

Monday, March 5, 1990

## Corps members run annual Bloody Cross

By BILL HETHCOCK  
Of The Battalion Staff

The quest to determine the most physically fit outfit in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets started this weekend with the annual Bloody Cross competition, Corps Public Relations Sergeant Mike Graham said.

The Bloody Cross competition is a 2.8 mile footrace held every spring, he said. Cadets circle the quadrangle six times, running in formation with their outfit, Graham said. The quad is shaped like a cross, he said, which is how the race got its name.

Each outfit in the Corps runs as a group, and must finish the race together, Graham said. The outfit is penalized by having time added to its finishing time for any outfit members who do not finish the race. The number of seconds added to the final time depends on how many outfit members drop out of the race, and how far they run before they drop out, he said.

Graham said the purpose of the event is to foster a spirit of competition between different units within the Corps.

"Healthy rivalry within the Corps brings out the best in everyone," Graham said. "We

try to work on developing well-rounded people. This includes military, academic and physical training. Bloody Cross is a means of finding out which outfits are the top units in the physical area."

Corps Sergeant Major Jonathan Whittles said the competition was started to add an activity to the spring semester.

"This gives us something else to do in the Spring," Whittles said. "After the fall semester, there are no football games and no march-ins, so we can concentrate on other things, like Bloody Cross. It provides motiva-

tion for individuals and outfits to get in shape.

"There is always incentive to go farther, since the amount of time added to your outfit's score depends on how far you make it. A good outfit can finish the race and only lose one or two people, or maybe none at all."

After the original competition is over there is an all-star bloody cross event in which the best runners from each major unit of the Corps compete, Whittles said. There also will be a relay race as part of the competition this year, he said.

## Area disabled participate in tournament

By ANDY KEHOE  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Brazos Valley's Developmental Recreational League had its second mixed basketball tournament Saturday in the Read Building.

Six teams made up of developmentally disabled people from the Bryan-College Station area and Texas A&M students competed in a nine-game round robin tournament.

"Everyone had a really good time," Ann McGowan, instructor of the health and physical education department and coordinator of the event, said. "Both our disabled persons and the A&M students enjoyed the games."

First, second and third place trophies were awarded to the final three teams.

McGowan says that tournaments such as these can serve as social tools for the disabled.

"For the disabled, it allows social activity through competition," she said. "Hopefully, they will enjoy themselves and become active in some of the community's sports leagues."

The student players were volunteer members of the Aggie Alliance, a group designed for Health and Physical Education majors.

McGowan said she sees an advantage in the mixed teams.

"They (the disabled) are not very aggressive players," McGowan said. "They tend to play a lot harder, show a greater interest in the game when the teams are mixed."

In conjunction with a student service program, the Big Event, a similar mixed softball tournament is scheduled for the weekend of March 23. Anyone interested in participating must apply by Friday.

## Special legislative session addresses school finances

AUSTIN (AP) — There's good and bad news as the second week of a special legislative session on school finance starts, says a spokesman for poor school districts that helped prompt the session with a court challenge to the public education funding system.

It is encouraging that measures have been filed in the Senate to put significantly more money into public schools, Craig Foster, executive director of the Equity Center, said. A bill co-sponsored by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby would give education \$783 million more in 1990-91.

But Foster said most legislative proposals wouldn't make significant enough changes in the way money is allocated to meet the court ruling, but instead "basically put more money into the same system."

If sufficient funding and a fair system aren't both provided, he said, the Texas Supreme Court ruling that the current system is unconstitutional won't be addressed.

"I would say it's better than a 50 percent chance" that poor districts will wind up back in court, appealing whatever the Legislature does, Foster said.

Lawmakers may be betting that

such an appeal will take until the 1991 regular session, getting them past the November general election, he said.

"It appears to me that the leadership has decided that they want to do something fairly quickly, something that they can do without radically changing the tax system at this point, and sort of get out of town," Foster said.

Gov. Bill Clements called lawmakers back to Austin last Tuesday — two weeks before the March 13 primary elections — to deal with the school finance ruling and a federal judge's decision that some state judicial elections discriminate against minority voters.

The first week of the session, Clements repeated his vow to veto any new taxes to meet the Supreme Court ruling, which noted glaring disparities between property-rich and poor school districts and gave lawmakers a May 1 deadline for changing the finance system. The \$13.5 billion-a-year school finance system relies on a combination of state and federal aid and local property taxes.

