

Peace Corps finds home

Program obtains permanent office at A&M

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

Texas A&M has created a permanent office for "the toughest job you'll ever love."

The United States Peace Corps is the job and Jordan Caldwell, A&M recruiter for the Peace Corps, agrees with the advertisement.

Caldwell's history with the Peace Corps began when he volunteered to go to Niger to supervise crop extension.

"In other words, I told them how to make a crop work so they could learn how to farm better," he said.

The Peace Corps office has been relocated into 359 Bizzell West. Caldwell says he hopes the move to a permanent office will make it easier for possible recruits to find out what the Peace Corps has to offer.

"I want to get a lot of talented people from A&M," Caldwell said. "Students here have so much to offer with their agricultural and educational backgrounds."

He says one of the Peace Corps philosophies is to supplement

rather than to substitute for the efforts of the native people. Volunteers should reduce, rather than increase dependency, Caldwell added.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the Peace Corps has grown into a voice of modern democracy, Caldwell says, quite different from the skeptical views of earlier decades.

In the beginning some called it the "Kennedy Kiddie Korps" since former President John F. Kennedy proposed the Peace Corps as an international "youth services program" in 1960.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower called it a "juvenile experiment."

Today close to 6,000 Peace Corps volunteers work in 82 countries around the world. Of the volunteers, 53 percent are women. Seven former A&M students are presently serving in the Peace Corps overseas.

Caldwell does admit that the Peace Corps application process is quite lengthy. Applicants must wait four to nine months before receiving their assignments.

Of the 13,000 applicants each year, about 3,000 do not qualify

for the program or drop out for some reason.

"Most likely they fall in love or find another job," Caldwell says. "But if you're really dedicated and willing to make yourself qualified, we'll find a way to get you in the the Peace Corps."

There are around 60 assignment areas in the Peace Corps. Recruits can be assigned in agriculture, education, construction, physical therapy, speech therapy and many other areas.

Peace Corps volunteers spend three months in basic training and around two years at their active posts.

The only requirements are to be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

Caldwell said his experience in Niger was a complete adventure. He has lived in a hut and has been almost trampled in a parade of wrestlers.

"Every minute something was happening," he said. "Every day was a new experience."

"I hope to someday go back to Niger. The people are so hard-working and caring. Everyone should get a chance like this."

Squadron 16 pays tribute to cadet

By Tammy Bryson
The Battalion

The juniors of Squadron 16 had a special addition to Silver Taps Tuesday as they presented a pair of senior boots to the parents of Jon Wesley Brock, a fellow Class of '93 cadet who died this summer.

The Class of '93 in Squadron 16 pitched in to pay for Brock's senior boots, which he ordered during his sophomore year. They raised approximately \$375, which was the remaining balance on the

boots.

Todd Nickerson, member of Squadron 16 and Brock's roommate for two years, said this act was a tribute to Brock's memory.

"He took pride in everything he did, and everyone knew and liked him," Nickerson said.

Members of Squadron 16 stood guard around the boots all day Tuesday at the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue in remembrance of their friend. A wreath also was placed beside the boots by Squadron 16's Class of '94 in honor of Brock.

Also in his memory, all juniors

of Squadron 16 are wearing a black ribbon on their uniforms until Final Review of their senior year.

Clay Ramsey, a Squadron 16 junior, said Brock was a serious cadet and a good friend.

"Wes was really well-motivated and well-liked," he said. "Ask anyone about him and they'll say he was an intense cadet."

Brock, 20, a sophomore from Eules, died May 27 in an automobile accident. He was a construction science major and disciplinary sergeant of Squadron 16 in the Corps of Cadets.

A&M system creates Real Estate Office

By Mark Evans
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System recently created its own Real Estate Office to supervise the buying, selling and management of properties owned by the A&M system.

In the past, these land-management responsibilities were given to James Bond, the System's deputy chancellor for external affairs and general counsel. Dr. Richard Floyd, director of the Real Estate Center, will now assume the role.

Floyd brings with him 10 years of experience heading A&M's Real Estate Center. Formed in 1971, the publicly-funded center conducts research in all facets of real estate.

While the Real Estate Center is geared toward educational and research duties, the new Real Estate Office will oversee the 62,000 acres of Texas land owned, being acquired, or sold by the TAMUS.

"With real estate there's a great deal of background information that has to be brought together from a variety of sources," said Floyd, who became director of the office on Sept. 1. "Our CEOs (Chief Executive Officers) just don't have the time or the manpower to go out and gather all that information. That's what we're

supposed to do for them."

The Real Estate Office will carry out plans initiated by the administration. The agency will shop for particular properties the System wishes to acquire, handling all aspects of the purchase. It may also be called upon to seek buyers for land already owned.

