washington delivered five helicopters to help the government break the drug lords' violent grip on the country.

A police source said the government's 2-week-old crackdown on traffickers has virtually paralyzed the nation's cocaine-producing laboratories.

A newspaper predicted the price of cocaine would rise and a shortage of the coveted drug in the United States.

A man suspected of being the financial wizard for Colombia's cocaine cartel faced a deadline Wednesday for appealing his extradition to the United States.

The United States delivered five UH-1H "Huey" transport helicopters, modified versions of the combat choppers that gained prominence during the Vietnam war.

They arrived in a huge C-5 transport plane at Bogota's El Dorado airport, the last of the big-ticket items in President Bush's \$65 million package to help the government fight its drug war.

In recent days, the United States has sent Colombia five C-130 transport planes and eight A37 reconnaissance and attack jets.

The aid also includes machine guns, bulletproof vests, grenades, boats and trucks.

Drug lords have waged a campaign of bombings, assassinations and threats, largely to intimidate the government into refusing to extradite drug traffickers wanted in the United States.

Colombia's powerful cartels are believed to supply the United States with 80 percent of its cocaine.

The drug war began in earnest Aug. 18.

On that day, an assassination squad believed hired by drug czars

killed leading presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan.

Shortly after the helicopters were unloaded, an apparent bomb threat caused airport security agents to remove passengers and luggage from a jet of Colombia's Avianca Airlines about to take off for Miami.

Soldiers cleared the airport and brought in bomb-sniffing dogs.

A suspicious suitcase, shown on local TV newscasts, turned out to be full of rocks.

Police said they had no official motive for the death of Angela de Guerrero, wife of Army Col. Carlos Guerrero.

She was gunned down by two men in a passing car as she stood in a supermarket entrance in a northern suburb.

Police have blamed previous instances of random violence on drug traffickers retaliating for the crackdown.

The National Police said Tuesday that since the crackdown began, cocaine production in Colombia has practically stopped and that prices should go up as a result.

"Cocaine-processing plants in Magdalena Medio, Vichada and the eastern plains are inactive," a police official, who insisted his name not be used, said.

So far this year, Colombian authorities say they have destroyed 252 cocaine labs, mostly in those three remote regions.

The Bogota newspaper *El Tiempo*, Colombia's largest, citing unnamed police sources, on Tuesday forecast a cocaine shortage in the United States "within 30 days at most."

It also said that based on police information, a kilogram of cocaine, or 2.2 pounds, which now costs \$1,500 in Colombia and \$10,000 at its wholesale distribution point in Miami, will go up in price "considerably" in coming months.

Interviews for sale!

Placement center offers help for job-hungry Aggies

By Christina De Leon

Special to The Battalion

Going once, twice and sold! The General Dynamics job interview goes to the student who bid 250 points.

While not quite that dramatic, more than 3,000 Texas A&M students bid for job interviews each semester in a free job placement service offered by the Career Planning and Placement Center. About 400 companies from all fields participate each year.

Yell practice

Yell practice for the University of Washington football game will be held at 7 tonight at The Grove. The practice will be held one day early due to travel schedules of the football team and yell leaders for the out-of-town game.

A bidding system is used to give students a fair chance at a limited number of interviews for both summer and permanent jobs, Jay Wheeler, an assistant director at the center, said.

Students begin by registering at the center and are allotted a certain number of points, depending on when they expect to graduate.

May or August graduates receive 200 points per semester for their last three semesters, including the summer term. Fall graduates receive 150 points in their last spring and summer terms, and 250 points in the fall. All unused points are erased at the end of each semester.

Students then submit bids for interviews chosen from data sheets posted throughout the semester in each academic department and in the placement center.

The data sheets describe the jobs and which majors qualify. The highest bidders win interviews and are notified one week before the interview time. Wheeler said the entire

process takes about three weeks, from the time a student registers to the time he knows if he won an interview.

"It's basically an auction, a blind auction, where you look at the data sheets of the companies that are coming and decide how many points you want to bid," Wheeler said.

A good bid, he said, can be any amount of points, depending on the demand for the interview. Students who don't succeed keep their points and are put on waiting lists.

Many times, students can get interviews without losing any points when a cancellation occurs or when not enough students bid for an interview, allowing students to sign up to fill the slots.

The most common way, Wheeler said, is when companies don't notify the center about interviews in time for bidding. Those interviews are open to students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Even if the interview doesn't cost any points, students must register

with the placement center to interview. Wheeler recommended that students register within the first week of the semester, since most companies recruit during the first few weeks of classes.

"Recruiting starts early, and those folks who wait until three or four weeks into the semester to get registered would have missed out on quite a few weeks of recruiting," he said.

To register, students need to buy a placement packet, which contains a floppy disk and information about the center. The packet is sold only at the MSC Bookstore for \$3.50, including tax.

The floppy disk, which can be used on IBM-compatible computers, contains a career questionnaire that the student completes and returns to the center, on the 10th floor of Rudder Tower. The student then receives a computer number enabling

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