

# Hispanics' vote hard to unite

by Diana Sultenfuss  
Battalion Staff

In every election, Hispanic community leaders proclaim that they must unite the Mexican-American people. But because the group is becoming diversified, leaders are finding it more and more difficult to keep the people voting together.

Reuben Bonilla, general counsel for the League of United Latin American Citizens, said block voting does occur, but will not be a controlling factor in Tuesday's elections.

"Traditionally, the Mexican-Americans are Democratic voters because the Democratic Party identifies more with Hispanic," Bonilla said. "The Republican machinery has by large ignored Hispanic so most Mexican-Americans vote Democratic."

Bonilla, past president of the C. said that probably 70 to 72 percent of the Mexican community

Mark White. Clements has aimed for Hispanic vote," he said. "He done this by putting up equal-appeal billboards, and appointed many Hispanic government positions."

Bonilla said Clements is catering to the Hispanic community for two reasons. First, he said, Clements wants to enrich Hispanic participation in the Republican Party. Second, he said, Clements wants to make inroads into Democratic vote.

Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros said the Mexican-American vote is gaining power because of an increase in the Hispanic population.

According to figures from the Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 57.7 percent of San Antonio citizens are Hispanic.

As Hispanics are becoming more sophisticated and more independent, their voting patterns are changing," Cisneros said. "I expect that in the larger cities like San Antonio, the Mexican-Americans will be voting both Democratic and Republican. But they will be voting for their interests."

Cisneros said it is expected that Hispanics will vote differently as they make economic advances.

"I think it's perfectly natural for this to be happening," he said. "I think it's healthy for the state in every respect. I also believe it's healthy for the Hispanics to know that attention is paid to their needs."

U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzales of San Antonio calls the Mexican-Americans a diverse group.

"San Antonio has historically had a substantial presence of Mexican-Americans, but the group is not homogeneous," Gonzales said.

He said the group has begun to participate more in political and civic processes than it has in the past 30 years. Gonzales said the Mexican-American community has emerged and is now a definite factor in the political equation."

He added: "In San Antonio, we have had substantial demographic changes. The Mexican-Americans were in the ghetto until World War II."

Gonzales said the barriers began breaking down after the war. He said that with the move out of the ghettos came a change in voting patterns.

"This is true of every group in America," he said. "And some of these Hispanics are becoming Republicans. I deplore it — I wish they would stay Democrats. But the overwhelming majority of the community stays with the Democrats."

Bexar County Judge Albert Bustamante said the Mexican-American community is diversified but predominantly votes for Democrats.

Bustamante said the community traditionally unites behind the organization that will support them with social programs.

But Bustamante said the unity of the group is changing because the younger generations are earning money.

"They don't want to share that," he said. "They forgot — they forgot where they got their education."

"We need to understand what brought us to that point. When we say, 'let's cut defense,' or 'let's cut Social Security,' we need to think about our past."

That past has been marked by low voter turnout. Those who did vote supported the Democrats.

Bustamante predicted the Mexican-American community will vote 80 percent to 85 percent Democratic in Tuesday's elections.

"They've really been affected by Reaganomics," Bustamante said. "They're the working class and are being hit the hardest."

Cisneros said the turnout will be heavy in the election because of high interest in the gubernatorial race.

"There is a lot of excitement, not only about the gubernatorial race, but also about the more colorful and exciting races below," he said.

Bonilla said the 800,000 to 850,000 registered Mexican-American voters in Texas could be an important bloc if they are mobilized.

According to statistics from the Southwest Voter Registration Office, 30.1 percent of Hispanic voters in Bexar County voted in the 1978 primaries. The same set of statistics shows 27.2 percent of the registered Mexican-American voters in the state voted.

But Bonilla said he doesn't expect a large turnout in the election.

"The 'magic' isn't there," he said. "Because of a lack of either charisma or lack of identity with the gubernatorial candidates, this election won't get a large turnout."

Gonzales said the Mexican-American vote won't be much different from any other. But he said the turnout will be lower because the election is on Tuesday.

"The Mexican-American is a working element and employers don't always encourage voting," he said.

# Make your vote count Tuesday.

The general election tomorrow will decide several key races that directly affect you and Texas A&M.

If you don't vote, "other people" will determine who will hold these important offices. And you give up your right to have a say in matters that directly affect your university and your personal life.

Registered voters on the Texas A&M campus can have a significant impact Tuesday. Special interests always vote in strength and will do so again this year. But their view may not be the same as students, faculty and staff of Texas A&M.

Take time Tuesday to vote. Let your voice be heard.

## Campus Polling Places (Open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

### IF YOU LIVE IN THESE DORMS:

Clements	Law
Crocker	Legett
Davis-Gary	McFadden
Fermier	McNeese
Fowler	Moore
Haas	Moses
Henderson	Neeley
Hotard	Puryear
Hughes	Schumacher
Keathley	Walton

### VOTE AT COLLEGE STATION MUNICIPAL BUILDING Precinct 35

(Corner of Wellborn and Patricia across from One Potato, Two Potato)

### IF YOU LIVE IN THESE DORMS:

Aston	Goodwin
Bizzell	Hart
Bolton	Krueger
Cain	Milner
Corp Dorms	Mosher
Dunn	Nagle
Francis	Scoates
Gainer	Underwood

### VOTE AT MSC Precinct 20

### IF YOU LIVE OFF CAMPUS

Precinct	Location
37	Bryan Municipal Golf Course
21	Hensel Park Clubhouse
9	College Station Community Center
8	South Knoll Elementary
31	A&M Consolidated High School
32	College Station Fire Station Number Two
10	College Station Police Station
34	College Station Central Fire
24	College Hills Elementary

POLITICAL AD PAID FOR BY COMMITTEES TO ELECT STEVE SMITH, COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE/BETTY MILLER, COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4/HUGH LINDSEY, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 7/JOHN LEVRETTE, COUNTY TREASURER/BOX 9213, COLLEGE STATION, TX 77840

# Miss A&M contest is not all beauty

by Angie Kerr  
Battalion Reporter

While most people think "beauty" when the Miss Texas A&M pageant is mentioned, the executive director of the pageant says it's a scholarship pageant.

Cindy Hollan said she feels that the misconception comes from the swimsuit competition, which is used to see how the contestants carry themselves.

"You can really tell about a girl's poise and you can see how well she keeps herself in shape when she's in a bathing suit," Hollan said. "You can't always tell in an evening gown."

But Hollan said only 20 percent of the competition is based on evening gown and swimsuit competitions. Fifty percent of the pageant is based on talent and 30 percent on interviews.

The winner of the pageant receives a \$1,000 academic scholarship, a one-year membership at Shapeway figure salon and access to a 1983 Cadillac for official appearances. A diamond pendant, shaped like Texas, also will be given to Miss Texas A&M — the pendant is passed down each year to winner.

Hollan said the MSC Hospitality Committee, which sponsors the pageant, has given out more applications this year than ever before. So far, about 100 applications have been handed out and Hollan said 60 to 70 percent of the applications usually are completed.

Although only 20 finalists will be chosen to compete in the pageant, there is enough time to screen 120 contestants.

The last day to turn in an entry form is Friday. Screenings and interviews are scheduled for Nov. 13 and 14.

Head yell leader Tom Joseph and Sheri Ryman, former Miss Texas and Miss Texas A&M, will be master and mistress of ceremonies for the final competition on Feb. 25.



Day students get their news from the Batt.