

# Allen Academy

## Co-ed school offers small classes, stresses student leadership

This is the second of a two-part series on the historic Allen Academy in Bryan. In this story, Karen Arton, Christy Kelm, and Mark Lis take a look at the people and programs at the school. —Ed.

Allen Academy has 140 day students—half of them female—and 10 boarders, but the student-teacher ratio remains 15 to 1. The average class numbers less than 20 students.

Allen President Roy T. Sheffield says he hopes to keep the school small, with total enrollment below 200.

This community needs a small private school and I'd like to keep it around the 15 student level," Sheffield said.

Most of Allen's students are from Texas, although about 20 of its boarders are from South America. Allen can boast of some famous graduates, among them Speaker of the Texas House, Bill Clayton, and N.Y. Gov. Rockefeller.

Allen's first president was Army Capt. Steven C. Hightower, a 1968 graduate of Texas A&M. He is in charge of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps at Allen Academy, which has a storied history as a military school.

"We don't try to run a boot camp here," Hightower said. "We don't even act as recruiters by encouraging the cadets to enlist in the armed forces when they graduate from Allen."

"We are concerned with teaching them citizenship and leadership for application in any job situation."

Hightower noted that ROTC enrollment is steadily increasing nationwide and that more women than ever are enrolling. Allen had a few day students in its Corps of Cadets last year including three females. There is only one female in the Corps this year.

"We don't push the military here, but the discipline seems tight to the new arrivals," Hightower said. "There is a problem with resentment at first; a culture shock comes with the discipline to those students who haven't been exposed to it."

# BULLETIN BOARD

**THURSDAY STUDENT GOVERNMENT**lections, MSC corridor, Exchange Core, Commons, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**GREAT ISSUES**, MSC 216 & M, 7 p.m.

**PAN-AMERICAN Roundtable** Discussion, Tower 401, 7 p.m.  
**CALIFORNIA HTC**, Tower 407 & B, 7 p.m.

**SOCIAL DANCE CLUB**, MSC 24, 7 p.m., nomination of officers  
**MICROBIOLOGY Student Banquet**, MSC 206, 7:30 p.m.

**UNIVERSITY MARINE Fellows**, MSC 206, 7:30 p.m.  
**PENTAGON Area HTC**, MSC 39, 7:30 p.m.

**RON GODBEY**, MSC 137, 7:30 p.m.  
**SAILING CLUB**, Tower 301, 8:30 p.m.

**BRAZOS ORNITHOLOGICAL Society**, Oceanography-Meteorology Room 112, 7:30 p.m.  
**CEPHEID VARIABLE**, "Them", Rudder 701, 8 & 10 p.m., 10 cents.

**MID-JEFFERSON County HTC**, Oak Forest Trailer Park Party Room, 7:30 p.m.

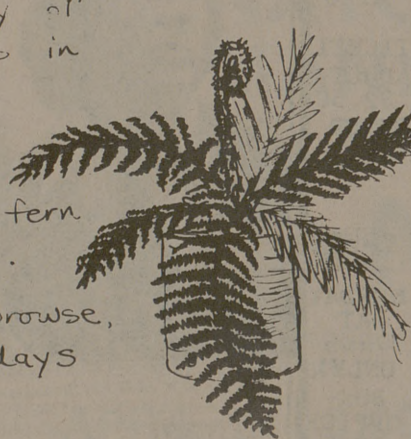
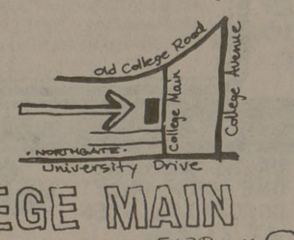
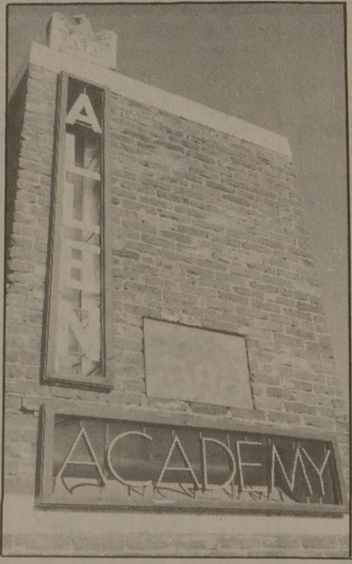
**FINANCE ASSOCIATION**, Barbelona Apts. Party Room, 7:30 p.m.  
**COMMITTEE for the Enlightened Discussion of Human Issues**, 1108C Holik, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY CENTENNIAL PROFESSOR**—John Lunsford, Harrington 110, 8 p.m.

