

## State and Local

# Tutors fighting high rate of illiteracy in vicinity

By Suna Purser  
Reporter

If you're reading this story, consider yourself lucky.

At least 20 percent of Brazos Valley residents are illiterate — 5 percent above the national average — says Margaret Scott, coordinator of the Brazos Valley Adult Literacy Council.

And she says the actual illiteracy rate may be as high as one in three people.

Scott, an interdisciplinary education graduate student at Texas A&M, is responsible for overseeing the group's programs by matching students with tutors and conducting tutor workshops.

"We recruit tutors by placing ads on television and radio, in newspapers and by getting referrals from clubs and organizations," she said. "Volunteers range from professionals to housewives and students. Most are reading enthusiasts and are very anxious to get involved."

Volunteers fill out a one-page application which asks questions about their availability for tutoring and their special skills, such as knowing a second language or having experience with handicapped people.

She keeps a list of volunteers and announces a tutoring workshop when several names have been gathered.

Workshops, which usually are held on Saturdays and last about three hours, take place every two to three months, she said.

"We trained 40 volunteers on Jan. 24," she said. "Since September of last year, we've had 200 volunteers."

During the tutor training, volunteers are told about an "undereducated" person's anxieties about not being able to read. Then, various approaches to teaching reading are explained, she said.

The council uses three methods of teaching. In the "language experience" method, a student talks about a familiar subject, and the tutor writes it down in the student's exact words.

Together, the student and the tu-

tor read what's been written three times, and then the student reads it back to the tutor. Since the student's own words and experiences are familiar, word recognition is improved, she said.

"Sight reading" involves making flash cards of common words such as "the" or "and." Students begin to recognize words by sight with this method, she said.

The third practice uses phonics, by teaching students the usual sounds of letters or groups of letters, she said.

The program is designed for individual instruction, she said. Students set their own goals and pace, and are free to stay in the program as long as they want.

Students range in age from 18 to 75, with personal goals just as wide. Some want to pursue an education while others want to be able to sign a check in the grocery store, she said.

"The majority are in the 20 to 30 age range," Scott said. "Many have a high school diploma, are unemployed, married, and have a family."

"People are scared to death. They're either forced to come, in order to compete in the job market, or they come out of desperation so they can keep the job they have."

Students and tutors meet twice a week for an hour at a private location Scott selects, and the meeting is run in a strict, confidential manner. There is no contact between student and tutor outside the classroom, she said.

"Right now, there is a big pickup in the number of students, probably due to the program's publicity," she said. "We have 55 student-tutor pairs working now."

Even with increased student enrollment, there still are many people who are not coming to the literacy council for help, Scott said.

"Lots of people are very reluctant to admit they can't read and there's really nothing we can do to get them here," she said.

Jerrilynn Williams, associate city librarian of the Bryan Public Li-

brary, cited the program's growth as an example of its success.

"During the first year," Williams said, "we had a student-tutor goal of five, and we had 21 at the end of the year."

Williams, who wrote the proposal outlining the council's goals in 1984, agreed about the need to attract all people who are undereducated.

"We have a lot more steps and the road is long," she said. "But we'll make it."

The literacy council was formed as a non-profit organization in 1984 with a \$5,000 grant from the Texas State Library Association, Scott said. The group's major funding currently comes from the Bryan-College Station Service League, which made a \$12,500 donation in 1986.

# Silver Taps to remember 10

The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as 10 Texas A&M students who died over the past three months are honored in the Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building.

The deceased students being honored are:

- Linden Ruth Kauffman-Linam, 34, a graduate student in oceanography from El Paso who died Nov. 25.
- Jeff David Buskirk, 22, a junior finance major from Houston who died Nov. 25.
- Celina E. Choto-Owen, 31, a graduate student in food science and technology from College Station who died Dec. 19.
- Stephen Charles Ward, 19, a freshman electrical engineering-

major from Houston who died in December.

• Robert Dawson Dubuisson, 23, a senior business administration major from Houston who died Jan. 4.

• William Craig Martin, 37, a graduate student in electrical engineering from Bryan who died Jan. 9.

• Kevin Frank Boeck, 21, a senior agricultural economics major from Fredericksburg who died Jan. 17.

• Mark Werner Eberle, 20, a junior business administration major from Fredericksburg who died Jan. 17.

• Gregory Allen Treibs, 22, a senior medical science major from Fredericksburg who died Jan. 23.

• Darrin Montgomery Plesner, 21, a freshman medical

science major from New Waverly who died Jan. 25.

Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, whenever necessary. The names of the deceased students are posted at the base of the flag pole in front of the Academic Building, and the flag is at half-mast the day of the ceremony.

Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies.

The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence toward the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times — to the north, south and west.

