

Valedictorian, Denied West Point, Will Settle for Texas A&M

The New York Times

February 7, 1988, Sunday, Late City Final Edition

Copyright 1988 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 1; Part 1, Page 27, Column 1; National Desk

Length: 369 words

Byline: By LISA BELKIN, Special to the New York Times

Dateline: HOUSTON, Feb. 6

Body

A Dallas high school student who was not allowed to apply to the United States Military Academy because she is not yet a citizen has received a scholarship to **Texas A&M** University.

Xochilt Carreto, the 18-year-old **aledictorian** who is president of her class and student head of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at L. G. Pinkston High School in Dallas, said she would attend **A&M** for at least a year but would continue to pursue her goal of going to **West Point**.

Officials at **A&M** said they had read of Miss Carreto's problem and decided to offer her a four-year President's Achievement Award, which **will** provide her with \$2,500 annually.

A 15-hour schedule costs **A&M** students who are **Texas** residents about \$240 a semester. Miss Carreto **will** be able to use the rest of the scholarship for other school-related costs.

Miss Carreto has lived in Dallas since she was 3 years old, when her mother, a laundress, brought her and her eight siblings from Mexico but listed only the two eldest daughters on the immigration form. Miss Carreto, the second-youngest, did not receive legal alien status until 1985, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service required that she wait five years more before applying for citizenship.

Sought Legislative Relief

Miss Carreto decided she did not want to wait before trying for **West Point**. She persuaded her Congressman, Martin Frost, to submit legislation before the House Judiciary Committee seeking immediate citizenship. But the bill did not clear the committee before the Jan. 31 deadline for **West Point** applications.

Another obstacle to Miss Carreto's plans to apply to the Academy was her score the first time she took the Scholastic Aptitude Test: 750, out of a possible 1,600, well below the Academy's cutoff score of 1,050. Miss Carreto took the test again Jan. 23 and is waiting to learn whether she did better.

For now, though, she has decided to attend **A&M**.

"It has an excellent R.O.T.C. program, and I thought it would prepare me for **West Point**," she said. She still plans to apply to the Academy, perhaps next year if Mr. Frost's bill is approved, or in 1990, when she **will** be eligible to apply for citizenship through regular channels.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (90%); SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS (90%); CITIZENSHIP (90%); MILITARY SCHOOLS & ACADEMIES (90%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (90%); CITIZENSHIP LAW (89%); NATURALIZATION (89%); SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAMS (78%); ACADEMIC TESTING (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); HIGH SCHOOLS (78%); STANDARDIZED ACADEMIC TESTING (78%); APPROVALS (70%); AWARDS & PRIZES (69%); LEGISLATION (69%)

Company: UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (WEST POINT, NY) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%)

Organization: UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%); UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (WEST POINT, NY) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (95%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%); TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY (84%)

Industry: MILITARY SCHOOLS & ACADEMIES (90%); HIGH SCHOOLS (78%)

Geographic: DALLAS, TX, USA (90%); TEXAS, USA (93%); UNITED STATES (79%)