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## STATE AND LOCAL

### Texas Poll surveys lifestyles

By **WAYNE L. GRABEIN**  
Reporter

A 20-minute telephone conversation for most people is a fairly common occurrence, but for the Texas Poll, it is essential.

The Texas Poll is a survey of Texans' views about politics, policies and lifestyles and is conducted quarterly by Texas A&M's Public Policy Resources Laboratory.

The poll is sponsored by Harte-Hanks Communications Inc.

"The Texas Poll primarily asks questions with a policy impact," says Dr. David Hill, the poll director and an associate professor of political science.

Hill said the poll could have an effect on policy and politics by making legislators more aware of Texans' viewpoints.

Topics such as abortion and nuclear waste are some of the issues addressed by the poll.

Poll results have provided several significant findings, both for and about Texans.

For example, newcomers to Texas—those who have lived in Texas for less than 10 years—have brought a more liberal view with them, but also have increased overall membership in the state's Republican party.

This simultaneous increase could be explained, Hill said, by the recent migration of both conservative white-collar workers and liberal blue-collar workers.

Most recently, the poll results revealed a majority of Texans want a change in the Blue Law.

The Texas Blue Law restricts stores from selling certain items on consecutive weekend days.

Additional space on the questionnaire is sold to private interest groups or firms to help offset the cost of producing the poll, said Dave Mayes, managing editor of the Bryan-College Station Eagle and of the Texas Poll. Harte-Hanks publishes the Eagle.

Although the poll does not carry market research questions, it will deal with lifestyles since it can affect policy and business strategy, Hill said.

"About how many hours of sleep do you get each day?" and "Do you usually salt your food before tasting it?" are examples of lifestyle questions asked by the Texas Poll.

"It's the only poll I know of where small organizations might find out information without the high cost of the independent polls," Mayes said.

Hill said a firm or group can purchase a question on the poll for \$500 a question.

A few of the more prominent firms that purchase question space in the poll are Scott & White Hospital in Temple, the Texas Daily Newspaper Association and MCI Telecommunications.

Mayes is in charge of the production and marketing of the Texas Poll.

Once the surveys have been completed and interpreted, Mayes and two assistants put the information into newsletter form and release the information to news media.

More than 30 news organizations across the state subscribe to the poll, Mayes said.

The largest subscribers are the Dallas Morning News, the Houston Chronicle, and KTRK-TV in Houston.

Based on the frequent use of poll stories by subscribing editors, Mayes said the Texas Poll had a successful first year.

Hill said, each poll surveys about 1,000 Texas adults. With a sample of this size, the poll's results could vary 3 percentage points either above or below the given result, he said.

A cross-section of the population is always used for the surveys to prevent the sampling of a specific population.

The telephone polls are conducted by a private, professional polling firm in Houston. All the calls are made within two weeks.

### Around town

#### Aggie Red Cross needs instructors

The Aggie Red Cross Club is looking for instructors who are currently certified or would like to become certified in CPR or Standard First Aid. If you are currently a certified Red Cross First Aid or CPR instructor and would like to teach or are interested in helping with classes this semester there will be a meeting tonight in 232 G. Rolfe White at 6 p.m. For details and more information, call Ann McGowan at 845-2202.

#### Big Event looking for job requests

Bryan-College Station area residents and businesses are encouraged to submit job request for the Big Event, a four-hour service project sponsored by Student Government. More than 5,000 Aggies will participate in the project on March 2. To place a job request, contact Maritza Pena at 845-3051 in the Student Government Office.

#### Students may nominate professors

Forms for the Former Students Association Distinguished Awards for teaching may be picked up in 802 Harrington Tower. Students may nominate liberal arts professors for teaching, student relations and staff/faculty awards. Nominations are also being accepted for the 1985 "Preferred Prof Award". This award, sponsored by the Cap & Gown Senior Honor Society, is presented each year to a faculty member exhibiting outstanding qualities of service, leadership and scholarship. Nominations are due Friday by 5 p.m. in 208 Pavilion.

#### Law school scholarships offered to Aggies

Three tuition-free scholarships are being offered to Texas A&M students wishing to study law at Baylor University. These are the Joseph Milton Nance scholarships available for first year law students and renewable in the second and third years if the recipient maintains a C+. Only students who have done all or most of their pre-law work at Texas A&M will be eligible. At the time of applying for scholarship the student must have applied or be in the process of applying to Baylor Law School. The application deadline is Feb. 8. For forms and additional information, contact Dr. J.M. Nance at the History Dept. in Harrington Tower.

#### Senior honor society accepting members

Applications are now being accepted for membership into Cap & Gown Senior Honor Society. Qualifications include a 3.25 GPA, 75 hours completed by Jan. 1, 1985 and active involvement in scholarship, leadership and service activities. Information sheets available in Cap & Gown cubicle on the 2nd floor of the Pavilion, the library and at information sessions held Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder. Applications are due on Feb. 8 by 5 p.m. in 110 YMCA.

#### Masquerade Ball scheduled Friday

The Class of '86 will present a Masquerade Ball on Friday from 8 p.m.-midnight. Tickets are \$10 per couple and on sale now at the MSC.

#### Duchesses needed for Cotton Pageant

Applications are now available for duchesses to the 51st Annual Cotton Pageant. Any campus organization is invited to enter a contestant, as well as sororities and fraternities. The winner receives a \$500 scholarship to TAMU. Entry fee is \$40. The pageant will be held March 29 and 30. For applications and information, call Patrice at 764-7133.

