

Friday, October 13, 1989

Bryan schools chosen as pilot in national science programs

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

The Bryan Independent School District has been chosen as one of five pilot sites for the national Math Science Volunteer Program, and local coordinators of the program seem to think the sky is the limit.

"We hope that through volunteer involvement we can stimulate students' interest in science and math," local MSVP coordinator Moreen Travis said. "With changes in interest, changes in achievement will come."

Travis said students often go through school thinking science is boring and not relevant to their lives. They can't see the connections between the facts they learn and the real world, she said. As a result, the levels of achievement in math and science students around the nation have decreased and the number of math and science professionals is falling.

"There is a tremendous shortage of professionals in engineering careers, and there will be an even greater shortage in years to come," she said. "The profession as a whole is very concerned because they can see whatever edge we have as a technological nation is eroding away."

MSVP will try to improve the existing math and science programs in public schools by bringing together local science, math and engineering professionals with BISD teachers and students.

Bryan was chosen as a pilot site because of its mid-range size, its ties with Texas A&M and its geographic region, she said. The program will benefit from A&M's educational resources and volunteer faculty and students.

Volunteers will participate in in-service training, research and development and curriculum planning, Travis said.

Computer training for teachers and students, career awareness programs, science fairs, school-yard nature trails and other outdoor science facilities are examples of the kinds of programs with which local volunteers could assist.

The program will be implemented in all grade levels, she said, but will focus on elementary schools, which have the highest need level.

"Many elementary teachers don't really feel comfortable with science and don't have an extensive science background. They avoid teaching it because they're afraid of laboratory accidents and don't feel competent to deal with science as a topic."

Travis said she believes most teachers are true professionals and knowledgeable about education, but could benefit from scientists' suggestions in curriculum planning.

Two days of training recently took place with volunteers from the USDA, GTE, Star Tel, Brazos Valley Museum, Texas A&M's bioengineering and civil engineering faculty and from the Ocean Drilling Project headquartered at A&M, she said.

MSVP receives funding from the National Science Foundation and local sources such as BISD, the Austin Trust and A&M, Travis said. National organizations also have done research in math and science curriculum development, she said, but MSVP brings these national results to the local level.

"Change usually takes a long time, but we've already seen small changes in teachers' attitudes towards science," she said.

By the second year of the program, some curriculum changes and major projects between schools should be in the works, she said. In a few years, program administrators hope results will spread to other local districts, she said.

Foresters wood like awareness

National Forest Products Week aimed at educating public

By Kelly S. Brown

Of The Battalion Staff

When you pick up a toothpick, it's unlikely that the thought of where it came from ever crosses your mind — just as a second thought is rarely given to the origin of thousands of other products made from the forest.

National Forest Products Week begins Monday and with it experts in the field would like to see non-experts awareness about forests increased.

While managing the Future of America's Forests is the theme for NFP week, it's probable that foresters had the future in mind decades ago when the blueprints for trees

were created — forests in 1989 contain 200 billion cubic feet more wood than they did in 1952.

The result of the growing stock in the nation's forests is a renewable American resource, capable of furnishing important raw material for domestic use as well as for expanding a global demand.

Forest land today totals nearly 737 million acres. From this number one-third — 241 million acres — is set aside in parks and wilderness areas, or is otherwise unsuitable for growing repeated crops of trees.

"Commercial forest" land, which is the remaining 496 million acres of the total forest base, is capable of producing repeated crops of trees, and is where production and harvesting is permitted by law.

While the vast forest land in America is enjoyed by the multitudes, it's owners are a varied crew.

Roughly four million private landowners are those with the most acreage and they control almost 58 percent of the commercial forests, which is 275 million acres.

The government comes in second as a major forest owner, with about 136 million acres of commercial forest land being publicly held. Most of this 28 percent belongs to the U.S. Forest Service.

The forest products industry is the distant third largest forest owner as it maintains about 14 percent of the commercial forest. It provides more than 30 percent of the national forest harvest. Private landowners account for 48 percent of the har-

vest, and government supplies 22 percent.