## Family discussion urged by officials

# Organ donation still taboo topic

By Jessica Brown  
Reporter

Organ donation is a subject that does not present itself often at cocktail parties or the dinner table.

However, only through outward expression of the wish to donate will a person's organs live on, a local hospital official said.

Family discussion of donation is stressed by Millie Patterson, St. Joseph Hospital's emergency room head nurse and head coordinator of tissue donation.

"If the public deals with the problem now," Patterson said, "it will not be so devastating when the time comes."

Patterson said the easiest part of organ donation is the actual retrieval when the victim is declared brain-dead, while the hardest part is talking to the victim's family.

She said signing the back of one's driver's license does not guarantee

that specified body parts will be used.

Organs and tissues will not be collected if the family does not consent to the donation.

Therefore, through such a dis-

non-profit organization which issues to each member a card to be carried with the driver's license, she said.

The card has information vital to organ and tissue donation and enables immediate donation of usable

decision the family has to make at a trying time," she said.

Prominent members of the organization include George Bush, Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, and Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abby).

Membership information can be obtained by writing The Living Bank, P.O. Box 6725, Houston, Tx. 77265 or calling 1-800-528-2971.

The need to sign the back of the driver's license or to become a member of The Living Bank may become less significant in a few years, Patterson said.

Without either document, she said, organs can be made available by legally forcing hospitals to question survivors. While some automatically do so already, many do not, she said.

The Texas Legislature will consider a bill this year requiring hospitals to ask the families of the deceased for the consent to harvest usable organs and tissues, she said.

*"In the emergency room, there isn't enough time to really sit down with the family because of the narrow time limit that we work by in collecting the organs."*

— Millie Patterson of St. Joseph Hospital

ussion, family members will know they are fulfilling the wishes of the deceased, she said.

"In the emergency room, there isn't enough time to really sit down with the family because of the narrow time limit that we work by in collecting the organs," she said.

One way to ensure donation is to join The Living Bank in Houston, a

fatal accident.

Dawn Seery, St. Joseph Hospital's intensive care unit head nurse and organ coordinator, acknowledged the benefits of membership in the organization.

"The card issued by The Living Bank takes a very heavy load off the family at a sad time, and it is one less

# CAREER FAIR 1987

## Ninth Annual MBA/MS Association Case Competition

Four teams will be analyzing O.I. Corporation in College Station. The presentations will be judged by a panel of prominent business leaders. The competition winners will go on to compete in the Mid-South Case Competition at the University of Mississippi. The 1986 winners were bracketed winners at the Mid-South Competition. The MBA/MS Association is anticipating another victory at Ole Miss. For more information, contact Dave Struble 696-2933.

### Wednesday, Feb. 4

9:00 Judge Orientation  
9:30-10:30 Team 1 Presentation  
10:45-11:45 Team 2 Presentation  
11:45-12:00 Judge Consultation  
12:00-2:00 Lunch  
2:00-3:00 Team 3 Presentation  
3:15-4:15 Team 4 Presentation  
4:15-5:15 Judge Consultation  
5:15-6:30 Reception & Award Presentation

## Business Career Fair 1987 Corporate Booths

American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers  
Arthur Andersen  
Becker CPA Review  
Boeing Computer Services  
CARGO USA  
Crate & Barrell  
Deloitte, Haskins & Sells  
ENRON  
EXXON  
FBI  
FDIC  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.  
Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co.  
Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.  
Sunbelt Nursery Group  
Trinity University Health Care Admin.  
Walgreen Company  
Wallace Computing Services  
White Petrov McHone  
Brookshire Grocery Co.  
CONOCO NAP  
DOW Chemical, Marketing  
DOW Chemical, Comptroller  
Ernest & Whinney  
Peterson & Co.  
Seidman & Seidman  
Tennessee Gas Transmission Co.  
Tennecco Oil  
Touche Ross  
MOBIL Oil Company  
CompuServe  
Lockheed Missles and Space  
Quaker Oats  
Shelby, Rucksdashel & Jones, CPAs  
Business & Professional Advertising Assoc.  
Davis, Duff, Trometer, CPAs  
Comptroller of Public Accounts  
PENNZOIL  
ARCO  
XEROX  
Southland 7-Eleven  
Price Waterhouse  
Coopers & Lybrand  
CONOCO PPNA

## International Business Symposium Schedule

The purpose of the International Business Symposium is to offer extensive coverage of International business in the four major economic regions of the world. This is the first year that an International Business Symposium has been offered during Career Fair and is sponsored by the International Business Association. All students from all colleges are welcome to attend. The schedule for Wednesday, Feb. 4th is as follows:

11 Latin America Bloc 120  
3-4 Reception MBA Lounge, Bloc 316  
4:30-5:45 Japanese External Trade Org. Bloc 156