

Wednesday, October 24, 1990

## Grades affected by upbringing

### Research reveals home environment affects students' grades

By **JOE FERGUSON**  
Of The Battalion Staff

Home environments and parenting styles affect adolescents' grades but not overall intellectual achievement, according to a study conducted by a Texas A&M graduate student.

"Parenting styles and family environmental factors proved accurate predictors of several school outcomes, but they couldn't predict absolute achievement as measured by scores on achievement tests," Dr. Steven Schneider says.

Schneider, who received his doctorate in psychology from A&M in May, conducted the survey for his dissertation.

His study was a variation of a previous study conducted at Stanford University.

Both studies measured family environment as a predictor of grade point averages for adolescents in grades nine through 12.

Schneider, however, added a scale which includes conflicts with authority, absences and achievement test scores coupled with aptitude test scores.

The studies investigated three parenting

styles: authoritarian, authoritative and permissive.

The authoritarian style controls behavior relative to an absolute set of standards.

The authoritative style provides for open communication and negotiation of behavioral standards. Mature behavior is expected in accordance with those standards.

The permissive style is tolerant of impulsive behavior and permits self-regulation.

On the surface, Schneider's findings contradict the previous study.

He found the authoritarian style resulted in higher grade point averages, while the Stanford study found the authoritative style to be the most positive factor in GPAs.

Schneider says cultural differences in the two areas studied could account for differences between the studies.

The adolescents in Schneider's study live in the Texas panhandle where, he says, the authoritarian style might be more accepted. The Stanford sample lives in California where the authoritative style is common.

In both areas, Schneider says adolescents encouraged to be independent, to think critically and who are achievement-oriented earn higher

GPAs. If they are not achievement oriented, however, absences increase.

Schneider says a lack of emphasis on moral values increases the likelihood of conflict with authority.

Conflicts with authority at school usually are preceded by conflicts at home, Schneider says.

He says school counselors should be more active in working with parents to help students reach their potential.

"Counselors don't do a lot of personal counseling except in emergency situations," he says. "Problems need to be caught sooner."

"A kid spends a half hour in counseling and 12 hours in a dysfunctional family. Parents need to be involved (in the counseling process)."

Schneider says parent training is necessary to help students reach their potential and contribute to society.

"It's possibly more relevant than some of the things being taught now," he says.

Schneider also notes the counseling emphasis should be expanded to elementary schools in order to prevent problems arising at the secondary level.

"The earlier kids are counseled, the more positive effects counseling has," he says.

## Texas gang membership causes rise in violence

AUSTIN (AP) — Gang membership is rising dramatically in Texas, with gangs involved in everything from graffiti-writing to violent drug rings, Attorney General Jim Mattox said Tuesday.

Releasing a report by his office on gangs, Mattox asked the Legislature to move quickly to study the growing problem and find solutions.

"This is not 'West Side Story,'" Mattox said. "Too many of these drug-running gangs, especially in Dallas, Houston and along our border with Mexico, are armed with fully automatic weapons and they're using them in public areas where innocent bystanders have been hurt."

The report by his office estimated that there are about 7,500 gang members in seven of the state's largest cities, and another 1,400 behind

prison walls in the Texas Department of Corrections.

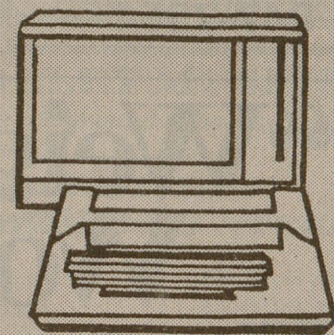
Dallas and Fort Worth have the most, according to police. Dallas has 179 gangs totaling 2,784 members, and Fort Worth has 156 gangs with 2,693 members. Mattox emphasized that those estimates are conservative.

"Violent criminal youth street gangs exist throughout the state and gang activity is increasing in major cities," the report said. "Houston police report a 329 percent increase in documented criminal youth gangs between 1988 and 1989."

The report said that during the summer of 1990, over four dozen violent criminal youth street gang incidents were reported in Texas. That included 36 drive-by shootings and at least a dozen confirmed gang-related deaths.

## Technology links students to world

By **MIKE LUMAN**  
Of The Battalion Staff



Texas A&M student leaders now can communicate with university student governments around the world at no cost following the adoption of a computer mail system.

