

# Leadership training to begin with freshmen

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The formalized leadership training program A&M is considering begins when cadets are freshmen, and continues throughout their four years at the academy. The program involves classroom instruction that deals with how to communicate with people, and basic leadership principles.

The program will be taught by other cadets, people not associated with the Corps and Corps officials.

Another change in the Corps will be that cadets will have more access to military officers.

Military officers probably will not be living in quarters with the cadets, but will have a daytime office in the Corps area where they will have a better chance to talking to Cadets, Betty said.

Betty said some of the changes, such as cadets having more access to military officers, will be implemented either this semester or by the beginning of next semester. He said the development of the leadership programs will take more time, but the programs should be in place by the middle of next semester or next fall.

Betty and Ray learned about the conclusions in the interim report presented by the fact-finding panel appointed by University President William Mobley when they returned to College Station.

Betty said the report "generally aligned"

with their own conclusions and what they observed at the academy.

"We encouraged to note that through education, training and guidance, the situation at A&M with the Corps can and will be resolved," he said.

Betty said that based on the programs that Darling has implemented and is considering implementing, he is convinced that the Corps "will emerge a stronger, more viable organization, continuing in the proud tradition of A&M."

Ray said she agrees with the statement in the panel's interim report that "boys will be boys" is no excuse for what is happening in the Corps, but that cadets need to learn what it means to be a good leader.

"We're dealing with young people," she said. "They're not adults in the fullest sense of the word. They're college students and they are here to learn, and part of our responsibility is to teach them."

Ray said it is also necessary for cadets to learn the purpose behind their leadership training.

"They want to become good leaders, and it's part of our job to see that they learn what that means, and what it means to treat people with dignity, and have a purpose for that training," she said.

Ray said, however, she did not believe that discrimination and harassment are as pervasive in the Corps as the report stated.

"I've spoken to a number of cadets since

I've come here, and I'm afraid I don't have that picture at all," she said. "I don't think it's that pervasive."

Ray said that among the differences between A&M and West Point was the attitudes of the female cadets there. But she said this was partly because West Point has been working on integrating women into the program longer than A&M has.

Women entered West Point in 1976, and were integrated in each unit. Women were allowed into the Corps in 1974, but unit integration is only two years old.

"The females were more confident in the way they looked, and they were more confident in how they fit into the program," she said. "That's all a matter of time and education."

"Discrimination and harassment at West Point is just not tolerated, and I would say that's the way it's going to be here."

Betty also said he was not sure if the discrimination and harassment were as widespread as the interim report stated.

"Those of us associated with the Corps and in the Commandant's office have stated that we do in fact and a problem, and we're going to have to deal with that," he said. "We can and will make a difference through time, but it's not going to change overnight."

"You're talking about an education problem and you're talking about an attitude problem, and you don't educate and change attitudes overnight."

# Modern Arabic language replaces ancient Aramaic

MAALLOULA, Syria (AP) — Within a generation, the sound of the language that Jesus spoke may fade from this mountain village, one of the world's few remaining pockets of Aramaic speakers.

More than 3,000 years old, Aramaic is being continually absorbed by modern Arabic — Syria's official language.

In Maaloula, the language is "only spoken, not written," said Palaija Sayaaf, the mother superior of the St. Takla Greek Orthodox Convent, said to be one of the oldest holy shrines in Christendom.

"It's being diluted all the time. If the language of our Lord, possibly the oldest in the world, is to survive," the children should be formally taught it at school, she said.

The 44-year-old nun, swathed in the black robe of her order said that down through the centuries the language has been passed verbally from generation to generation by the people of Maaloula and two smaller nearby villages, Jaba'din and Najafa. "I hope it will never die because it's a link with the Lord Jesus and is very precious. The people here are proud of this tradition of having kept the language alive all this time."

But she said the children, bombarded by Arabic, are mispronouncing the language, and there are fears that Aramaic could die within a generation or two.

The language's survival is also threatened by people drifting away from the mountains to the cities and beyond, to America and other faraway lands.

Such records as there were of Aramaic, which is closely linked to Hebrew and Syriac, are believed to have been destroyed during the French mandate from 1922 to 1946.



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