

Costs increasing

KAMU-TV needs more local donations to stay on the air

By LEIGH McLEROY
Battalion Reporter

It takes local support, and a lot of it, to keep a public broadcasting television station on the air, and Texas A&M University's KAMU-TV is no exception.

KAMU-TV is partially funded by grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, but under what is known as the "50 percent rule," the corporation can't give an individual station more than half of its non-federal income.

KAMU-TV's budget was cut over

\$80,000 this year, and Jean Herbert-Wiesenburg, promotion and development coordinator for the station, says program costs are increasing. "Shows that cost \$50,000 last year are now costing \$70,000 to \$75,000," Wiesenburg said.

With increasing costs and a tight budget, local donations are vital to KAMU. "At this point, KAMU is not acquiring the full Corporation for Public Broadcasting funds we could be getting, because local donations are low and the 50 percent

rule must be adhered to," said Mel Chastain, director of the University's educational broadcast services.

KAMU-TV programming is seen on Channel 15 on the UHF dial and on cable in Brenham, Bryan, College Station, Caldwell, Hearne, Lyons, Madisonville and Somerville. It reaches an estimated 29,000-30,000 television households with daily newscasts and a variety of PBS programs, aside from the station's teaching functions.

The University budget supplies money to pay salaries of station personnel who, in addition to teaching, act as producers, directors, cameramen and technicians. Little money from the budget is applied to the daily operation costs of the station, however. Therefore, the public's help is needed.

A lot of attention has been focused recently on the \$29,000 needed by Aug. 31 to keep KAMU-TV radio on the air. The station is well on its way to that goal, with \$21,000 so far.

"We've come a long way toward our goal for the radio station. But, at

this time, we need funds for television as critically, if not more critically, than we do for the radio," Chastain said.

In an attempt to raise funds to operate KAMU, the station is planning the first KAMU TV Auction, scheduled for three nights of prime-time television, April 1-3.

The auction will sell items that have been donated and apply the revenue from the sales to the operation of KAMU. Proceeds from the auction and Festival '79, two weeks of special programming aimed at creating greater interest and support for local public television, will go toward both FM and TV.

Viewers phone in their pledges for KAMU during the programming scheduled for Festival '79.

The auction has already collected over \$3,000 worth of merchandise, including a large collection of art and antiques which will be auctioned separately the first night, April 1.

Donations and workers are still needed for the auction. Anyone wishing to help or contribute should contact Jean Herbert-Wiesenburg at 845-5611. In addition to the auction, two benefits have been scheduled for late April.



Secretary of State George Strake Jr. spoke Wednesday to a district and county clerk's seminar at Texas A&M University, where he talked about streamlining their duties and intensifying efforts to increase Mexican-American and black voter registration.

Legislature should streamline county clerk duties, Strake says

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

Texas Secretary of State George Strake Jr. told a district and county clerk's seminar Wednesday he intends to "streamline" their licensing duties and intensify state efforts to register black and Mexican-American voters.

Strake told the gathering at Texas A&M University he is urging the passage of a bill that would move the licensing of notaries public from the county level to the secretary of state's office.

Before the Legislature this session are several bills that would change the licensing procedures for notaries, each one proposing a slightly different method.

Presently, the licensing of notaries public is done by county clerks.

If the bill Strake favors is passed, county clerks will still be involved in the process, but to a lesser extent. Applicants for notary public would be screened by the clerks before they apply to the state.

Strake said the terms for notaries would be increased from two years to four years under one of the bills.

An informal vote of the delegates at the seminar backed Strake's proposal.

Sixty-six percent of all eligible citizens are registered to vote, Strake said, up from 55 percent in 1965, but the number of blacks registered is still low.

Other than the increased advertising, little more can be done to lure people to register, the secretary of state said, adding that the present system, including registra-

tion drives and postage-free registration cards, is often abused.

Strake said there are numerous fraudulent claims in statewide voter registration.

He said there are three occasions with consistently large voter turnout: presidential elections, bond elections and elections involving some form of scandal.

A presidential preference primary would be one method of drawing voters to the polls for key state elections, Strake said.

More girls play in sports, survey says

United Press International
NEW YORK — A new survey of teen-age girls shows 99.9 percent participate in some type of sport. The most popular sports for this group are swimming, bicycling, tennis and jogging. More than seven out of 10 girls questioned in the Seventeen magazine survey said they'd taken up jogging. More than half those surveyed said they competed in athletic activities, compared with only 42 percent three years ago. Track is their favorite competition, followed by tennis and swimming.

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