The productivity of America's forest is considered among the world's best with the application of modern forest management techniques — where rising demand is satisfied but they still harvest less of the forests due to forest managers dedicated to good stewardship of the land.

This is where forest product companies enter in. They find ways to use wood far more effectively than ever was thought possible. What used to be regarded as waste, like tree-tops, limbs and logging residues, are now used in a productive

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Play now, win later with fictional folios in stock market game

By Bob Krenek

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students can test their financial skills in a four-month stock market game that will be played throughout the country.

A \$25,000 prize will be awarded to the college student who compiles the most profitable stock portfolio in the competition that realistically duplicates stock market trading without financial risk to the participants.

The AT&T Collegiate Investment Challenge uses Wall Street Games, an educational game designed to help students learn the trials and tribulations of the stock market without any real risk.

For a registration fee of \$49.95, students will receive a rules and instructions booklet, a Standard & Poor's Stock Guide with information on public stocks, a transaction ledger to keep track of trading and profits and a \$500,000 fictional portfolio with which to begin trading.

The competition begins when the stock market opens on Nov. 1. A full-service brokerage firm with a toll-free number will be set up so participants can conduct trades just as with a real brokerage house. Wall Street Games uses a computerized stock quotation network that provides updated stock prices via satellite.

A trading desk will be available with employees trained to provide assistance and conduct trades. All trades will be made through these brokers during stock market hours and will be made in seconds with up-to-the-minute stock prices to make the competition as realistic as possible.

The competition will end with the closing of the stock market on Feb. 28 and the competitor with

the most profitable portfolio will win the top prize.

The top ten finishers will be flown to the Bahamas for an awards banquet and one week of vacation. Students also will be ranked monthly by campus and by state. The top 250 students in the country each month will receive prizes. The total prize value is \$200,000.

There also will be a competition between colleges with 50 or

This competition realistically duplicates stock market trading without financial risk to the participants.

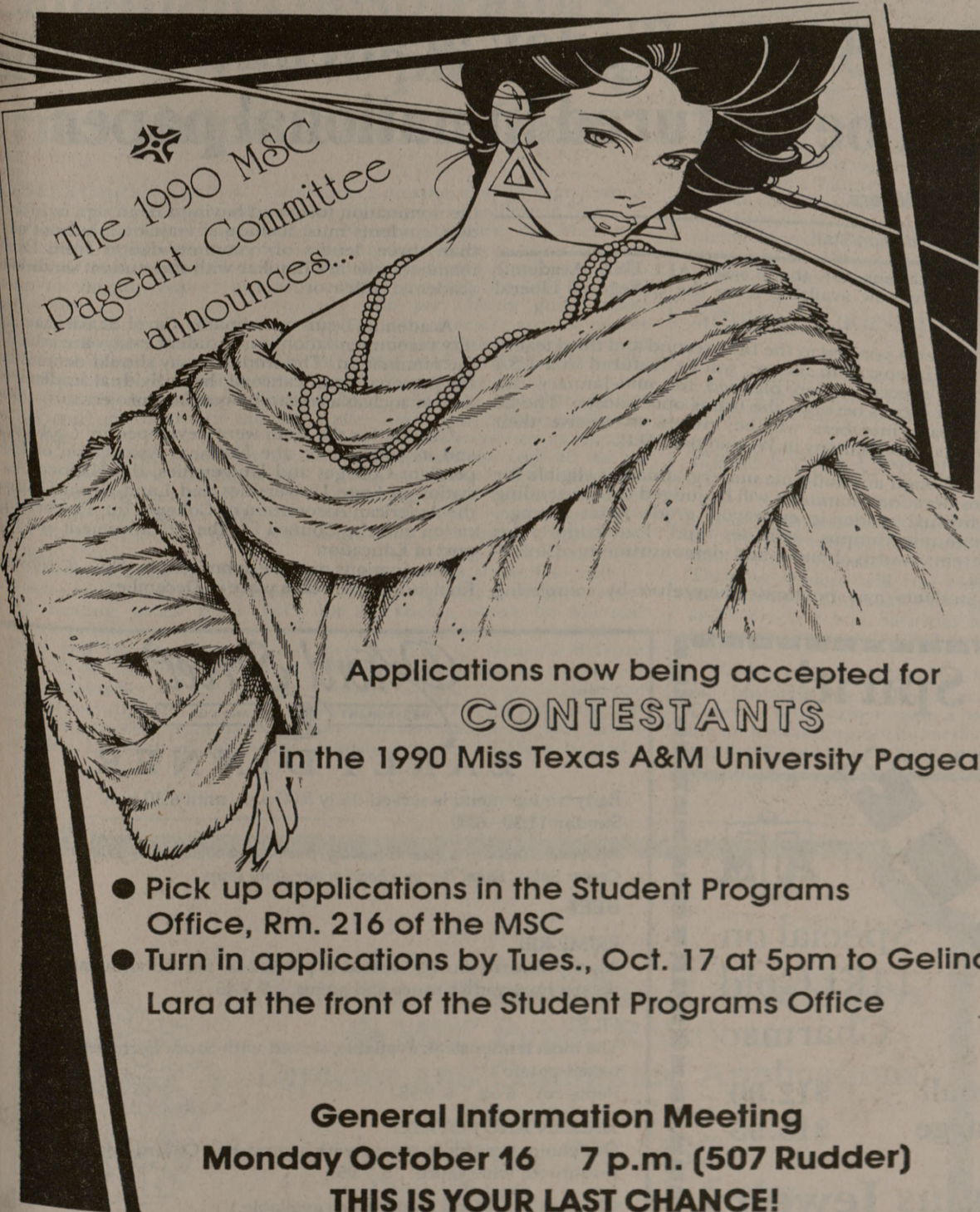
more students participating. The 10 colleges with the highest average portfolios will receive plaques and the winning school will receive a reception from AT&T for Challenge participants. Texas A&M finished 10th in the nation last year.