#### Writing contest accepting entries

The Texas A&M Writing Contest will be accepting poetry and short stories from graduate and undergraduate students from Feb. 4-15. Entries can be sent through the campus or delivered directly to the English Department mailroom. Address entries to: The Texas A&M Writing Contest. Students may submit up to three poems and/or one short story. All entries must be typed and must not include student's name on the poems or short stories. A 3x5 index card should include name, address and phone number. The contest will publish up to 15 poems and up to 5 short stories, available April 12.

#### Driving course offered this week

Uniontech Inc. is sponsoring a defensive driving course Friday and Saturday at the Brazos Center, 3232 Briarcrest Dr. in Bryan. Class will be held 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. The course can be used for traffic ticket dismissal or 10% reduction on most automobile insurance policies. The cost is \$20 cash. Registration is at the door. Call 693-1322 for more information.

#### Initiation meeting held for engineers

Spring initiation meeting for the National Engineering Honor Society will be held Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in 103 Zachry. This honor society is open to junior engineering students who have a GPA of 3.5 and taken two 300 level engineering courses and seniors who have an overall 3.25 and taken two 400 level engineering courses. Anyone who feels they meet these qualifications must attend the Feb. 4 meeting. Tau Beta Pi has inducted over 284,000 members and A&M has the largest chapter in the nation. For information, call Walter Gosage at 696-5867.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

## Come to Matamoros for dinner.

Imagine dining on a veranda overlooking the ocean, a cool Mexican breeze blowing in your face. Taste guacamole with just the right amounts of tomato and lemon, and enchiladas so full of melted cheese that they are about to explode. Feast upon tamales, spicy tacos, rice and of course, frijoles. Now you could go to coastal Mexico for these delicacies. Or you can come to Matamoros Night at the Padre Cafe.



### Matamoros Night

\$3.95 every Thursday from 5-close

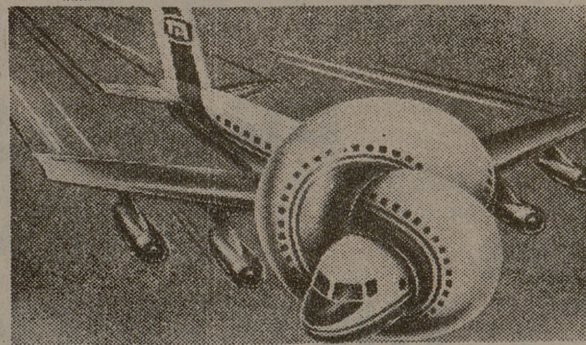


### Romancing The Stone

Friday and Saturday Feb. 1 & 2  
7:30 p.m. & 9:45 p.m.  
Rudder Theatre  
\$ 2.00 w/ TAMU ID.

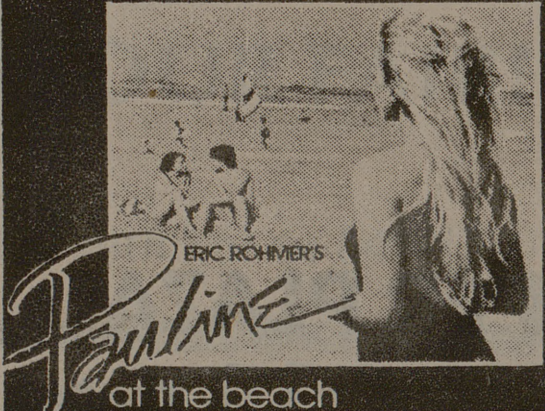


The pilot said N.Y.-  
The navigator said L.A.-  
The stewardess said  
she'd go both ways.



Friday & Saturday  
Feb. 1 & 2  
Midnight  
Rudder Theatre  
\$ 1.50 w/ TAMU ID.

"DELIGHTFUL...a film of summer sunlight, bare skin and escalating amorous misunderstandings - wit and irony abound" -David Ansen NEWSWEEK



### Pauline at the Beach

Sunday, February 3  
7:30 p.m.  
Rudder Theatre  
\$ 2.50 w/ TAMU ID

## Holiday renamed for 1986

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Senators voted Wednesday to declare April 21, 1986, as Texas Sesquicentennial Day in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the state's independence from Mexico.

April 21 currently is San Jacinto Day, and the law provides public state offices may be closed.

In changing the name of the holiday for next year only, this bill by Sen. Lindon Williams, D-Houston, would require state offices to close.

The optional holiday has commemorated the Battle of San Jacinto, a decisive victory in 1835 by the Texas forces over the Mexican Army.

Williams' measure was sent to the

House on a 29-0 vote.

Also approved 29-0 was a bill that would authorize the state treasury department to invest in bank certificates of deposit, and certificates guaranteed by Federal Home Loan Banks and the Federal National Mortgage Association.

The Legislative Budget Board estimated the broader investment authority would add \$3.7 million to the state general revenue fund in 1986-87, and also would yield an extra \$3 million for other state funds.

Other Senate bills approved and sent to the House would:

- Allow doctors or their "authorized agents" to order prescriptions for "dangerous drugs" over the tele-

phone. The physician must maintain a written list of authorized agents and provide the list to pharmacists on request.

- Make it easier for federal employees to be compensated for jury service.

Wednesday several legislators had different forecasts as to when a winter storm was supposed to hit Austin, and Pasadena Sen. Chet Brooks who traditionally makes the adjournment motion, said, "Frankly, I don't know" about the weather.

The Senate decided not to adjourn Wednesday for a long weekend but to wait until at least Thursday, when they hoped to have a better forecast.