



Student Government elections

staff photo by Colin Valentine

Students vote in the Student Government elections in the Memorial Student Center Tuesday afternoon. Voting continues today until 6 p.m. in the MSC and seven other campus locations.

## Student elections to continue today

by Cyndy Davis

Battalion Staff

Today is the last chance for students to vote for more than 175 candidates seeking student leader positions for the 1982-83 school year at Texas A&M University.

Thirty-seven hundred students voted Tuesday, slightly less than last year's first day total, Student Body President Ken Johnson said.

Election Commissioner George Crowson attributed poor voter turnout to Tuesday's bad weather.

"When it began to rain, we had to move some polling places inside where there isn't as much traffic," Crowson said, "I look for a lot more voters tomorrow."

Students who didn't vote Tuesday cited several reasons

why they didn't.

Senior Larry E. Beavers, a building construction major from Houston, said: "I don't know anything about the candidates. A lot of people don't know who they're voting for, and cast votes by looking at posters and signs."

Tony Zinsmeyer, a senior engineering technology major from Dhansis, said: "I just never have voted. I don't know the candidates. As far as I can tell, they don't run on any kind of platform, just on who has the largest campaign posters."

Long lines at polling places, caused by a shortage of election workers and ballots, were a problem today, Crowson said.

Freshman Kevin Tenison, a geography major, agreed. "One reason I'm not voting is

because I don't want to wait in line," Tenison said.

Crowson said: "Tomorrow, we have more people working and on-call. We also printed 200 additional ballots to try to keep lines short."

All students with a valid Texas A&M student I.D. card can vote today.

"I want to stress that graduating seniors can vote," Johnson said.

Polls are open until 6 p.m. at the Academic and Agency Building, Zachry Engineering Center, the Memorial Student Center, Heldenfels Hall, Harrington Classroom Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, Shisa Dining Hall and the Kleberg Animal Center.

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## Zoo director stresses research

by Chris Thayer

Battalion Reporter

Society must demand a change in the treatment of endangered species, or children may never see some animals, the San Diego Zoo director of research and health services said in a speech last night.

The increasing world popu-

lation is currently the main danger facing endangered species, Dr. Kurt Benirschke told members of Sigma Chi, the science honor society.

University help is needed to research and to introduce youth to the problems in zoos, he said.

Benirschke is also professor of pathology and reproductive

medicine at the University of California at San Diego.

Legal problems have made it harder to get animals from other countries, he said. To prevent the extinction of endangered animals, zoos must have self-sustaining populations of these species, Benirschke

said. This is impossible without further research into the diet, reproductive systems and preservation of endangered species, Benirschke said.

Artificial insemination and egg transplantation research one area that needs to be researched. The natal mortality rate of animals in zoos is ten times higher than that of human beings, he said.

Research is also needed to solve some of the unknown fac-

tors in animal reproduction, Benirschke said. No one knows when an elephant is pregnant, or how long its pregnancy should last. Also, some species can't be bred because their sexes can't be determined, he said.

Another problem warranting research is the misuse of animals, Benirschke said.

In the 1940s, billions of passenger pigeons died, although the American people never suspected their extinction. If a species this large becomes extinct, he said, then the 25 remaining Californian condors which

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didn't reproduce this year have little chance of survival.

If solutions are found to these medical problems of captive animals, they could be applied to humans and other animals, Benirschke said.

"The physiology of many animals may have message to tell us, if we listen," Benirschke said.

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