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The Battalion

STATE & LOCAL

Wednesday, January 24, 1990

Transfers have no fear

T-Camp helps orient new students

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

Transferring to Texas A&M from another college or university can be a bewildering experience, but transfer students never fear — T-Camp is here.

Since it began in 1987, Student Y Association T-Camp, or transfer camp, has been orienting transfer students about life at A&M.

T-Camp is a Fish Camp (freshman orientation) for transfer students, said Carl Harding, T-Camp co-chairman.

"The big difference is that T-Camp is based on the needs of transfer students who are already adjusted to college, but not adjusted to A&M," he said.

T-Camp originally was available only to students transferring during the fall semester, but this semester a new camp, Howdy Camp, was created for students coming to A&M in the spring.

Stephen Dunn, T-Camp director, said Howdy Camp was a necessary addition because spring transfer students didn't have an opportunity to learn about student life at A&M.

This year, Howdy Camp was Jan. 13 and 14 at the Brazos Family Camp in Snook. Dunn said 60 students attended the first Howdy Camp.

Students who transfer in the fall attend one of

two three-day sessions in August prior to the start of school. Dunn said the camp usually attracts 350 students during the two sessions. This pales in comparison to the 3,000 students Fish Camp draws annually, but Dunn said T-Camp is growing by leaps and bounds every year.

He said last summer was the first summer T-Camp was expanded to two sessions.

"We owe a lot to Fish Camp for that (the expansion); they paved the way," Dunn said.

T-Campers go to Camp Hoblitzelle, a Salvation Army Camp in Midlothian, where they learn what being an Aggie is all about.

Harding said that besides meeting other transfer students, the most important thing is orienting the new students to A&M.

"We give them general information on how to get around A&M — where to pay bills, where to pick up a bus pass — certain things everyone else going here already knows," he said.

Another thing stressed at T-Camp is getting involved, Dunn said. Since the average transfer student is at A&M for two years, Dunn said a big emphasis is put on the "other education."

Campers learn about A&M traditions and campus life through various speakers. Sessions on study skills, time-management and campus security also are presented.

After the interest sessions and speakers, T-

Campers can use Camp Hoblitzelle's recreation facilities, Dunn said. The swimming pool, with paddleboats and canoes, softball field, tennis and volleyball courts keep campers the rest of the time, he said.

Howdy Camp, Dunn said, follows the format as T-Camp.

"It's just closer and shorter," he said.

Applications for T-Camp counselors are accepted now until Feb. 2 at the Student Y on the second floor of the Pavilion. Interviews will be Feb. 1 through 7.

Dunn stressed that it is not necessary to be a transfer student to be a counselor.

"We are looking for people who are open, willing to share their experiences," he said.

Harding, a transfer student and counselor two years, said his experience as a counselor camper was great.

"Being a transfer student, I didn't have an opportunity to go to Fish Camp, so when I heard about T-Camp, I jumped at the opportunity," he said. "I've enjoyed it so much I want to give what it has given to me."

Julie Chamberlin, a junior zoology major, attended T-Camp last summer and enjoyed her experience at camp.

"T-Camp teaches you about A&M — it's not like anywhere else," Chamberlin said.

SWAT men brush up techniques at school

By PAM MOOMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

Even SWAT officers with special training go back to school.

The Law Enforcement Security Training Division at the Texas A&M Riverside Campus hosted a Special Weapons And Tactics school for the first time Tuesday.

Morgan Robnett, head of the training division, said the SWAT school, which has been at other sites in past years, is part of their overall training program.

Participants in the school are already SWAT trained, Robnett said.

"This is just a piece of specialized training that goes along with it," he said.

Citizens were free to watch participants practice skills during the training sessions.

Participants rappelled down walls at Brayton Fire Field near Easterwood Airport from 10 a.m. to noon and later jumped from a helicopter at the Riverside Campus.

Some National Guardsmen came from their headquarters in Austin to help in the training program.

Three or four police agencies from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, Houston and Bryan-College Station participated in the program.

A representative from the United States Army also was on hand to answer questions.

The SWAT school allowed specially trained men to brush up on their SWAT techniques and learn some new ones, Robnett said.

"It's got a little bit of spice to it," Robnett said. "Not many people get to jump out of a helicopter on purpose."



Photo by Steven M. Noreyko

Police officers rappel from a helicopter during an advanced weapons training exercise given by Law Enforcement and Security Training on the A&M Riverside Campus.

New advising committee gets on track

Chairman hopes to fill remaining positions

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

The chairman of a new committee to study the problems and solutions of student counseling and advising at Texas A&M said the group will begin business in two weeks.

Dan Robertson, associate dean of academic programs in the College of Business, accepted the position of chairman of the presidential

"I see the need for some full-time advisers to do the simple degree requirements and such that faculty members don't have the time to do."

— Brennan Reilly
student liaison

sory committee Monday.

Robertson said he expects to fill the remaining committee positions in 10 days. Choices will be based on nominations made by interim Associate Provost E. Dean Gage, President for Student Affairs Koldus, Faculty Senate Speaker Hermann Saatkamp, and Student Body President Kevin Buchman.

The problems plaguing student counseling and advising services were brought to the administration's attention last fall when Chancellor's Student Advisory Board spoke at a Board of Regents meeting.

Brennan Reilly, one of the members of the CSAB, told the

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