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"Behind the oaks the sky burns gay and bold, where Allen colors riot the dauntless Blue and Gold..." Allen Academy's school song tells the students' story of a 50-acre campus in Bryan that is sprinkled with trappings of the military.

All boarders are required to wear military uniforms and participate in drills, even though they may not be involved in ROTC. The cadets drill two hours each Thursday and one hour a Saturday each month.

"The cadets' leisure time is not restricted, however, to drills and military-oriented activities," Hightower said. "We let them try to do as many things as they want. Many boys get to play varsity sports here, whereas they would be competing with many more athletes in public schools."

Allen's 50-acre campus in east Bryan includes brick dormitories, a

student center, an indoor rifle range, a 600-seat dining hall, a hospital, a library and a laundromat. The academic portion of the school is housed in four main buildings.

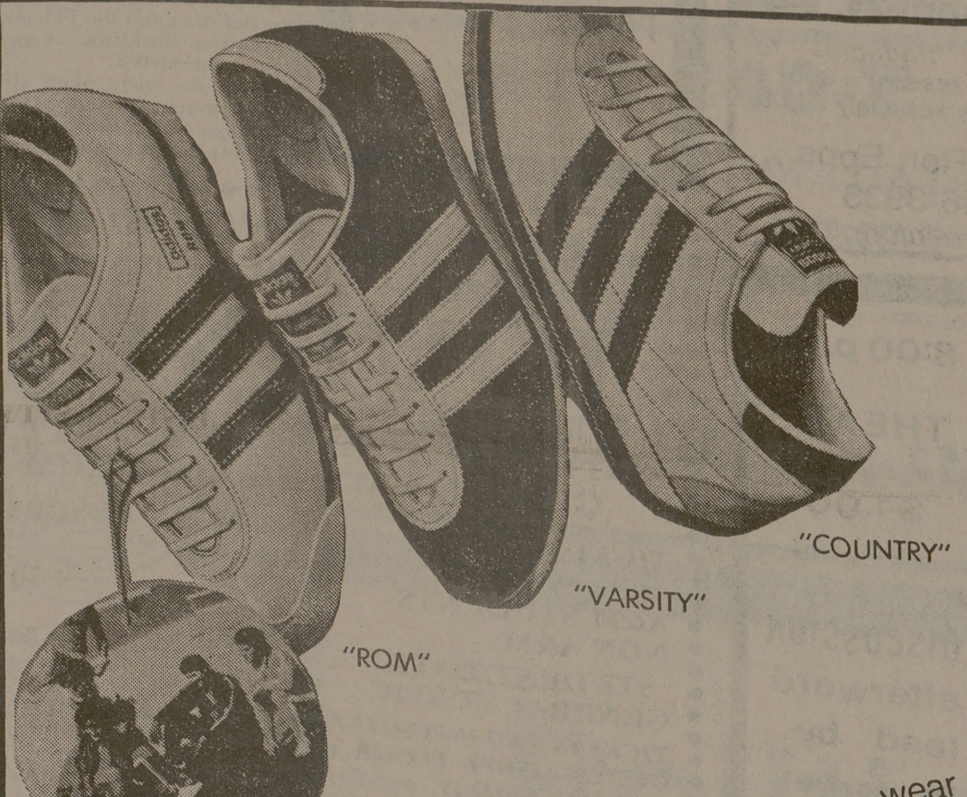
Lloyd Lietz, a senior journalism student at A&M and a 1970 Allen graduate, came to the military academy his sophomore year to attend a U.S. school (his parents lived in Beirut, Lebanon) and to be in its military training program. At the time, Lietz was considering the military as a career and spent two years in the Aggie Corps.

"I was hoping for a West Point appointment, but Allen was on probation my senior year," Lietz said.

"Allen was much more realistic in their attitudes and discipline than A&M is," Lietz said. "At A&M you always did as you were told, but at Allen you were allowed to ask 'why?'"

Part of Allen's prestige may be associated with its enrollment costs. Boarding students pay from \$3,430 to \$3,830 a year; day students pay from \$1,040 to \$1,360. Pre-schoolers' costs range from \$230 to \$400.

With a proposed modernization project of approximately \$152,000, a stable financial condition, and an increasing enrollment, the Allen Corps promises to keep marching.




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