

The Battalion

Vol. 92 No. 9 (14 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Thursday, September 10, 1992

Corps initiates plan

D&C lab provides leadership skills for non-contract cadets

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI
Reporter of THE BATTALION

With the successful implementation of an enhanced leadership training program, the Corps of Cadets hopes to eliminate internal problems, a Corps official said.

The program is a part of an action plan released by Texas A&M President William Mobley last June to eliminate problems within the Corps.

Col. Lee McCleskey, operations and training chief of the Corps, said it is comprehensive program designed to include junior and senior Drill and Ceremonies (D&C) cadets, who do not pursue a commission, in a structured curriculum for leadership development.

Previously, D&C cadets have only participated in non-credit leadership programs.

The program does not affect freshman and sophomore cadets because they are required to follow a ROTC program regardless of future plans.

The leadership training classes, McCleskey said, provide these

D&C cadets with instruction on basic leadership skills.

"It's a four semester program to better prepare them (cadets) for whatever career lies ahead of them," he said. "It's designed to make a better Aggie and a better Aggie leader in whatever field they choose to enter after they leave here."

McCleskey said Gen. Thomas Darling formulated the concept of leadership training several years ago when he recognized D&C cadets were not receiving the formal training that was needed.

"Some were in positions of leadership in which they benefited, but others did not," McCleskey said.

The program entails four classes, one each semester during the junior and senior years, and focuses on issues such as: leadership traits, ethics, principles of leadership, stress management, human relations (including stereotypes and values), discrimination, equal opportunity, motivational theory, and leadership styles.

McCleskey said that so far the

program has been successful.

"The program has been extremely well-received by everybody," he said. "They're happy with it and we're happy."

Billy Dean, Corps scholastic officer, said he agreed that it is a valuable program.

"I was very impressed," Dean said. "It provides a forum for seniors to discuss problems of the Corps — not in a chain of command situation."

"It provides an opportunity for staff to hear the problems of other cadets and it also teaches valuable leadership skills and traits."

Currently the class counts only as an elective, but McCleskey said as the program progresses, they plan to have it count towards a degree.

Dean said that if the class count towards a degree, it would follow the changing needs of the Corps.

"We're trying to make the class more marketable for the future," he said.

"We're trying to adapt our program to train more civilians than military leaders."

Food Services keeps students in mind

By ATLANTIS TILLMAN

Editor in Chief of THE BATTALION

The privatization of Food Services has been proposed at Texas A&M and will go before the Board of Regents for final approval on Sept. 24.

Students, former students and even contractors have questioned whether this proposal is in the University's best interest.

If passed, the proposal would allow a food-services organization to handle operations in the Sbsia Underground and the University's snack-bar at the Easterwood Airport (Billy Mac's). Once selected, the company would contract with fast food restaurants like McDonald's and Taco Bell to supply food.

Lance Parr, a member of the Sbsia Menu Board, doubts that the contracting will end with this proposal, but will eventually lead to the complete privatization of the University's Food Services.

"Right now only two factors (Sbsia Underground and Billy Mac's) will be affected," Parr said, "however, they will probably make moves to where the real money is, in the open board facilities like Sbsia where many more are served."

Gary B. Zaleski, of Professional Food-Service Management, Inc. (PFM) also raised this concern. In a letter to Lloyd Smith, director of Dining Services, Zaleski said adequate revenue was not available in contract to keep their prices low.

According to Zaleski: "While PFM sees great profit potential for branded concepts, we feel the net result of this and other additional concepts at the sites being considered by the university would be an overall reduction in profit to the university."

Based on our marketing survey of your facilities being considered in your RFP, there is clearly not enough revenue available to generate an adequate return on our investment. ... It would be necessary for us to pass along these expenses, in higher prices, to the students and other consumers... I would suggest you operate your own facility, without a contractor, and pass the savings on commissions along to the customers."

Bottom-line concerns are the primary argument of both sides. Col. James T. Moore, asst. dir. for Board Dining (TAMU) Food Services, said the focus on profits will overshadow the services provided to the students.

