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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Hispanic vote major factor

By PAMELA WENTWORTH
Reporter

"We'll see the largest turnout of Hispanic voters that we've ever seen in our election history," Andy Hernandez, speaker for the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, said Tuesday.

MSC Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture met with Hernandez to discuss recent trends in Hispanic political participation.

"Evidence indicates that Hispanics are in the process of transforming political life in this nation today," Hernandez said. In the states critical for the presidential electoral votes in the 1984 election, Hispanics registered to vote are a decisive factor, he said.

More than 4.4 million registered Hispanics are predicted to vote this year — a significant increase from the past two elections, Hernandez said, and about 1 million of them reside in Texas.

The number one issue among the Hispanic community voters is unemployment and subemployment. The second concerns the quality of education, and the third involves social programs, Hernandez said.

"Once you hold all these variables constant, there is no gap between Anglo-Americans and Mexican-Americans," he said.

Hernandez stressed the need for enforcing the laws already in the books and having a more humane approach when dealing with immi-

gration. "We are the only people that have to prove our citizenship," he said.

SVREP is a non-profit organization committed to raising the level of political participation of Hispanics and other minorities in the Southwest.

"Our commitment is to give the Hispanic communities the tools and resources to make a political impact on their lives and their future generations," Hernandez said. By doing this, "We feel it will give people a chance to have a voice in promoting future advancement for the Hispanic community," he said.

SVREP is an on-going project and has been around for 10 years, Carlos Cavazos, director of resources for CAMAC, said.

"It is the most organized voter registration drive either a Hispanic or Black organization has ever taken on in the United States," he said.

"Within the next five years, the United States will be the fifth largest Spanish speaking culture in the world," Cavazos said.

Because of these increasing figures, Cavazos believes that CAMAC will be an important organization at Texas A&M.

"It is comprised of all classes, with a lot of influx of freshman, and is more structured than it's ever been before," he said.

CAMAC has been in existence for about seven years. It is designed to promote Mexican-American culture at A&M.



Catch the Light, Catch the Fair

Water-filled prisms are only one of the many crafts for sale at the Memorial Student Crafts Fair at Rudder Fountain. Here,

Kirk Houser of Bastrop prices his water prisms. The fair will continue through today.

Local group speaks against nuclear arms race

By WALTER SMITH
Reporter

The nuclear arms race. It's a critical national and global concern.

A group of Texas A&M students and local residents have banded together to demonstrate their discontent with the current situation. They are collectively known as the Brazos Valley Peace Action.

"The nuclear arms problem is so large you feel you can't control it," said Kris Parsons, a member of BVPA. "A lot of people, me included, are tempted to give up. But another part of me says, 'Wait a min-

ute! I'm a part of this world and I feel a responsibility.' Especially in the U.S., we have a responsibility to speak up and tell our government what we want."

Brazos Valley Peace Action was started in December 1982 by 12 concerned people.

In its monthly newsletter, BVPA is defined as "a community organization committed to peace and social justice through non-violent action and education. Members represent a diversity of backgrounds, religions and ethical philosophies that share a common goal of peace."

The main goal of BVPA is education, Parsons said.

"A lot of people are intimidated with all the technical stuff involved with the arms race," she said. "There's a lot of literature and brochures that we make available that explain things to people very simply."

In their monthly meetings at the College Station Community Center, members discuss possible protest actions and plan fund-raising projects and guest speakers. About 50 members attend each monthly meeting.

"I have managed to learn enough about the arms race to be even more

frightened," Parsons said. "The better educated you become about it, the more you see that the experts and leaders that we are depending on to do all the right things don't always know what's happening."

"Certainly nobody can predict the future. We are the ones who are going to suffer from someone else's mistake or misjudgement, no matter how innocent their intentions."

BVPA has sponsored several actions, including a demonstration last spring at the College Station Westinghouse plant. Members often join other groups in the community to protest issues such as world hunger

and human rights, Parsons said.

Because the BVPA is not directly affiliated with any national organization, it must raise funds for operating expenses through donations, garage sales and other money-making projects.

"I was a teenager in the 60s," she said, "and I flat can't understand why young people aren't interested in these subjects enough to get out there and start protesting and ask the government some really hard questions like, 'Do you guys really know what you're doing?'"

