

# Registration of voters made easier at A&M

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Staff Writer

Resulting from the recommendation of Governor Mark White, voter registration will be made easier for Texas A&M employees. In a recent letter to state agency heads, White encourages state agencies to commit manpower to provide voter registration to Texans.

Following White's suggestion, Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver has announced that voter registration materials are now available in the Personnel Department on the second floor of the YMCA building.

"We want to make registering to vote among the most accessible services provided by state government to agency employees and clients," White said in the letter. "Since 1960, citizen involvement in the electoral process has declined. Such non-participation strikes at the very roots of our democratic system of government. With large blocks of citizens not participating, it becomes

impossible for government to act in their interest. As more people abstain from stating political choices, the range of opinion and debate in our representative form of government narrows."

Vandiver supports White's recommendation, and said he also feels voter registration should be made as easy as possible.

"After all, a democracy mostly depends on its electorate," Vandiver said. "We need a broader electoral base for the consensus we need."

All vice presidents, deans, directors and department heads have been directed to pick up a supply of voter registration forms for their department and to make employees aware of the opportunity to register.

The service has been well received by the employees, Charles Gillespie, assistant director of the personnel department, said.

"A lot of people have picked

them (the cards) up," Gillespie said. "I mean a whole lot."

The University originally ordered 3,000 registration forms and may have to order more.

"We've been surprised that so many people are taking advantage of it," Margaret A. Smith, assistant for management analysis to the vice president for fiscal affairs, said.

The office of the vice president for Fiscal Affairs was responsible for ordering the registration forms.

Voter registration cards also will be available for employees, students and visitors at the Visitor Information Center in Rudder Tower, the Memorial Student Center hotel desk and the Admissions and Records Office.

"Employees should understand that their voter registration service shall be scrupulously non-partisan," White said. "This policy follows the legislative directive in the Texas Election Code which encourages state employees to register eligible citizens."

# Time management an asset for success in academics

By KIM JENSEN  
Reporter

You had good intentions when you strapped yourself in the chair to pour over Chemistry 101 all night, but when Joe knocked on the door and asked you to grab a few beers at the Chicken, your Chemistry 101 faded into the zone of unfinished homework.

Balancing a social life with a full academic schedule is a mystery to some students, but effective time management can mean the difference between a successful semester or scholastic probation.

Dr. Anne C.P. Schroer, counseling psychologist at the Student Counseling Center at Texas A&M, said students who do not follow a time schedule probably are headed for academic disaster.

"A lot of wishful thinking goes on, especially for freshmen students with their new feelings of independence," she said.

Schroer said a mistake many students make is just allowing things to happen and hoping everything works itself out in the long run, instead of being in charge of their time. She advises students to monitor their time for one week and then draw up a schedule with slots for sleeping, eating, studying and working. Looking at this, students can tell where to tighten their schedule to accomplish everything.

"I see time management very much like being on a diet," Schroer said. "It takes a few weeks of making mistakes before everything begins to fall in place. By the fourth week things should begin to feel natural."

The Student Counseling Center in the YMCA Building conducts study skills clinics twice a week throughout the semester to help students learn to find time for study and fun.

Schroer said approximately 30 students take advantage of these

weekly sessions. If a student wants additional help after the clinic, peer counselors are available to work on a one-to-one basis.

Each summer, the center sends counselors to Fish Camp to give seminars on effective time management and study skills.

Students have found many benefits from using the counseling center's advice.

Belton Lim, a senior industrial engineering major from Houston, pledgee master for the Alpha Phi Omega service organization, member of the Kappa Sigma social fraternity and part-time employee at Rumours, said students should join something they are really interested in and then plan all events on a calendar.

"If you spread yourself too thin, you're not going to do a good job at any of it," Lim said.