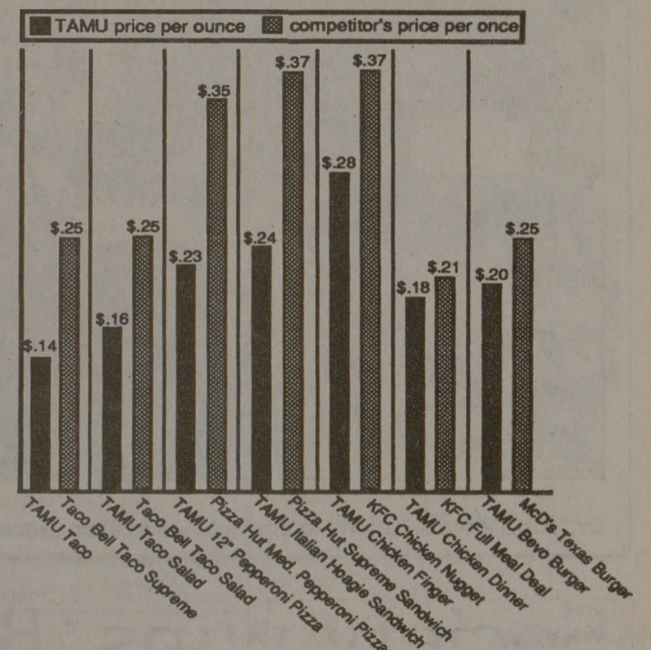
"They're in the business to make money," Moore

said. "We're here solely for the students. Money made from Food Services goes back to support our services, maintenance, up-grades and keeping our prices low."

Prices, the bottom-line concern for students are predicted to rise by as much as 65 percent with the new food company, and that money is not likely to return to the University, or to Texas, said Adin Pfeuffer, Corps public affairs officer.

"The difference is that we're talking about a big firm bringing in other firms like MacDonald's and Taco Bell," Pfeuffer said. "Each of them needs to make a profit."

Former students have voiced their opinions about the proposal in letters to members of the Board of Regents.



Information: Food Services
Director Lloyd H. Smith

ANAS BEN-MUSA/The Battalion

John M. Jackson, Class of '88, complains that not only is the proposal a "bad business plan," it would curtail the students' input and choice in food service.

According to Jackson, "The contract food service industry has a miserable track record with student input. After all, how could the real customers (students) know anything about what they want to eat?"

The proposal, said Corps Operations Supply Officer and Duncan Menu Board member Jerry Gonzalez, was intended to provide Food Services with competition. That, he said, is not the case with the proposed long-term contract that is being considered.

"A short-term contract of this sort would require the company to work harder to ensure its renewal. The long-term contract inherently does not promote competition," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.

However, students involved with the University Menu Boards that serve as a liaison between the student body and Food Services said they were never approached to give an opinion on the proposal.

"The job of the Student Menu Board is to communicate to Food Services our wants, wishes and desires as to the menus on campus," Parr said. "Lloyd Smith had not been informed by Robert Smith to include the Menu Board on this matter. My assumption is that they had no intention to involve us."

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.

However, students involved with the University Menu Boards that serve as a liaison between the student body and Food Services said they were never approached to give an opinion on the proposal.

"The job of the Student Menu Board is to communicate to Food Services our wants, wishes and desires as to the menus on campus," Parr said. "Lloyd Smith had not been informed by Robert Smith to include the Menu Board on this matter. My assumption is that they had no intention to involve us."

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.

However, students involved with the University Menu Boards that serve as a liaison between the student body and Food Services said they were never approached to give an opinion on the proposal.

"The job of the Student Menu Board is to communicate to Food Services our wants, wishes and desires as to the menus on campus," Parr said. "Lloyd Smith had not been informed by Robert Smith to include the Menu Board on this matter. My assumption is that they had no intention to involve us."

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.

However, students involved with the University Menu Boards that serve as a liaison between the student body and Food Services said they were never approached to give an opinion on the proposal.