"College is a time of questioning,

and I think BVPA gets young people to think about these issues from another point of view. I would just like to see students questioning a little bit more and not blindly follow authority, especially here at Texas A&M where authority figures are respected maybe a little more than they should be."

Student Peace Action, a University-recognized off-shoot of BVPA, is presenting Don Clark, a retired Air Force colonel who formerly was involved with defense planning at the Pentagon. Clark will speak Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

UPI problem at Battalion

The Battalion has not had United Press International wire service since Sunday due to problems with transmission. UPI in Dallas sends transmission from Dallas to radio station WTAW via satellite, and The Battalion receives the stories from WTAW via phone lines. The problem is a local one, lying in the phone lines or computer equipment.

A&M EDCl majors 'have nothing to worry about'

By JERRY OSLIN
Reporter

Teachers in public schools have been under fire recently because of their reported "incompetence" to teach, but Texas A&M education graduates and undergraduates have little to worry about, an A&M professor said Friday.

"We start from a premise that a quality program attracts quality students," said Dr. William Peters, head of the Department of Education and Curriculum Instruction.

Before a student officially is ac-

cepted into Ed.C.I., he must pass an English proficiency exam and the state-required Pre-Professional Skills Test — which measures abilities in reading, writing and math.

Once in the department, students must maintain a 2.25 grade-point ratio overall and a 2.25 in their area of specialization.

Starting in 1986, graduates wanting to teach in public schools must pass an exit exam testing their competency in their area of specialization.

Peters said tests and grade-point

ratios are not the only ways a student's competency is measured. He said students are monitored in the Ed.C.I. classroom to see if they have any problems that might hinder their teaching ability.

If a student has an inability to communicate or to relate with others, the department would suggest additional speech classes or other means that would help him with that problem, Peters said.

"We (the Ed.C.I. department) have such high standards because the teaching profession deals with

the minds of our young people.

"The medical profession might deal with the physical well-being, but the teaching profession deals with the mental well-being. When it comes to life and death, we feel that mental well-being is just as important as physical well-being."

Peters said one of the practical benefits of having higher standards is the high graduate placement rate. Ninety-five percent of A&M graduates who pursue teaching jobs are

hired almost immediately upon graduation.

Another benefit is that graduates have a better understanding of the realities of teaching and are more self-confident when they begin teaching.

"I'm not saying that our graduates are master teachers upon graduation," Peters said. "I'm saying we produce a solid, well-rounded product that can go into the public schools and very effectively teach a group of students."

Space future for U.S. looks good

By KIM JENSEN
Reporter

The past 20 years of space research and travel have seen growth from small three-man space modules to final designs on construction of a 16-man to 18-man space station, Maynard Dalton, senior design engineer for NASA, said Tuesday.

The Iowa State University graduate spoke to a group of engineering students in the Zachry Engineering Center last night during a meeting of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

"The United States is behind the Soviet Union in many aspects of

space research, but is ahead in several other key spots," Dalton said.

He said the next 10 years will be very good ones for the United States in terms of space travel. He cited a lack of appropriate funding in the past as the main reason for the United States falling behind other countries in space research.

Dalton said it is lucky NASA did not try to fly the first space station he designed in 1963.

"We were very naive then," he said. "We would have had to had very small astronauts or packed

them like sardines for the thing to work."

Dalton has been with NASA for 20 years. His first designs were large enough to accommodate a galley, a sleeping room and an experimental equipment storage area.

Dalton said the crew quarters in the space modules were about as large as a Volkswagen's front seat.

Dalton said the late 1960's brought about new concepts in advanced space design engineering when technologists began dealing with zero gravity levels. He said artificial gravity problems plagued

space research before then.

Dalton said it was not until three years ago however, that NASA officials began looking at operational space stations. He said plans for a "space service station" culminated this summer.

Dalton said the United States' first large space station is scheduled to fly in 1992. He said virtually every aerospace organization and materials processing center in the United States has expressed interest in working with NASA to develop future space stations.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- State Rep. Neeley Lewis to discuss the Permanent University Fund at tonight's Student Senate meeting. See story page 4.
- President Vandiver's wife calls herself a people watcher. See story page 4.

State

- The chairman of a company that is a 25 percent partner in the South Texas Nuclear Power Plant is optimistic about the plant's future. See story page 7.