

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## A&M at Galveston replaces ship

By WILL HEALY

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The U.S.N.S. Chauvenet, a 393-foot research ship, will be transferred from the naval base at Norfolk, Virginia to Texas A&M University at Galveston to replace their aging training vessel.

A&M at Galveston needs a new training vessel, the current training ship, Texas Clipper, will be 50 years old next year and is not cost effective to operate, said Seth Goldman, a spokesman for Bentzen.

The Texas Clipper has been operated by A&M since 1965. It will make its final voyage in the summer of 1993 to Nova Scotia and Northern Europe.

Dr. William Evans, the superintendent of the U.S. Maritime Service at A&M, said the Chauvenet

will be a good replacement for the Texas Clipper.

"She was launched in 1970, can carry about 190 people now, and about 50 more berths can be added without much problem," Evans said.

Evans said he had been looking for ships for several years before the Chauvenet was selected last spring. The ship served in the Persian Gulf War, and it's currently used for oceanographic research and mapping.

The multiple radar and geographic positioning systems will be compatible with A&M's training mission, Evans said.

The Chauvenet was decommissioned on Oct. 1 and is now in Norfolk, Virginia. The ship will sail for Beaumont at the end of this month. It will undergo an 11-month conversion where it will

train the U.S. Maritime Service Corps of Cadets members for service in the United States Merchant Marines, said John Merritt, a spokesman for A&M at Galveston.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping must first certify its use as a training vessel.

Some research will be done on the new vessel, but it will serve primarily as a merchant marine training vessel, Merritt said.

The trainees will take on most of the responsibility of operating the ship, including the duties of running the ship's day to day operations. Merritt said the navigation, repair work, and operations of engines will be among the trainees' responsibilities.

The Chauvenet will make its first voyage as a training vessel in

the summer of 1994 to a location that has not yet been decided.

U.S. Reps. Jack Fields and Jack Brooks proposed the amendment that gave the Chauvenet to the Maritime Administration (MARAD) which, in turn, transferred the ship to the Texas State Maritime Program at A&M. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen and U.S. Reps. Solomon Ortiz and Greg Laughlin were among the congressmen from Texas that supported the measure. The Federal Government appropriated \$4 million for the Chauvenet for the cost of converting the surplus Navy ship into a training vessel at the urging of Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Goldman said.

MARAD will retain title to the ship and has the right to take over the ship in times of crisis, Merritt said.

## Fraternity could face theft charges

By CHERYL HELLER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The Brazos County District Attorney's Office may press charges against pledges of the Texas A&M chapter of Kappa Alpha fraternity for theft of decorations for an Oct. 16 "Cruise the Caribbean" theme party.

A 20-foot palm tree, a three-year-old yucca tree and a gazebo top were reported stolen from two homes on Wayside Drive during the week before the party, according to Bryan police reports.

Three barrels and 60 feet of decorative rope were also reported stolen from Pelican's Wharf, 2500 Texas Ave. in College Station between Oct. 3 and Oct. 16, said Det. Pat Massey of the College Station Police Department.

If prosecuted, the freshman and sophomore pledges could face at least one misdemeanor theft charge and two felony theft charges.

Bryan detectives contacted Dr. Mike Leese, coordinator of Greek affairs at Texas A&M University, last Friday when they became suspicious that the thefts involved fraternities.

"The detectives suspected that Kappa Alpha was involved in the thefts but had no proof until the man who had the gazebo top stolen went to the KA house and found it there," Leese said.

Leese said he and a Bryan detective went to the KA house on Monday and located the stolen items in a nearby field. Two pieces of playground equipment and netting from a College Station park were also found in the field.

Bill Wiman, minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church in Bryan, said that two pieces of playground equipment fitting the description of the items in the field are missing from a construction site behind the church, but he has not yet identified the equipment as the stolen

property. Leese said the fraternity had planned to make restitution to the victims and volunteer services to make up for the thefts but is now refraining from making restitution until the district attorney decides whether charges will be filed.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Jamey Webster said that although some of the victims will be satisfied with restitution from the fraternity, the decision lies with the district attorney.

"It's not really their choice anymore," Webster said. "It all depends on how the district attorney wants to handle it."

Kappa Alpha President Kurt Knauth said that until Wednesday morning he felt the situation would be resolved without charges being filed against the fraternity.

"The district attorney has reconsidered and I think they're going to press charges now,"

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RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Kris Siegert an Omega Phi Alpha pledge, sits on a line of money at Rudder Fountain Wednesday. The organization is attempting to raise a mile of money for the Brazos Valley Council on Substance Abuse. The last time they tried they raised \$700.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

### As Corps takes new direction, doubts, attention will follow

This is the fourth article of a four-part series about the changes within the Corps of Cadets since the sexual harassment controversy last fall.