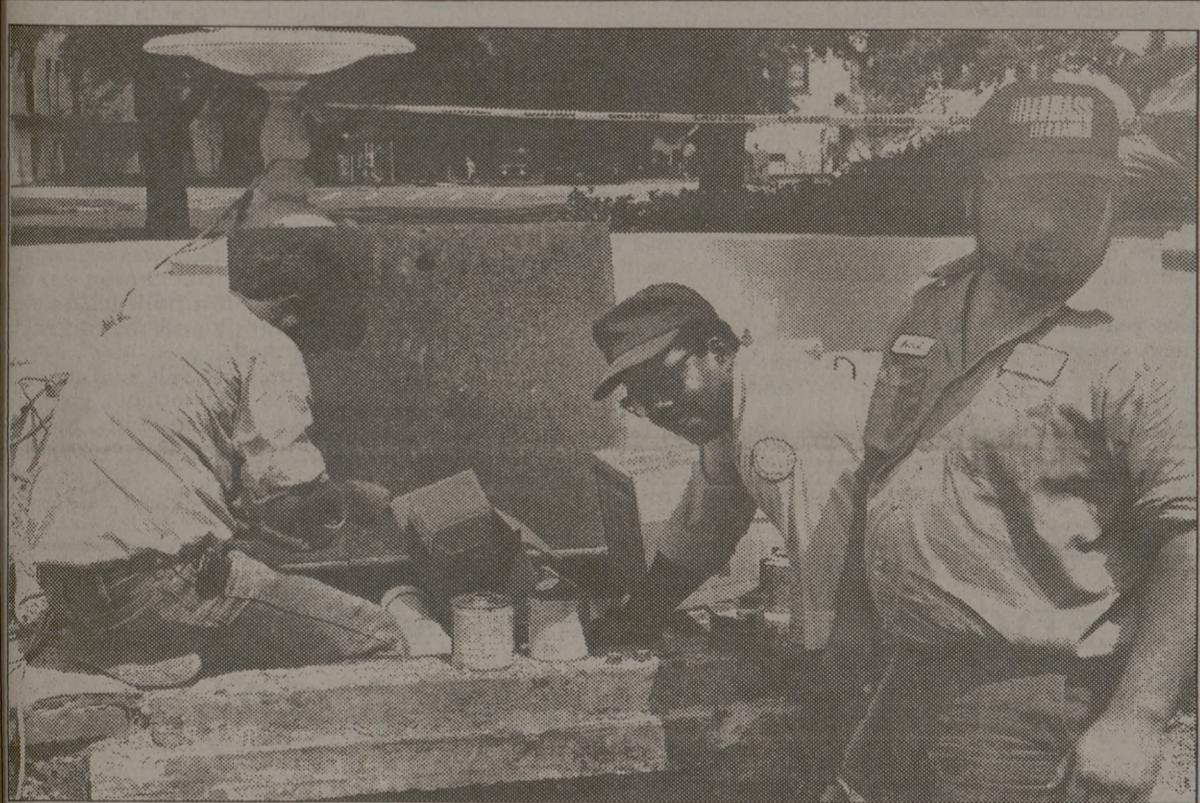
"The job of the Student Menu Board is to communicate to Food Services our wants, wishes and desires as to the menus on campus," Parr said. "Lloyd Smith had not been informed by Robert Smith to include the Menu Board on this matter. My assumption is that they had no intention to involve us."

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.

However, students involved with the University Menu Boards that serve as a liaison between the student body and Food Services said they were never approached to give an opinion on the proposal.

"The job of the Student Menu Board is to communicate to Food Services our wants, wishes and desires as to the menus on campus," Parr said. "Lloyd Smith had not been informed by Robert Smith to include the Menu Board on this matter. My assumption is that they had no intention to involve us."

Gonzalez said the proposal originated from the Department of Finance and Administration as a supposed response to students' requests for it. Robert Smith, vice president for Finance and Administration, was unavailable for comment.



RANDY NICHOLS/The Battalion

Ollen Chenault, Willy Swain and Reuben Bernal from Texas A&M Water Utilities work to put the finishing touches on the Fish Pond. Work is scheduled to be finished Sept. 10.

Insurers consider discounts for academic achievements

By ROBIN GOODPASTER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Students who drive may have a new incentive to make good grades.

The Texas Automobile Insurance Service Office (TAISO) has proposed that car insurance companies offer as much as a 15 percent discount off car insurance rates for students who maintain over a 3.0 grade average.

Today, the State Board of Insurers will vote on whether to have a meeting or a public hearing concerning the proposed discount for students. If the board passes this proposed discount, insurers will have the option of offering good students lower insurance rates.

"We hope that this discount will encourage a sense of responsibility," said Susan Slivinske, spokesperson for TAISO. "If students work hard to achieve good grades, perhaps that would carry over to other aspects of that students life — such as driving."

"We do not have any statistics that having good grades correlates with good driving, and I'm sure that some people will think this is not sensible," she said. "But we are going out on a limb here, and we are making a leap of faith — hoping that this sense of responsibility will carry over and make students good drivers."

