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Co-enrollment an appealing alternative

Many A&M students co-enroll at Blinn to avoid A&M's high costs, hassles

By Tauma Wiggins
THE BATTALION

A growing number of A&M students this summer are choosing to "follow the blue footprints", a phrase students heard when registering at Blinn College.

Students list a variety of reasons for attending Blinn classes, including cheaper cost, smaller class size and student-to-teacher ratio.

Blinn credits transfer as hours, not grades, so many students enroll at Blinn to keep up their A&M GPR.

Kelly Heinen, a senior elementary education major, said she is taking classes at Blinn this summer because A&M was unable to force her into classes she needed.

Heinen said another reason she enrolled at Blinn was to keep her GPR up.

"In the Fall, I'm applying for the early childhood program and I have to have a good GPA," Heinen said. "I'm working hard to get an A (at Blinn), but I don't want to take the chance of getting a C (at A&M)."

"Blinn has a smaller setting and is more attentive to the students."

— LISA GONZALEZ
senior business major

Lisa Gonzalez, a senior business major, took a class at Blinn last semester.

Gonzalez said she took the class at Blinn to save money and to reduce the stress level caused

by larger A&M classes.

"A&M classes are so departmentalized and non-personal," Gonzalez said. "Blinn has a smaller setting and is more attentive to the students. I don't have to compete with 500 other students."

Gonzalez said several A&M classes she has taken have been unnecessarily difficult and many tests have been unreflective of the course work, a problem she has not run into at Blinn College.

"It wasn't like the Blinn classes were easy, but the tests were over what we studied in class and the averages were where they should be, not in the 30s or 40s," she said.

Emily Shields, a senior speech communications major, said she co-enrolled at Blinn af-

ter a negative experience in an A&M math class.

"My professor didn't teach the regular Math 141 curriculum, and everyone was getting 30s and 40s," she said. "I was going in every day after class and getting tutored, and my professor said 'there's nothing you can do.' So I Q-dropped it but didn't know that in that class a 30 equals a B. I was failing miserably and would have had a B!"

Shields said the main reason she is taking classes at Blinn is to preserve her GPR at A&M.

"Math and Spanish aren't my strong suits, and I didn't want these classes to affect my GPR at A&M," she said. "I'm thinking of going to law school, and I know Blinn classes count, but they aren't as effective as A&M grades."

depends on a strong public education system," Clinton said. "There should be no financial obstacle to students wishing to continue their educations past the 12th grade."

"The Student Loan Program will lower interest, increase the repayment rate, expand Pell Grants and tuition tax reduction," she said. "Education must not end with the 12th grade but continue through the 13th and 14th grade levels."

The first lady's address showed much of her husband's characteristic verbosity. She allowed few interruptions of applause, rushing through her speech as though she were ready to leave Dallas just as soon as she arrived.

The Texas delegation enthusiastically cheered her presence.

Gary Mauro, Texas Land Commissioner, said Clinton's attendance at the convention was "living proof of the importance of Texas in the upcoming election."

Clinton

Continued from Page 1

workers in Texas alone."

Clinton endorsed the V-chip, saying it allowed for more parental supervision of what their children watch on television. She also praised the increased enforcement of child support payments.

The first lady insisted the nation continue to renew its schools. She commended Head Start as a program which provides "every child a chance at a good beginning."

She also promoted her husband's newly-created Student Loan Program. "Democracy



CLINTON

Recruiting

Continued from Page 1

they are recruiting."

Members of the company wear their uniforms to class once a week, as opposed to every day during fall and spring semesters.

Kyle Sparkman, Recruiting Sergeant and a junior biomedical science major, said this helps maintain a visual presence for provisional students as well as incoming students and visitors to A&M.

The cadets are required to man recruiting tables, prepare "fish holes" (dorm rooms) and attend various recruiting functions.

Every Monday and Wednesday of orientation, incoming freshmen attend a meeting to learn about different campus organizations. This "Convocation" allows the Recruiting Company to show its stuff.

Sparkman said the Convocation plays a vital role in the recruiting process.

"This is one of our primary means of making an impression on all the fish that go through summer conferences," Sparkman said.

Steve Foster, Corps Commander and a senior political science major, said there are usually several signees during this meeting.

"We get as many as four to 10 students per Convocation to actually sign with the Corps," Foster said.

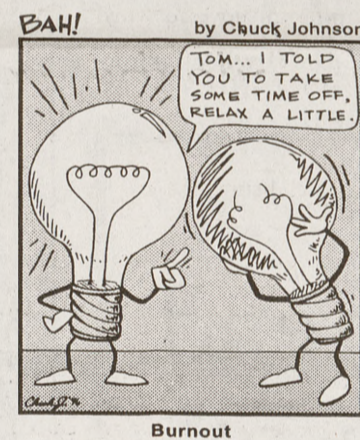
Karl Koehler, Recruiting Officer and a senior education major, attended the Convocation at his summer conference before coming to A&M.

"Chills went up my spine after hearing the 'The Spirit of Aggieland,'" Koehler said, "and I realized then what kind of organization it was and the impact it would have on my life."

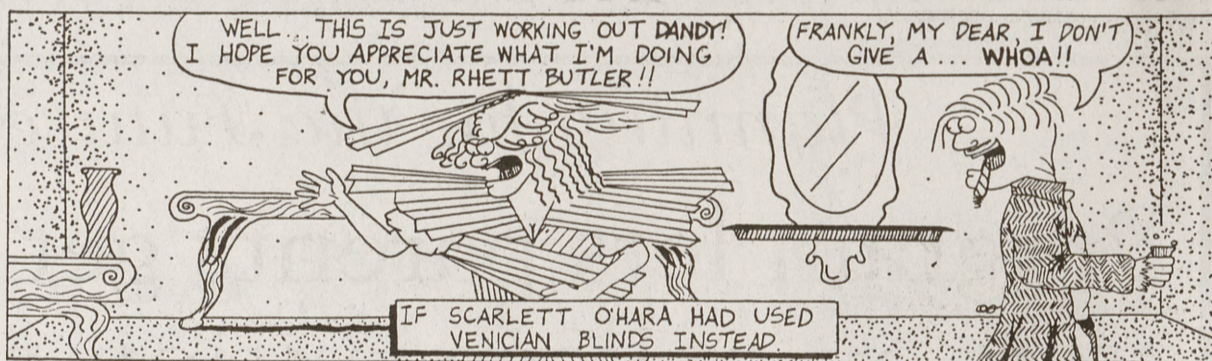
Larkin volunteered to head the company this summer in order to continue what he learned previously as a member.

"I want to see the Corps grow," Larkin said. "The Corps doesn't function without the fish. They are the ones that make the Corps what it is."

Sketch



Burnout



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SPRING '97
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Informational Meetings

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Tuesday, June 11
5:00 - 5:45 pm
Thursday, June 13
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358 Bizzell Hall W.

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