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI and TODD STONE

Reporters of THE BATTALION

No matter what new programs, controversies or honors befall the members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets - the spotlight will always follow them.

Many cadets accept that they remain the focal point of the University. Since the Corps is the oldest organization at A&M and the focal point of tradition, cadets said it's natural that they get the best and worst of publicity.

"The visibility is one of the natural corollaries for being an entity that values honor, loyalty and tradition," said University President Dr. William Mobley. "Is it unfair? I don't know. It's just one of the consequences."

Cadets said they are even more weary of their visibility, and the consequences of one person making a mistake since going through charges and investigations of sexual harassment within the Corps last fall.

"That (attention) just happens by nature because we're in uniforms, and we stand out," said Adin Pfeuffer, public affairs officer for the Corps. "I think if someone takes one person's actions and generalizes it on the whole Corps of Cadets, I think that's ridiculous."

"The Corps is always pretty much under the microscope," he said. "Sometimes it's tedious and bothersome, but that's just the way the Corps is. There's nothing you can really do about it."

Despite the problems of last fall, Corps Commandant Maj. General Thomas Darling said he was certain the controversy has not affected enrollment in the Corps.

"I haven't had any one student tell me that they're not going to join because of things last year," he said.

Improving enrollment is one of the Corps' top priorities, Darling said. Still, enrollment within the Corps has decreased 17 percent since 1989. Enrollment at the beginning of the fall semester was 1,804. Fifty two students have dropped from the Corps since.

Darling said there were many different reasons for the three-year decline. He said two of the factors contributing to the lower numbers were a decrease in the freshman class at A&M and a lower demand for people in the nation's armed forces.

Enrollment management capped off A&M's attendance at 41,000 and reduced the freshmen class from 7,500 in 1987 to 6,000 this year. Darling said it made recruiting more difficult with the smaller classes. Also, a sharp decline in the number of ROTC contracts, scholarships and commissions has affected the recruiting.

"Plus the idea around the country that the war is over - communism has been defeated," Darling said. "I think if you talk to recruiters all over the country, they'll tell you that most young people sense there is no need for people in the military."

Darling said he hopes eventually to increase enrollment to 2,600 by offering new initiatives, such as more scholarships, increased active recruitment and more emphasis on women and minorities.

"We stand a chance of turning this around next year if we can get the initiatives approved," he said.

Along with the decreasing number of cadets going into the military, the Corps is redirecting its purpose and goals to satisfy the changing needs of its members.

When Darling came to the University in 1987, he said about 50 percent of cadets were commissioned in the armed forces. Now it has dropped to about 35 percent who are pursuing a commission, and 65 percent seeking non-military careers.

Dr. Kenneth Dirks, co-chairman of the fact-finding panel that investigated the Corps, said, "The program at the Corps is designed to emphasize academics - but with that leadership and what it means to lead, not only in a military context, but in any aspect of human endeavor."

Darling said the future of Corps is heading in a new direction with a focus on leadership. He said the Corps is trying to appeal to more than just people who will be entering the military.

"We hope to develop a program that the Corps will continue to have strong appeal to a lot of students," he said.

"The idea is that we want to prepare them to be leaders in whatever field they go into," Darling said. "The idea is to develop a leadership program that will be just as good or better than that of commissioned students. Leadership classes we've started this fall is just a start - we want to expand that. That's the direction we're headed."

But some cadets have not embraced the changes, and said since the controversy last fall, they have been inundated with senseless rules and guidelines.

"They're over-emphasizing policies and procedures instead of instilling a sense of right and wrong," said a fifth-year senior who completed his four years with the Corps and asked to remain anonymous. "That's what it was all about. It was about hard work and character. They de-emphasized teaching important things in life."