Another available discount proposed by TAISO is the "Student Away from Home Discount." This discount would apply to a member of the household who is attending school at least 250 miles away from home, does not own an automobile and is not furnished an automobile at school.

"This discount is offered under the assumption that the student will be less likely to be driving a car," Slivinske said.

TAISO Chairman Jack Crisci said that insurers would have the option of providing either or both

of these student driver discounts, and offer up to 15 percent discount off liability, medical payments, personal injury protection and collision coverages.

To qualify for the discount, a student must be at least 16 years of age and a full-time high school, college or university student.

To receive the discount, the student would be required to meet one of the following requirements:

1. be in the upper 20 percent of his or her class
2. have a B average or at least a 3.0 on a 4 point grade scale, or
3. be on the dean's list or honor roll

These requirements would need to be met the semester that precedes the anniversary (expiration date) of the policy.

If they are not met, the discount would only be valid until the expiration date on the policy.

Bill Kuhn, a junior history major at Texas A&M, said that his insurance company already offers the discount.

"I think it's incentive to do well," said Kuhn. "But if you make a 2.5 instead of a 3.0, it doesn't make you a bad driver," Kuhn said.

The student driver discounts would not be available for drivers with miscellaneous type vehicles such as motorcycles, all terrain vehicles and golf carts.

Kenny Mallard, owner of Mallard Insurance Agency in Bryan, said that this is one more way to individualize policies.

"If good grades equals good driving, then it would be great," he said. "But there needs to be some correlation between the two."

"The idea behind these reduced rates is to save the insurance company from financial losses," he said. "The idea has some merit to it. You would think that the two would correlate together — grades and driving."

Trade agreement to offer tax relief, professors say

By SHARON GILMORE

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The North American Free Trade Agreement will greatly benefit Texas through the reduction of tariffs and taxes from firms in Mexico, Canada, and the United States, said some Texas A&M professors.

"The North American Free Trade Agreement is negotiating to eliminate political and economic barriers based on industries and products over many generations," marketing Professor Sam Gillespie said.

The United States, Mexico and Canada make up the largest trading block in the world, Gillespie said. The agreement is attempting to gradually reduce tariffs, he said.

Economics Professor John Hanson said he thinks the trade agreement affects Mexico more than the United States.

"It is more significant from the Mexican side than from the United States' side," Hanson said. "From the Mexican side, there is a very sharp departure from import substitution," he said. "It is a change in their philosophy from the past."

Import substitution is the practice of trying to keep foreign products out of a country.

Hanson said the agreement will decrease inflation and make trade easier but will not eliminate all tariffs from both sides.

"It doesn't make trade totally free, but takes a big step in that direction," Hanson said.

Gillespie said Mexico and the United States will have job losses with the trade agreement, but new jobs will also be created. "Some industries will benefit while others will suffer," Gillespie said. "All countries will have to adjust and it will take time."

Hanson said he believes that trading with Mexico will create more jobs.

"I think that it is a myth that somehow the job base will decline," Hanson said. "It is like technological change," he said. "Jobs are lost, but jobs are created."

The total number of jobs will go up and the mix of jobs will change to accommodate the trading, Hanson said.

Gillespie said he believes the trade agreement will allow Mexico to capture better laborers and place them in jobs instead of watching them gravitate to the United States to find labor.

Prior to the trade agreement the United States and Canada had a bilateral agreement. But now, with Mexico involved, there will be a tri-lateral agreement which

will be an intermediate step toward world-wide trade, Gillespie said.

"Clearly it will mean a great opportunity for Texas," Gillespie said. "It is a win-win situation for Texas."

Hanson said he assumes the trade agreement will definitely bring more businesses to Texas.

"Texas will be a transshipment point," Hanson said. "That is going to be really good for Texas."

With increase trading activity through the trade agreement there will be more revenue and more jobs, Gillespie said.

He said there will be a greater stabilization of the United States and Mexican economy, thus reducing the elevated inflation rate and making Americans more inclined to invest their dollars in Mexico.

Hanson thinks the whole trade agreement is being ignored by Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

"Bill Clinton has been avoiding the issue," Hanson said. "I think that is a phony excuse."

A summary of the agreement was sent out Aug. 20, but Clinton said he has not gone over it.

"Clinton has no excuse for not knowing what is in that agreement," Hanson said. "When he says he hasn't read it, he is being completely insincere."