

# Local

## Aggies polled favor later drinking hours

**By WAYNE COOK**  
Battalion Reporter

A recent Student Government survey shows a majority of Texas A&M University students polled are in favor of extending College Station drinking hours.

Of the 1,209 responses, 1,060 students, 87.6 percent, favored extending College Station drinking hours on weekends. And 63 percent, 762 of those questioned, favored extending the hours every night.

Additional results indicated that 37 percent of the respondents are against extending drinking hours every night, and 12.4 percent are against any extension of the current hours.

Drinking hours in College Station are currently 10 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon until midnight Sunday. But a proposal currently being considered by the College Station City Council calls for drinking hours to be extended to 2 a.m. every night.

The distribution of students responding to the survey was: 22.1 percent freshmen, 23.2 percent sophomores, 23.4 percent juniors, 26.2 percent seniors, and 5.1 percent graduate students.

Student Government is planning to submit the survey results, taken Feb. 23 to 25 in the Memorial Student Center, to the council.

The proposal came to the attention of Student Government through its liaison to city council, said Sue Vito, the student senator in charge of the survey.

Vito said Student Government wanted to present students' views to the city council and have numbers to back them up.

"We knew it (the proposal) would directly affect students, and that it was something they would be interested in," she said.

Student Government voted to

favor the proposed every-night extension pending the results of the survey. A petition favoring the proposition also was available along with the survey.

The petition gained 1,008 signatures.

Although Student Government originally believed the proposal to extend drinking hours would be considered at the Feb. 26 meeting of city council, the proposal was not on the agenda of that meeting, and it is uncertain when the council will discuss it.

## Math jobs competitive, but plentiful

**By NANCY FLOECK**  
Battalion Reporter

High-paying jobs in industry and business are luring mathematicians away from universities, said a Texas A&M University professor.

Industry and business jobs for mathematicians pay more at the entry level, but in the long-run those jobs seldom pay more than that of a full-time professor, said Dr. H. Elton Lacey, head of the math department at Texas A&M.

"They're going to industry because the initial salaries are anywhere to twice as much as they would make entering the academic world," Lacey said. "But as they go on in years, unless they move into management, selling or marketing... then their salaries would tend to top out somewhere around that of a good, full-time professor."

Lacey said this demand in industry has aggravated the shortage of competent math instructors in public schools, colleges and universities.

Because of this shortage in public schools, many students enter college without having mastered the basics of algebra, Lacey said, so university math faculty have to spend time teaching what should have been learned in high school.

The shortage of math teachers in public schools has been prevalent for several years, he said, but it's just beginning to surface at the college level.

"A lot of state colleges can probably no longer get Ph.D.s, where a few years ago they could," Lacey said. "They're back down looking for people with master's degrees."

This shortage is not only in the teaching profession; there are one-fourth more jobs for people with doctor's

degrees in math than there are applicants, Lacey said. A 1980 survey by the American Mathematical Society said the ratio of applicants to jobs is .73-to-1.

The number of students majoring in math began decreasing in the late '60s and early and mid '70s, when jobs for mathematicians became scarce, Lacey said. Computer science curriculums also became common around that time.

"Once they started up they automatically siphoned off at least half of the people who were majoring in mathematics. Very few people major in math nowadays," Lacey said.

Texas A&M has about 100 math majors, he said. Potential math majors may have been discouraged in the past by stories of a lack of jobs in the field—a situation that no longer exists, Lacey said.

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