# Radioactive gas cloud dissipates

United Press International

AIKEN, S.C. — A mile-wide cloud of radioactive tritium oxide gas released by an accident at the Energy Department's top-secret Savannah River Plant dissipated harmlessly into the atmosphere Monday, plant officials said.

The tritium oxide gas — a key ingredient of hydrogen bombs — escaped Sunday night and drifted northward over the South Carolina Piedmont.

Neither the 300-square mile plant nor the nearby city of Aiken was evacuated and SRP spokesman Cliff Webb said only trace amounts of radiation reached the ground.

Plant officials said the radiation dose at the border of the facility which produces tritium and plutonium for America's nuclear arsenal was estimated at 7 millirem — about a third the dose in a chest X-ray.

"In terms of it being a threat, it was not a threat from the beginning," Webb said. "But in terms of what had been released previously, it was significant."

Plant officials refused to reveal details of the accident, but said the radioactive cloud was released when

a liquid by-product of the tritium oxide production process accidentally spilled and evaporated in a plant building.

Richard Tait, SRP's tritium operations supervisor, said the spill occurred in a matter of seconds and radioactive gas was released for 90 minutes.

Two workers in the room where the spill occurred were tested for radiation, but officials said protective suits kept them from absorbing dangerous levels of tritium.

"The nature of the incident that occurred is under investigation at this point. Due to classification, we really can't get into details of the incident," said Joseph Spencer, general technical superintendent for Dupont, which operates the tritium division at SRP.

Tait said the largest previous release of tritium in March 1981 produced a dosage estimated at .3 millirem, about 25 times less radiation than Sunday night's accident.

The radioactive cloud from the plant on the Savannah River was blown northward by 9 mph winds and was charted by computers. Officials said the gas cloud was a half-

mile wide when it reached Aiken and the dosage had decreased to 2 to 3 millirem.

About five hours after the gas release, the cloud had traveled 100 miles and was about one mile wide, Webb said.

"The dose to a person standing at the plant boundary throughout the release is estimated 7 millirem by computer calculations," an SRP statement said. "By comparison the dose for a chest X-ray is about 20 millirem."

Kitty Tucker of the Washington-based Health and Energy Institute said the type of radiation emitted by tritium makes the severity of the accident hard to gauge.

"Beta radiation does not penetrate the outer layer of skin, but once it's in the body, either by being eaten or inhaled, it concentrates in the reproductive organs," she said.

"In lab tests they've found reduced fertility in animals exposed to tritium in water and food. It's possible you'd not see these effects in humans for many, many years, but such a release can't be regarded as not harmful to humans," she said.

Service fraternity hopes to raise \$2,000

# APO works for handicapped

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Reporter

Alpha Phi Omega members are planning to give an extra "push" to the handicapped in October.

About 60 of the service fraternity members will push wheelchairs from College Station to Bear Creek Park in Houston in an effort to raise money for handicapped students at Texas A&M.

The group will leave campus on Oct. 12. Each participant will push for about four hours before being relieved.

They hope to arrive in Houston at 8 p.m. on Oct. 13, after camping overnight in Hempstead. The 90-mile trip will take about 35 hours if

the members push 2.75 mph, said Mark Board, the chairman of the project.

On Oct. 14, the participants will meet at the Astrodome for the Texas A&M — University of Houston football game to celebrate their accomplishment.

"We are doing the push to raise money for the handicapped students on our campus, but we look forward to the idea of expanding to other campuses," Board said.

One of APO's goals for the project is to increase awareness about the handicapped.

"Awareness is very important,"

said Rhonda Rubin, assistant chairman of the push. "Most people don't know about the handicapped. If people know what they go through maybe they will give an 'extra push' to help them out."


The group hopes to raise at least \$2,000 from donations.

"The first \$2,000 will go for wheelchair parts," said Dr. Charles W. Powell, coordinator of handicapped and veteran services on campus. "If additional money is raised, it will go into an account set up for handicapped students and attendants. If they need money for school purposes, they can borrow from this account."

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