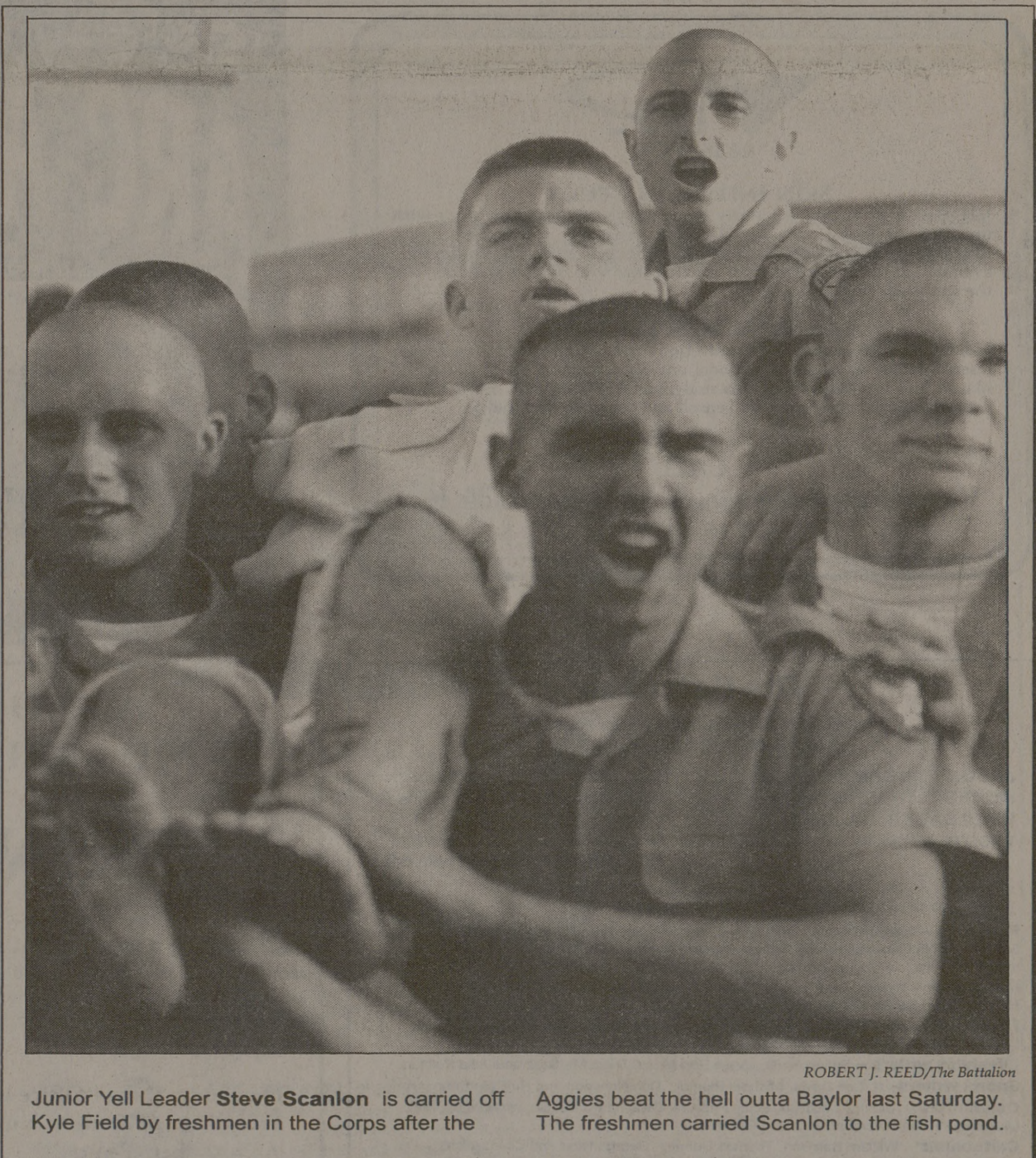
Mobley said it comes down to a person making a choice of whether staying with an organization is worth the ups and downs.

"You get a lot of rewards, but you also have a lot of rules," Mobley said. "A lot of things you can't do that other students can do. Every student has to decide is this a net positive in terms of what your expectations are."

Other cadets argue that the Corps is diminishing quality by changing policies to avoid the controversies of last fall.

"I think it's losing a lot of its effect," said a senior male cadet who asked to remain anonymous. "There's no way it can be the same, but from what I've seen, it has really been downgraded. It's not producing the quality of leader that it used to."

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ROBERT J. REED/The Battalion

Junior Yell Leader Steve Scanlon is carried off Kyle Field by freshmen in the Corps after the Aggies beat the hell outta Baylor last Saturday. The freshmen carried Scanlon to the fish pond.

## Committee hosts 'Day of the Dead'

By TANYA WILLIAMS

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture (CAMAC) invites students to experience a unique opportunity to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, "The Day of the Dead."

Though Dia de los Muertos is actually celebrated on Nov. 2, CAMAC is having their celebration tonight, Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in rooms 110 and 111 of the Student Services Building. Admission is free.

The purpose of the event is to "allow the spirits

and the souls" of those who have died to rest in peace.

CAMAC will present Margarita Tagle-Greenless as the guest speaker for their celebration. Tagle-Greenless is a graduate of Texas A&M University and will begin her graduate studies at Texas A&M University in the spring. She is knowledgeable in mid-wifery, anthropology and folklore.

CAMAC promotes campus awareness regarding the Mexican-American culture. The organization provides student development programs, tutorial assistance to grade-school students, and allows others to learn about the Mexican-American culture.