

# Integration and the rural black object of A&M study

Do rural blacks want integration? Do they think integration is likely to take place in their own communities? According to a recent research project, more rural blacks think integration is possible than want it. The persons answering the questions are black females with at least one child, and who live in a small rural village

or a small town in east Texas. The schools their children attend has undergone forced integration within the last two years. The woman most likely is dissatisfied with the house in which she lives. The conditions would have to be labeled poor or disadvantaged. There is probably no phone, flush toilet, tub or shower. She doesn't read the daily newspaper, but does have a black and white television.

The breadwinner in the family is an unskilled laborer and neither the woman nor her husband have a high school education. The chances are slim that either of them had even started high school. This homemaker and others like her in east Texas were the objects of a study conducted by Dr. William P. Kuvlesky, associate professor, and Margaret Cannon, graduate student, with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at A&M.

The purpose of the study was to determine the relationship of the community size to a black's perception of racial prejudice

directed toward her by local whites, to her desire for racial integration, and to her perception of the possibility of racial integration in her local area.

Kuvlesky said research indicates a belief that there is a gradual increase in racial tolerance as one goes from rural areas and small towns to cities over a million. He added, however, that no actual data exists to support this belief at the rural end.

For their study, Kuvlesky and Mrs. Cannon chose residents from two rural villages and a small town of about 5,000 population. Data were considered based on two residence groups — village and town.

The first series of questions concerned racial prejudice as perceived by the black. Village residents perceived less prejudice to a marked degree than town residents, although the percentage of affirmative responses in both ranged from 66 to 93%.

More village residents felt integration was possible than wanted it. The areas of integration referred to were church attendance, school, children playing together, neighborhoods and close personal friendships. In town residents, about the same number desired integration as thought it was possible — with the exceptions of church and school. Integration in the schools

already existed, yet only about half desired it. Many more desired integrated churches than felt they were possible.

Findings considered important by the researchers were that villagers were more likely to perceive little or no prejudice on the part of whites, yet were less inclined to favor integration. Villagers more often felt across-the-board integration possible than did town residents.

The work done by researchers Kuvlesky and Mrs. Cannon, and their findings, have been submitted to the Rural Sociological Society. It's also a contributing study to the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's project "Factors Affecting Patterns of Living in Disadvantaged Families."

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## Spring electronics school open

A&M's Institute of Electronic Science is now accepting applications for the spring term beginning Jan. 17, announced Chief Instructor Arlie Patton.

The 18-month institute has three six-month terms and prepares graduates for careers as technicians in electronics fields.

Patton pointed out the insti-tute is attempting to closely co-ordinate its schedule with the regular university schedule. This is the first time the spring term has begun in mid-January, with the regular session actually ending Feb. 25.

In the future, classes will be-gin in mid-September and mid-January, Patton said.

Seven new students have al-ready pre-enrolled for the spring term, he said.

To be admitted students must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a knowledge of algebra and the ability to comprehend technical information.

Consideration is given to applicants with a background in basic

electronics, work experience or armed forces training.

Graduates are trained in com-munications, telemetry, process control, instrumentation, auto-mation, computers, medical elec-tronics and nuclear science, Pat-ton noted.

The institute, conducted by the Engineering Extension Service at the Texas A&M Research Annex 12 miles from the main campus, also is attempting to begin night classes.

Patton said a survey is being conducted to determine if enroll-ment would justify a night pro-gram. If anyone is interested, he urges them to contact the insti-tute at 822-2323.

### Firemen's School begins program

The Texas Firemen's Training School at A&M will conduct its eight-week recruit training pro-gram Jan. 17 to March 10.

Recruit school coordinator Dav-id White said the Engineering Extension Service course is de-signed to give the recruit firemen the minimum instruction required by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, Personnel Standards and Education.

Classes are limited to 16 and advanced registration is neces-sary.

Total cost for the eight weeks is \$302.80, including a \$120 reg-istration fee, \$142.80 for meals and \$40 dormitory fee.

The course is open to recruit and probationary firemen working for municipalities and industries, White noted.

Another class will begin March 20 and continue through May 12, he added.

Patton reported the night school probably will be held for three hours two nights a week. Course offerings would depend on what is wanted by the stu-dents, but they would probably include a summary of each phase of the day program.

He added the night program could be either 30 or 60 hours.

Two additional pieces of equip-ment also will be in operation for the spring term. They are a field digital computer system donated by Texaco, Inc., and a radar transmitter-receiver.

## Price Commission approves GM request to raise prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Price Commission approved Tues-day General Motors' request to raise prices of 1972 cars, trucks and optional equipment by an average of up to 2.5 per cent.

The commission said its deci-sion was based on allowable cost increases, productivity gains and GM's base-period profit margin.

General Motors said when it filed its price hike request that cost increases amounted to 4.9 per cent but that it would ask only the 2.5 per cent increase.

It was the commission's final ruling on the first round of price-boost requests from the four principal domestic auto makers.

Ford Motor Co. was granted an

average price increase of 2.9 per cent after seeking 4.4 per cent.

Chrysler Corp. was granted 4.5 per cent after first asking 5.9 per cent and then lowering this request to 5.3.

American Motors was given the full 2.5 per cent it asked.

The Price Commission issued guidelines also Tuesday on its decision that the base price, against which price-increase re-quests must be based, need not include temporary deals or special allowances.

This keeps firms from being stuck for long periods with spe-cial lower prices which happened to be in effect when President Nixon's price freeze began Aug. 15.

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