"Hopefully, by creating a system real estate office, it becomes quite clear that that's the office to contact for those interested in real estate with the system," Floyd said.

He said the office will engage in preemptive risk management and heighten accountability, and will seek to receive the maximum return.

"Real Estate has been one of those assets where it was believed if one acquired it, one just held onto it," Floyd said. "Therefore, it was given fairly passive management. Over the past two decades, institutions have recognized that they have an asset which can be more intensely managed and result in higher returns. That's what we're going to do."

By conducting periodic inspections of system-owned land, assigning field supervisors to each tract and computerizing records, Floyd believes the chore of keeping up with the holdings will become a little easier.

Floyd said this will allow the

TAMUS Real Estate Office to provide immediate feedback to anyone in the system inquiring about property owned by their unit.

The new set-up places not only the Real Estate Center and Real Estate Office under Floyd's direction but Research Park as well.

"Including the Research Park in the overall program allows for consolidation of administrative overhead," Bond said in a released statement. "At a time when budgets are on everyone's mind, we seek to reallocate existing resources while doing a better job of management."

Floyd said that the centralizing of these agencies will allow for a more effective management of the System's real estate.

He will work hand-in-hand with Research Park Director John Millhollon in continuing on with an active marketing program, hoping to attract further investments from corporations.

Floyd wants the 434-acre park to stand for the best that the system has to offer.

"Research Park represents an example of real estate owned by the A&M system and, in particular Texas A&M University, that requires intensive management," Floyd said.

Millhollon will oversee the daily business of the park.

Baptists grant Baylor more independence

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Baptist leaders Tuesday reluctantly approved a plan granting Baylor University more independence, a move they say distances the school from its religious mission.

"We're moving in a direction of secularism in our present day and in the world," said Robert E. Naylor, president emeritus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. "Secularism dominates our politics and it has crept into our churches."

An executive committee for the Baptist General Convention of Texas on Tuesday approved the proposal by a 110-36 vote and also agreed to free escrowed funds earmarked for Baylor this year. Under the proposal, the BGCT would elect one-fourth of Baylor's board of regents and the university would elect the remainder.

The Battalion

needs information from campus organizations.

If you are planning an activity this weekend which might be of interest to students and their parents, we would like to include this information in our first-ever Saturday edition of The Battalion.

The Battalion Gameday will feature an expanded What's Up section, and we would like to include as many events as possible. Please drop by 013 Reed McDonald by noon Thursday and fill out a Gameday form if your organization would like to be included.

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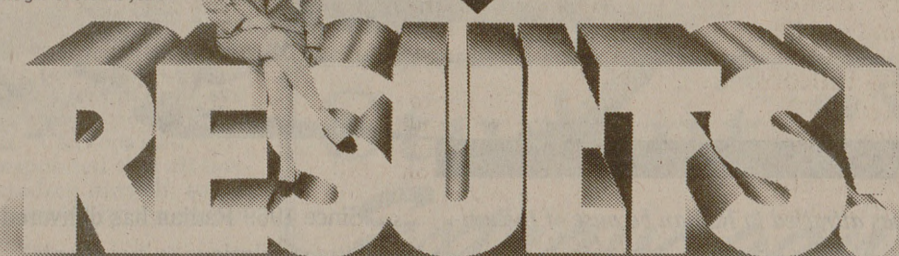
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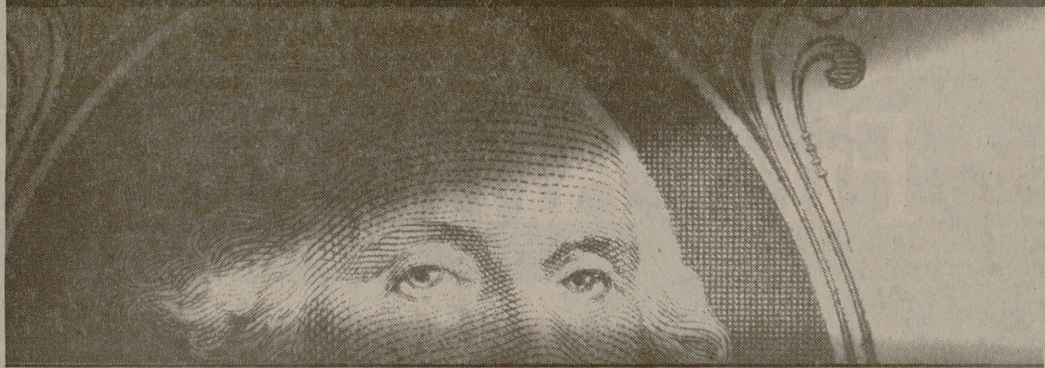
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