

Not everyone can adopt a pet

By TAMMY KIRK
Reporter

The black dog lay whining on the gray, cold floor with his tongue lapped over the edge of his mouth. His eyes rolled back in his head, he began to bleed, and then he was still.

Such was the account of Kathy Lewis' experience as she watched a puppy die at the Brazos Animal Shelter last week.

Lewis, a sophomore studying speech communications,

wanted to adopt a puppy from the shelter. She says she and her fiancé were denied the right because they weren't permanent residents, and therefore not fit owners.

"It upset me because I knew I could give it a home," Lewis said. "And after watching that other puppy dying, I knew the puppy I wanted would probably die too."

Kathy Ricker, director of the Brazos Animal Shelter, says that even though the pets at the

shelter need homes, not just anyone can adopt the animals. A commitment must be made on a long-term basis, Ricker said.

"It's a big commitment, like adopting a child," Ricker said. There have been several cases in which the owners who adopted a pet learned their rented apartment or home managers didn't allow animals, or couldn't pay their managers the pet deposit fee, or couldn't take the pets home with them for the summer, Ricker said.

These cases usually result in abandonment, and the animals are left to die from starvation or injuries, Ricker said.

"It is left up to our discretion whether we feel the people who apply for the pets will provide a stable home," she said.

Lewis said she and her fiancé wouldn't have taken the time to be interviewed or to look at the animals if they hadn't had good intentions.

"We really did want the puppy, in fact, we were going to get two," Lewis said. She said she understood the reservations of the animal shelter in wanting to find an appropriate home for the animals, but when they put so many animals to sleep it

made her mad that she had been denied.

In 1983, the Brazos Animal Shelter euthanized 4,614, 72 percent, of 6,404 pets turned in to the shelter. Ricker said that these statistics cannot be used without mentioning that animal control is a national problem. A conservative estimate of the nation's average for euthanization, she said, is 20,000 a week.

Many of the animals that come to the shelter are sick or injured and this accounts for the high death rate, Ricker said.

"We are trying to save our animals from going through the trauma and fear of being abandoned or injured," Ricker said. By interviewing the applicants, Ricker says they can get an idea of how the pet will be cared for.

Questions such as, "Will this animal be a family pet that you plan on keeping for the rest of its life?" and "Where will the animal be kept?" help the shelter determine the status of the prospective owners.

Last year, the abandonment rate for pets was highest during the summer. In June there were over 800 animals turned in at the shelter, and in August there were over 600.

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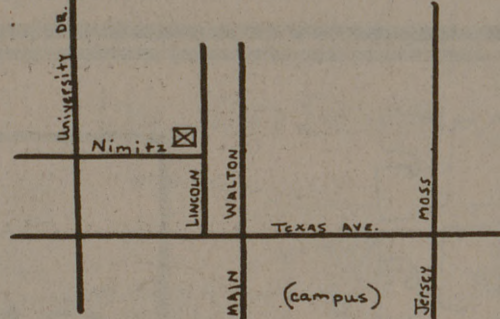
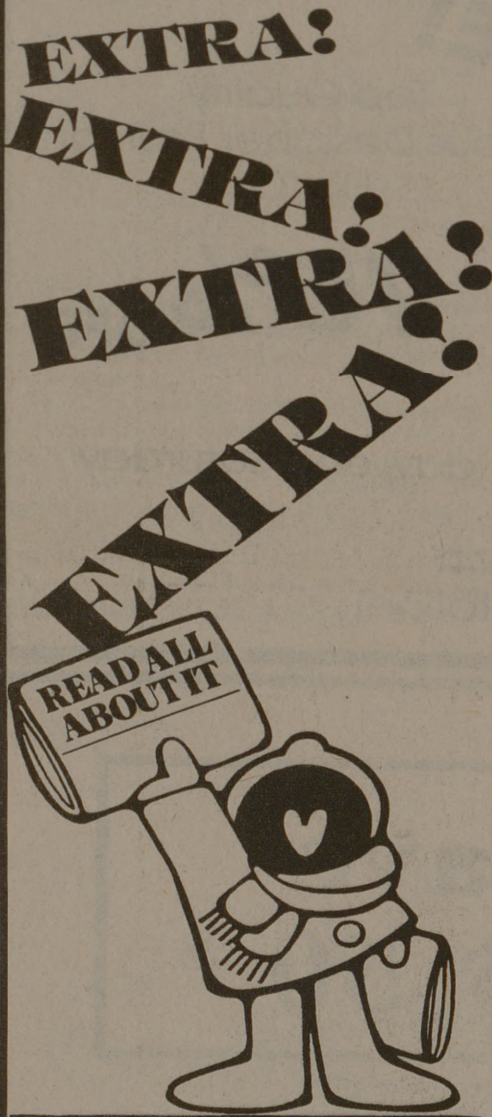
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Poll shows students are conservative

By Tricia Parker
Staff Writer

It should come as a surprise to no one, but a poll conducted by two political science societies on campus has shown that students at Texas A&M are conservative.

David Dunaway, who organized the survey for the Political Science Society and Pi Sigma Alpha, says the results of the poll show that students at Texas A&M are overwhelmingly conservative in their ideology and choice of political parties.

The poll was drawn from the responses to 200 questionnaires. Dunaway said that every effort was made to find a representative sample of students to participate in the survey.

"We tried to ensure a representative sample," he said. "We got breakdowns of the student body by sex, classification, social affiliation and things like that and then sent people out to find them."

Dunaway said he thinks these methods made the survey accurate.

"It's as accurate as you can get without spending \$5,000," he said.

Michael Northrup, president of the Pi Sigma Alpha political honor society, said the poll offered few surprises. He said that in general, education has a liberalizing effect on people. But at Texas A&M the poll shows that students are conservative when they get here and become more so the more educated they become.

The poll showed that 54 percent of seniors and 46 percent of freshman polled were Republicans. The percentage of Democrats increased from 9 to 13 percent from freshman to senior years and the percentage of independents went from 37 percent for freshmen to 28 percent for seniors.

"It could be that A&M has a 'conservatizing' effect on students", Northrup said. "I was surprised though, by the large

number of Republican

"Forty-eight percent they would vote for in November. Something found was that of the cent who said they were Democrat in November of them said they were for Mondale."

Broken down by station, 64 percent of the Corps of Cadets, 85 percent of sorority members and 40 percent of other students were Democrats. Twenty-one percent of the Corps, none of the fraternities and 17 percent of the students were Democrats. Ninety percent of the Corps, 15 percent of the fraternities, and 38 percent of the students were Democrats.

Students are conservative in their ideology as well as their political parties, he showed. Forty-eight percent of those polled considered themselves conservative and 38 percent considered themselves moderates. Only 8 percent were liberals.

Northrup said that he sees nothing wrong with conservative atmosphere. "I think there's a lot of people who are being too conservative," he said. "I think it's good someone promoting the quo or else you might have something worse."

Northrup said that the poll showed that students in the two societies initiated the survey themselves for three reasons. "One is that we think it would be good exposure campus," he said. "We want to make people more aware of what we are around. We also because it is part of the science field to conduct a poll."

"We also wanted to do something substantial. We wanted to make use of our money and we've learned."

Northrup said that the poll was the first one the organization attempted jointly.



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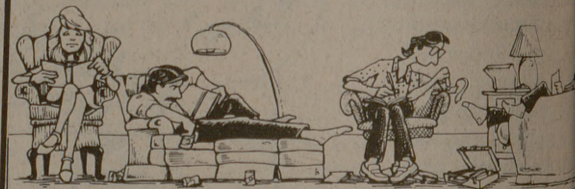
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