## City dwellers take advantage of 'no excuses' absentee vote

### New law prompts heavier voting in urban areas

DALLAS (AP) — While many city dwellers in Texas are taking advantage of a new "no excuses" absentee voting law by casting early ballots for the March 13 primary, turnout is lower than expected in rural areas.

A 1987 law that allows in-person absentee voting through Friday is being used for the first time in statewide and local elections.

In Dallas County, more than 6,000 people already have voted — 2,479 in the Democratic primary and 3,769 in the Republican primary, Elections Administrator Bruce Sherbet said.

In the first week of in-person absentee voting, turnout is already three times higher than it was in the March 1988 Super Tuesday primary, Sherbet said. He predicted that as much as 25 percent of the county vote will come from absentee ballots.

According to reports to the secretary of state's office, 1,948 Democrats and 2,123 Republicans have voted in Tarrant County.

The new law is prompting heavy early voting in urban areas, Mark Toohey, executive assistant to Secretary of State George Bayoud, said.

Turnout is high in Travis County, where 2,129 Democrats and 1,422 Republicans have voted.

In Bexar County, 5,705 Democrats have cast early ballots, compared with 5,168 Republicans.

Turnout is light in Harris County, however, where only 808 Democrats and 1,100 Republicans have cast in-person absentee votes.

"Overall, we've maintained all along that Bexar County would lead the way," Toohey said. "But Harris County sure looks very low."

"That might be a sign that a lot of people haven't made up their minds yet," he said. "But this is the big,

heavy weekend. This is the big push."

Polls were open Sunday in counties with more than 200,000 population and will be open for 12 hours each day this week. Absentee voting ends Friday.

Bexar County Elections Administrator Marco A. "Tony" Gomez said as many as one-third of his county's

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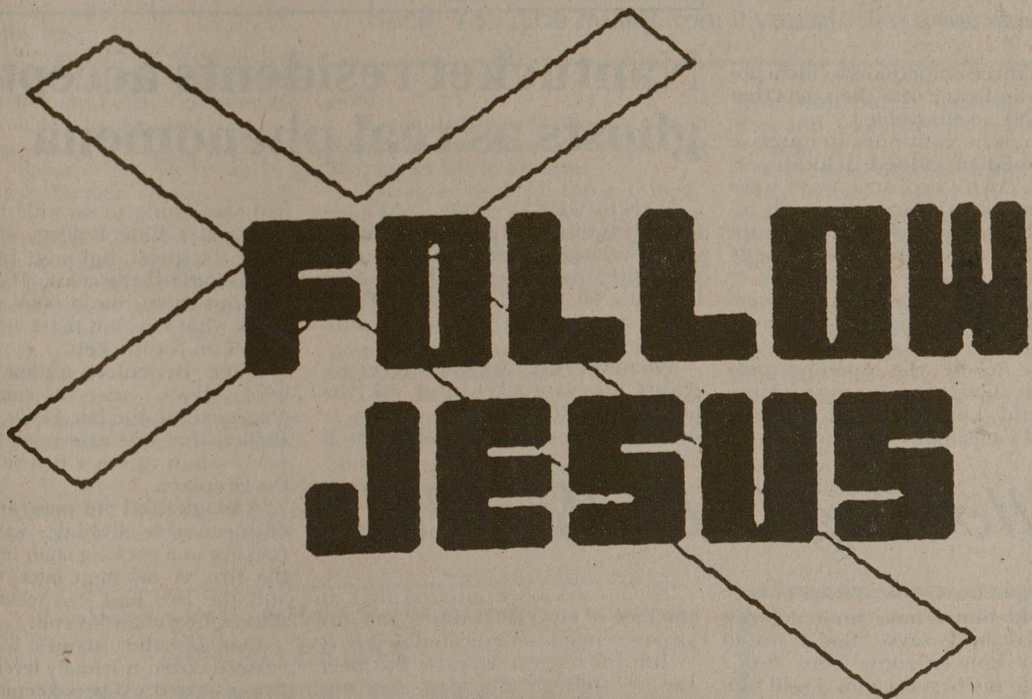
— Dana DeBeauvoir,  
Travis County clerk

registered voters could vote absentee before the polls open on election day.

When the new no-excuse absentee voting law was in effect for the first time in the 1988 presidential election, 38 percent of Bexar County's voters cast in-person absentee ballots.

In Travis County, the governor's race is prompting very heavy turnout, County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir said.

"We're doing great on absentee voting," DeBeauvoir said. "I'm predicting we are going to do about 25 percent of the vote in absentee."



Tuesday  
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