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# The Battalion

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## Graduation

### Making it work for A&M seniors

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Staff Writer

This weekend about 3,300 students will graduate from Texas A&M. In other words, 3,300 students will be receiving their diplomas, 3,300 students will have their names printed in the yearbook, 3,300 students' names will be pronounced correctly and on that day 3,300 students will shake the hand of President Frank E. Vandiver. For the registrar's office, the graduation weekend is kicked off with the posting of the senior clear list. If a senior is not cleared to graduate by noon today, he will not walk across the stage Friday or Saturday, says Gardner, assistant registrar.

A concerted effort is made by the registrar's office to make sure seniors graduate. "We're in the business of graduation," Gardner said. "Sometimes the registrar's office has the reputation of trying not to graduate people, but to do everything in the world to get them out of here."

"If students only knew how hard we work to get them out, they might appreciate us more." Noon today may be the deadline for senior clearance, but the weekend has only begun for the registrar's staff.

Diplomas were ordered earlier in the year after students applied for graduation. Once they come back from the printer, the diplomas are proofed for the correct spellings, degrees, majors and dates.

After they are checked, the diplomas are rolled and stacked in the Pabst Hall until the final list of graduates is cleared today. Then the diplomas are stacked, in reverse order, onto a cart especially built for the diplomas. L. Flight and wheeled over to G. Rollie White House for the commencement ceremonies.

To prevent handing the wrong diploma to the wrong student, student's names first are checked before they go up to the stage and once again when they get on the stage. "We might give one wrong diploma out of the three ceremonies," Gardner said.

The commencement programs also are printed after the noon deadline. The final graduation list is taken to the printers to be printed between noon today and the first graduation ceremony Friday.

"There is an awful lot of coordination and a lot of time and effort put in," Gardner said.

Dr. Bryan Cole, associate dean in the College of Education, and Dr. Roger Feldman, associate professor of veterinary medicine, will announce the names of the 3,300 graduates.

Cole and Feldman get the list of students who have applied for graduation in March, Cole said. They divide up the list by colleges and contact students by phone for pronunciations they are not sure about.

"The key is going over it so many times that the entire list is somewhat familiar and making sure there are no surprises," Cole said.

Cole and Feldman get the final list a few hours before graduation. After the students line up for graduation, they find those students whose pronunciations they are not yet sure of and clarify it again.

Cole phonetically spells out names for quick reference during the ceremony, he said. The names are read at a rate of one every four seconds.

Vandiver also takes part in the commencement ceremony by presenting diplomas and shaking hands.

"President Vandiver prides himself in shaking everyone's hand," Gardner said.

Vandiver wears a white golf glove on the hand that he receives the diploma.

"They really pop that diploma in there," Gardner said. The glove prevents Vandiver's hand from getting sore, because with 3,300 diplomas popped into the hand, the hand gets raw, Gardner said.

Texas A&M is one of the few major universities that still gives diplomas at the commencement ceremonies. Texas A&M is also one of the few universities which only lets people who have actually graduated walk across the stage.

"Nobody ever crosses that stage



Photo by KERRI MULLINS

Many graduating seniors gather outside Heaton Hall early Wednesday morning to see if the 'dreaded red dot' is by their name.

"We would hate to see it change," Gardner said. "We hope that, even if seniors have to take their final exams, we can continue with graduation as it is."

Gardner attributes the 95 percent attendance record to these factors. "We try to treat everyone as an individual," Gardner said. "Each one of those diplomas is unique."

"We would hate to see it change," Gardner said. "We hope that, even if seniors have to take their final exams, we can continue with graduation as it is."

## Debate quiet as Democrats gear for Texas

United Press International

DALLAS — The three Democratic presidential candidates Wednesday carefully avoided personal attacks on each other in a debate where they were on the defensive only when questioned sharply by the moderator.

Just three days before Texas caucuses pick the third largest delegation to the Democratic National Convention, Walter Mondale, Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson for the first time took no direct attacks on their rivals.

