

# Chicanos still cling to traditional Spanish

Southwest Mexican-Americans will cling to Spanish as their No. 1 language, a sociology professor here predicts.

Processes fostering Spanish over English appear unlikely to change soon, says Dr. R. L. Skrabanek.

The acting head of the Sociology and Anthropology Department has studied comparative day-to-day use of Spanish and English by Mexican-Americans of South Texas.

His findings were published in an article, "Language Maintenance Among Mexican Americans," in the current issue of the

International Journal of Comparative Sociology.

He said numerous factors contribute to the Mexican-Americans' bilingual tendency and resistance to full assimilation in the U. S. cultural melting pot. The tendency, he notes, has persisted for more than a century.

Skrabanek cited "La Raza" — the race — as the concept most strongly solidifying the social structure of these people.

La Raza is "perhaps clearly understood only by Mexican-Americans," Skrabanek wrote. "Broadly defined, the term refers to a special kind of unity of

all Mexican-Americans who are united by cultural and spiritual bonds derived from God.

"Use of Spanish is the primary symbol among Mexican-Americans of loyalty to La Raza."

The sociologist said other factors are a standard socio-economic status, steady immigrations from Mexico and movement between that nation and the Southwest United States.

Also at work, Skrabanek went on, are persistence of a well-defined Mexican-American sub-culture, differing value orientations of Mexican-Americans and the dominant American culture

toward most basic human problems and the people's isolation in ghetto-type neighborhoods.

He said Mexican-American youngsters who grow up speaking mostly English achieve higher education levels, higher incomes and better jobs. They then tend to move away from Mexican-American population pockets, he added.

"This practice severely limits the chance of contact" with the less educated Mexican-American youngster, he said, and takes away "visible and tangible evidence that more use of the English language . . . will result in substantially increasing their incomes, status positions and general well-being."

## Senior aerospace major named member of institute

James D. Kocurek, senior aerospace engineering major of Alvin, has been appointed to the educational activities committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), announced Dr. Balusu Rao.

Kocurek, 22, was appointed as a representative from AIAA's student membership by Martin Golland, Institute president.

He will serve on the committee chaired by Prof. David C. Hazen, Princeton vice president-education, with appointees from academic, government and industrial communities.

The committee recommends

programs for AIAA in the field of education and student activities. It meets several times annually, usually in conjunction with an AIAA national meeting.

Vice chairman of Texas A&M's AIAA student chapter, Kocurek serves on the Student Engineers Council, is treasurer of Sigma Gamma Tau, aerospace engineering honor society and president of Tau Beta Pi, engineering scholarship society.

He was assistant editor of the "Engineer," College of Engineering publication, last year.

Dr. Rao is faculty advisor for the student chapter of AIAA.

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## ROTC center still open despite explosion damage

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Classes were held Tuesday at a Reserve Officer Training Corps center despite heavy damage from two explosions Monday night. The center was opened last fall to replace facilities burned by student demonstrators.

A third explosion about three hours earlier damaged a building in a federal records center in another part of the city. Windows and glass doors were shattered.

Seven police officers and seven firemen investigating the initial blast at the ROTC center suffered minor injuries when the second, more powerful explosion wracked the building.

An FBI spokesman said a preliminary investigation did not determine what kind of explosive was used.

"But whoever used it knew what he was doing. It was a very professional job," he said.

Col. James Kudrna, commander of the Army ROTC program, said a telephoned bomb threat was received in October but there had been none since.

Kudrna said classes were held in the damaged building Tuesday for cadets who were "disgusted at the destruction" and the apparent attempt "to deny them the right to pursue their education as they wish."

Both the Army ROTC building

at Washington University, which served all colleges in the St. Louis area, and the Air Force building were burned in a series of student antiwar demonstrations beginning in late 1968.

## Overhouse named top soph

Jeff Overhouse, the Texas Aggies' prize sophomore from League City and Clear Creek High School, was swarmed with honors this past weekend as the Southwest Conference basketball race came to an end.

Overhouse bucketed 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds against Arkansas Friday night to close out his sophomore season with the second-highest number of points ever scored by an A&M sophomore, 345.

Steve Niles, the Aggies' 7-0

senior center, was the only other A&M cager to receive mention on any of the postseason All-Star units when he was named to the second team District 6 All-Star team.

That announcement was made by Joe Vancisin of Yale, chairman of the All-America committee of the National Association of Basketball coaches.

Overhouse was practically a unanimous choice as sophomore of the year, first receiving the honor on the televised basketball

game of the week selections named during the halftime of Saturday's Baylor-Tech game.

Then came Sunday morning and he was named Sophomore of the Year by the Dallas Morning News, Dallas Times-Herald and The Associated Press.

These publications and the wire service also named Overhouse to a spot on the second team All-SWC.

The Times-Herald poll is selected by the players and the AP squad is picked by the league's coaches.

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## Photo salon being planned

A&M's Intercollegiate Photo Salon, which has rewarded efforts of photographers throughout the Southwest more than 15 years, is building toward Salon '71 in late March.

Open to members of photo groups sponsored by U. S. colleges and universities, the annual competition is sponsored by the

Memorial Student Center Committee at A&M.

Chairman Greg Gray of Houston said entries in 11 categories will be accepted until March 24.

Information sent to student unions, camera groups and visual aids departments of Texas and Southwest colleges and universities indicates judging will be con-

ducted March 27.

Trudy Adam, Salon '71 chairman, said a panel of three professional photographers will judge entries in pictorial, experimental, news, portraiture, sports, human interest, nature, landscape, still life, fashion and advertising categories.

Entries to the Camera Committee, MSC, College Station, should be limited to eight per person with no more than two per category, Miss Adam added. An entry fee of 50 cents per print is required.

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