

Slouch



"We probably ought to put the kerosene in something besides a coffee pot, but I guess it doesn't matter now."

Migration of people to Texas down

COLLEGE STATION — The number of people moving from other U.S. states into Texas is down for the first time in more than 10 years, a Texas A&M University demographer said Wednesday.

About 32,000 people immigrated to Texas from other states between 1982 and 1984, said Steve Murdock, professor and head of the Department of Rural Sociology in Texas A&M's College of Agriculture.

Murdock said the latest "in-migration" figures are "down considerably" from the 300,000 people who moved to Texas from other states in the first part of this decade. About 170,000 people moved into Texas from other states during the 1970s, he said.

"The state's population is continuing to grow from births and in-migration, but the rate of growth in most places is substantially lower than before," he said.

Harris and Montgomery counties actually had a net loss of residents to other states, "a pattern which has not occurred for at least a decade and a half," he said.

Murdock, using figures from the U.S. Bureau of the Census information, said Houston, Bryan-College Station and Odessa are among the Texas cities experiencing the largest declines in the number of residents moving into their areas.

In 1980-82, the rate of in-migration to Houston was 8.5 percent, compared to .13 percent in 1982-84. The rate of in-migration to Bryan-College Station dropped from 12.5 percent in 1980-82 to 5.9 percent in 1982-84. Odessa's rate dropped from 12.7 percent to 3.6 percent during the same period, he said.

"Of the state's 26 metropolitan statistical areas," he said, "sixteen showed declines in net in-migration while most of the others had insignificant changes," he said. "There's no doubt that the areas showing the most substantial downturns are those dependent on gas and oil."

Among the cities where the number of residents moving in is gaining significantly are: Austin, which had a 6 percent rate of in-migration in 1980-82 and an 8 percent rate in 1982-84; and Waco, with a rate of .9 percent in 1980-82 and 2.7 percent in 1982-84. Amarillo also continues to gain residents from out of state, with a 1.5 percent in-migration rate in 1980-82 and 3 percent for the next two-year period.

Mont Belvieu officials seek White's help with industries

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Mont Belvieu city officials Wednesday asked Gov. Mark White to help them persuade oil companies to buy homes near an underground gas storage site where a recent explosion killed two men.

"I wouldn't say I'm more encouraged than before," Mont Belvieu Mayor Fred Miller said after the closed-door session with White. "We'll wait for the governor to come back and see what he has to say."

The governor said he was going to get with the companies to talk about the possibility of their buying out homeowners in the area, according to Miller.

"I think he (White) understands the problem better in Mont Belvieu," said Miller, adding that White promised to get back with city officials within 10 days. "He appreciates the position the people are in. He indicated he would do whatever he could. He has to look at the problem to see what he can do."

"I don't know what the state's role could be," the mayor said. "All we want out of the state and out of the governor is some help to get the people to the table to do what they should have done five or 10 years ago, which is take care of the problem they created and get the people off the hill."

The city is preparing a \$125 million damage suit against industries in the Southeast Texas refinery town.

Mont Belvieu, 30 miles northeast of Houston, is perched atop one of the world's largest salt domes. A dozen oil companies store gases used in petrochemical production in the dome.

The Nov. 5 blast at the Warren Petrochemical Co. plant occurred when an underground pipeline ruptured, spewing ethane, propane, isobutane and gasoline and triggering a series of explosions and a blaze that took firefighter six hours to control.

Future for Fort Worth shelter uncertain

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — A shelter for transients may be doomed following the refusal of City Council to help it buy an old school building as a permanent home.

More than 30 churches pooled resources last year to open the Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County.

The Rev. Robert W. Bohl, chairman of the shelter board, said the 220 homeless people who now patronize the shelter will be forced

back into the streets if the shelter is shut down.

But his request for \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant money to help buy the old school building was rejected by the council.

Three local foundations and two banks had said they would consider contributing the remaining \$437,000 needed to buy the property if the council agreed to give the shelter the \$100,000 in grant funds, Bohl said.

"The council's action could easily be interpreted as a lack of support for the homeless here," said Bohl. "I think I got caught up in politics."

Councilman Jim Bagsby argued Tuesday that the shelter, which is in his district, would create further economic hardships on his constituents.

Bagsby and Mayor Pro Tem Bert Williams said they favored giving the money instead to a joint venture between the Black Historical and Genealogical Society of Tarrant County and the Burrell and Son Co. that could create jobs.

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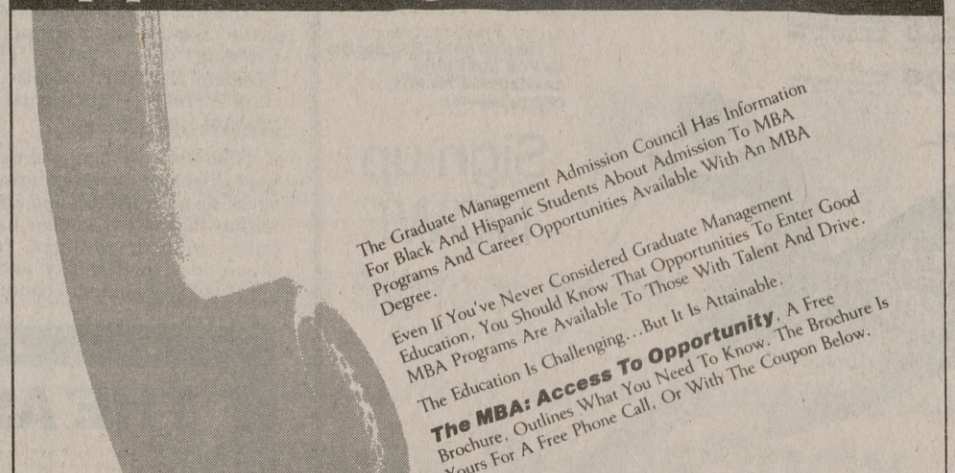
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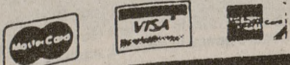
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