They found themselves in agreement on many of the issues — amnesty for illegal immigrants who have been in the country a long time, greater recognition of the economic and social needs of the third world, and especially the failures of President Reagan's economic program and foreign policy.

The debate came as the campaign heads into a crucial period in which Mondale could virtually lock up the nomination, especially if he scores a big win in Texas on Saturday and in Ohio's primary next Tuesday.

With 771 more delegates at stake over the next 10 days, the latest UPI count now shows Mondale has 1,212 of the 1,967 delegates needed for nomination, Hart has 644 and Jackson 209.

The candidates seemed pleased with their debate performances, perhaps because none fared poorly. Jackson said the debate was "great" and Mondale said: "The debate helps the Democratic Party ... this was encouraging."

The only spark of hostility came when television reporter Sander Vanocor of ABC, the moderator of the League of Women Voters debate, addressed personal questions to each of the candidates.

Mondale was grilled on the delegate committee he ordered dis-

banded after they had spent thousands in support of his candidacy, and Hart was asked why he should be elected when he has not carried a single industrial state — the political backbone of the Democratic Party.

But the most heat was put on Jackson who was quizzed at length on his refusal to repudiate Louis Farrakhan, the black Muslim minister who made death threats against the black reporter who disclosed Jackson had used the term "hymies" to refer to Jews.

And on this point Mondale and Hart were quick to jump on their rival — whose candidacy they have been reluctant to attack in the past.

Jackson responded that it was enough that he had disassociated himself with Farrakhan's statements. He said he embraced Farrakhan as a matter of religious principle of redemption and forgiveness, just as he had embraced Gov. George Wallace of Alabama and former Gov. Orville Faubus of Arkansas, once two of the nation's most racist public officials.

"Moral leadership is known not for purity and perfection, but redemption," Jackson insisted. "When I reached out for George Wallace and Orville Faubus it was considered growth and maturity ... I will keep bearing whatever scars I must bear to reach out to people."

Mondale and Hart disagreed. "I really thought what Farrakhan said was poison," Mondale said. "I'm a preacher's kid and I believe in redemption, but that was going awful far."

Hart said if Farrakhan "threatened the life of a human being, that's against the law. I don't know why the authorities haven't acted."

## Local congregations worshiping with foreign flair

By WANDA WINKLER  
Reporter

Congregations of the twin cities sing different songs, hear different sermons, unite in different prayer and follow different religious traditions — often vastly different.

You'll find more than white, Anglican and Protestant packing the pews of local churches. Hispanics, Koreans and Chinese are flocking to local churches to worship in their native language and unite with people of their heritage.

Santa Teresa Catholic Church in Bryan sifts about 1,000 Hispanics through its two Spanish masses. But only 300 people attend its one English mass.

"We're trying to preserve the His-

panic flavor," says the Rev. Tom Frank, Santa Teresa's pastor, who speaks Spanish fluently.

Father Frank's congregation is ripe for expansion and has grown by 15 families in the past seven months.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Bryan also has been raking in churchgoers to its Spanish worship service. Planted with a seed of three members, this Latin American group has sprouted to 45 people in the past year.

"People of like backgrounds want to worship together and grow together," says Kent Hall, president of the Spanish group.

Locally, there's a growing need to receive the gospel in Spanish, Hall said. So, the Mormons are reaching out, ministering to Spanish-speaking

people in the area.

Hall predicts the religion boom will remain healthy in the twin cities because he says people learn about change and growth through religion.

There's a chunk of Latin America alive in Bryan, but you'll find more than just a taste of old Mexico at St. Mary's Catholic Church in College Station.

About 170 Latin American Catholics head for St. Mary's on Saturday evenings for a special Spanish mass. The majority of these Spanish-speaking people are students at Texas A&M and members of the Latin American Catholic Student Association, a religious support group at St. Mary's.

Like a pinata that flows with candy and other goodies, this Spanish mass

spreads its treasures — more members — to the area.