Last year's inaugural competition attracted 11,250 players, of whom 22 became millionaires and 12 went broke. The winner, Julie McRedmond of the University of Illinois, increased her portfolio by 355 percent.

College professors and high school students also are eligible to compete in separate divisions. The entry fee for professors is \$49.95 and high school students pay \$39.95.

"The Challenge opens the world of financial markets to students, and the knowledge they gain can open new opportunities for them when they graduate and begin careers," Wall Street Games inventor Tim DeMello said.

The registration deadline is Oct. 27. Call 1-800-545-1990 to register or receive more information.



The 1990 MSC Pageant Committee announces...

Applications now being accepted for **CONTESTANTS** in the 1990 Miss Texas A&M University Pageant

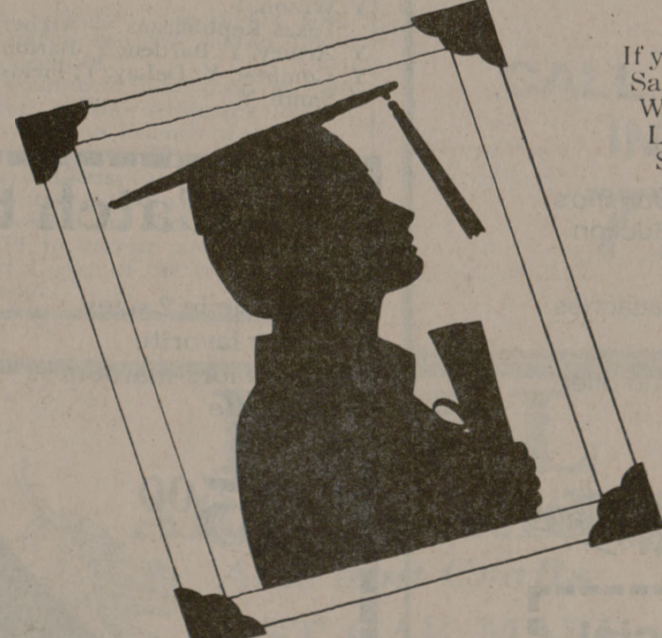
- Pick up applications in the Student Programs Office, Rm. 216 of the MSC
- Turn in applications by Tues., Oct. 17 at 5pm to Gelinda Lara at the front of the Student Programs Office

General Information Meeting
Monday October 16 7 p.m. (507 Rudder)
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