The Student Government Global Mail Network (SGANet), developed at Virginia Tech, operates at no cost provided the university using the system has an international access network.

At A&M, SGANet runs through the existing Bitnet network.

Edward Muñoz, Student Government special assistant for computer resources, set up SGANet at A&M and gave a first-time demonstration Tuesday to student leaders.

"We get to present our ideas to other universities and get a response," he said. "It doesn't cost a dime."

SGANet has 151 subscribers, mostly in North America and Europe. Muñoz said the number should jump to 2,000 by the end of Spring 1990.

Universities in the Soviet Union, China, Middle East and possibly Africa are scheduled to join, he said.

The system is open to A&M Student Government members and accessible through a University VAX account.

SGANet can be used as an electronic bulletin board or for personal messages, Muñoz said.

For demonstration, he called up a video questionnaire about rates of pay for student government members along with answers from various universities.

He then entered a message that said A&M student leaders are not paid, but are willing to receive information about how other universities started a payment policy.

Muñoz said his message was transmitted worldwide almost as fast as a phone connection.

SGANet's founder will visit A&M during the spring and formally present the system.

## In Advance

### Aggies Against Bonfire holds benefit concert

Aggies Against Bonfire will host a benefit concert at the Front Porch Cafe tonight featuring White Bread, a neo-Europop

group, and acoustic rocker Don Overby.

Cover will be \$3. For more information call Kelly at 823-4636.

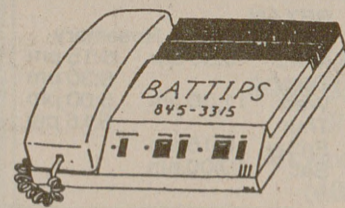
### MSC Political Forum hosts Awareness Day

MSC Political Forum will host its annual Political Awareness Day today until 3 p.m. on the first floor of the MSC.

Representatives from political and business groups will be available to answer questions about their organizations.

Groups include College Republicans, Aggie Democrats, Gay and Lesbian Student Services, Pro-Life Aggies, Pro-Choice Aggies, American Atheists, Socialist Workers' Party, the Peace Corps and the Texas Environmental Action Coalition.

## BATTIPS



Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

15 - Day Notice

### Here's a cheap roommate you'll actually like.

WESTERN TELEPHONE

Page 1 of 22

Item	Date	Time	Min	Place	Charge
1	Jul27	301P	4	REDWOOD CITY CA	408 974 3.05
2	Jul27	306P	3	NICASIO CA	613 726 6551 1.08
3	Jul27	328P	8	BERKELEY CA	567 6679 1.05
4	Jul28	856P	10	SAN JOSE CA	408 974 3522 5.05
5	Jul29	700A	24	CUPERTINO CA	408 974 3122 8.02
6	Jul29	907A	12	PALO ALTO CA	477 5800 3.04
7	Jul30	709P	5	EDMONTON OR	403 425 5225 1.05
8	Jul30	806A	14	DOVAL WA	514 685 4210 3.05
9	Aug1	1009P	6	SAN FRANCISCO CA	928 5973 1.00
10	Aug1	1108P	50	SACRAMENTO CA	415 490 6381 15.00
11	Aug2	805A	109	SEATTLE WA	506 274 9400 48.00
12	Aug2	805P	4	DANVILLE CA	613 726 6551 1.03
13	Aug2	1200P	23	SAN FRANCISCO CA	567 6679 3.05
14	Aug2	306P	9	PALO ALTO CA	418 523 1082 1.09
15	Aug2	523P	3	SAN JOSE CA	408 996 1010 2.03
16	Aug3	700A	12	SAN JOSE CA	

Trying to stretch dollars when you're computer shopping doesn't mean you're willing to make sacrifices.

That's why you should consider the new, affordable Macintosh® Classic® computer.

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Like every Macintosh, the Classic can run thousands of available applications that all work in the same, consistent way—so once you've learned one program, you're well on your way to learning them all. And this is one cheap roommate that doesn't have trouble sharing. The Apple® SuperDrive™—standard equipment with every Macintosh—reads from and writes to Macintosh,

Apple introduces the Macintosh Classic.

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Computer Sales and Supplies

Come meet the new Macintoshes!

Apple Computer is bringing the Macintosh Classic, IIsi, and LC to the MicroComputerCenter in the MSC on October 23rd and 24th from 10AM to 4PM!



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