The Rev. Leon Strieder, associate pastor of St. Mary's, began this mass with 30 people in December 1982 and has nurtured it to 180 churchgoers.

Strieder, fluent in Spanish, said he enjoys celebrating the mass in Spanish and mixing with the Latin American students. Strieder also meets with these students for weekly Spanish Bible study.

The Spanish heritage is blooming in the twin cities, but local Koreans are on a religious roll, too.

The Korean Church of A&M, a non-denominational Christian congregation, sings, prays and worships in Korean. This church began in 1981 with about 20 Koreans meeting

in Rudder Tower, but it quickly popped the top off Rudder.

Dr. Kwang Ro, a political science professor who is co-founder of the congregation, said his church focuses on serving the religious needs of Korean students at Texas A&M.

The church must be meeting those needs — its membership has grown to 100.

To cope with this growth surge, the Korean church struck a deal with Calvary Baptist Church in Bryan. Calvary Baptist provides the congregation with meeting rooms at no cost; in return, the Koreans donate money for utility expenses.

Ro said his church growth reflects more than just the growth of Korean students at Texas A&M — 100 to 125 Koreans were Aggies in the past

year. This growth also comes from students turning toward religion and desiring spiritual growth because of the times, says Ro, who emigrated from Korea to America in 1955.

And Chinese are getting their share of church too.

The Chinese Fellowship, a non-denominational church, meets for Sunday worship at First Baptist Church in College Station. First Baptist provides a free meeting place for the 80 worshippers, who are mainly Chinese students at Texas A&M.

Although these nationalities have their own special alphabet, each acts like a magnet that attracts and bonds people in a common goal — to worship God and support their neighbors down a religious path of life.

## Finances hinder international students

By MELISSA ADAIR  
Assistant City Editor

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on international students at Texas A&M.

Last year the money stopped coming for Josue Leos.

He was on a scholarship from a university in Mexico to study entomology at Texas A&M University and all of a sudden there was no more money. His professors tried to get the scholarship renewed but couldn't.

Fortunately, for Leos, his professors offered him a research assistantship so he could finish his doctorate. He expects to finish sometime this year.

Of the almost 2,200 international

students at Texas A&M, most have enough money to complete their studies in the United States. But because of the economic turmoil in some countries, this situation may not continue. Already a few international students have had to leave Texas A&M without a degree after many years of schooling. There was no more money.

Internationals from Mexico can testify to this. Tina Watkins, international student adviser at Texas A&M, said that last year about 15 Mexican students had to go back to their country simply because they or their parents could no longer afford school.

"It's extremely embarrassing for them to go home without a degree," Watkins said. Their family and

friends are so proud and excited when they leave to study in the United States, she said, and the students feel empty-handed if they go home without a degree.

And many of the 160 or so Mexican students still here are trying frantically to finish their degrees before the peso devalues further.

Some Mexican students are taking 22 hours or more so they can finish their degrees before the money situation in their country gets any worse, Watkins said.

"I'm really in a hurry to get out now," Leos said.

About three years ago 20 Mexican pesos was the equivalent of one U. S. dollar. Now it takes almost 170 pesos to equal one dollar — a 750 percent increase.

The University estimates that it costs about \$10,200 annually for an international to come to Texas A&M for one year — that's 1.73 million Mexican pesos for just one student, for just one year.

And the situation in Bolivia isn't much better.

Ivo Luis Lopez, a junior agricultural engineer from Bolivia, said he was fortunate that he could come here. He has an aunt in Houston that offered to help him with expenses so he could come to the United States to study.

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## In Today's Battalion

### Local

• Finding a hotel in the area for graduation may be next to impossible this late. See story page 3.

• Young Americans for Freedom, a conservative political group, forming in time to attend the Republican convention. See story page 4.

### State

• Democratic party chairman sees possible Hart upset Saturday. See story page 5.

• Tornado season's peak month opens with violent storms. See story page 9.