

## State and Local

# Organizations help make life in new culture easier

By Richard Tijerina  
Staff Writer

Setting foot in America for the first time can cause culture shock for most students from other countries, but members of the International Student Association and International Student Services can help make the initial visit easier.

Students from 116 countries attend Texas A&M, the ISA said. The organization's goal is to try to alleviate any problems those students may encounter in trying to adjust to a new culture.

ISA president Gabriel Carranza said that it can be difficult trying to please all of the students all of the time because of conflicting cultural backgrounds. Attempts to bring all international students together at events can become tricky because of the conflicts.

"You have to realize that there are 116

different cultures here at A&M," Carranza said.

"You can't always have a party with alcohol there or the Moslem students won't come. If you have a party at night, the Chinese students won't come. They feel differently and they perceive things in a different way."

Carranza said the ISA and ISS instead try to schedule events that every international student can attend, including picnics during the day and parties with live bands from Texas.

ISS student adviser Tina Wadkins said her organization tries to help international students become comfortable with the United States even before they arrive.

"I'll send them a letter saying that I'll meet them at the airport," Wadkins said. "I'll tell them what they should take care of. I'll take care of their passports and make sure they arrive at the right university."

"Once I had a student accidentally end up at Texas A&I (in Kingsville)," she said.

Carranza said the hardest thing for students to overcome is homesickness and the difficulty of becoming familiar with the new culture.

"Our main purpose is not only to improve the interaction among the international students and between the students at A&M, but to show the community all the different cultures they are representing," he said.

"It's very important for American students at A&M to realize that even they are international students. They're just staying in their country."

Both Carranza and Wadkins said they have encountered bigotry and prejudice, from international students as well as American students.

However, both said that problems of prejudice are not as apparent as they used

to be, and that with effort, they can be overcome. Problems among international students who come from countries with conflicting ideologies or cultures are not uncommon.

"You have to be a little bit careful," Carranza said. "But the governments don't represent all the people from their countries. You can now sit at a table and have Arabs and Jews sitting together. There is no longer a problem with people from Taiwan or China. It's very much like the United Nations. It's a very nice experience to overcome these problems."

Wadkins said that in her experience here, she had two international students from Iran and Iraq become good friends, and who remained in close contact even after they left the University.

"One of them called and said 'All my life I've grown up hearing that they are bad people, but now I can go home and still call

Both students agreed that even fewer problems stem from antagonism from American students at A&M.

"That is one of the things that is very nice here at A&M," Carranza said. "We never have problems here. Some of my friends have had problems in Austin. We just believe it's an incredible waste of opportunity because the American student needs to be more aware to learn different languages and different cultures."

Wadkins said the students she works with come to her with problems that would not be unfamiliar to any other student at A&M.

"Sometimes they will come to me and tell me that they are being discriminated against, but that's becoming rarer and rarer," she said.

"Instead, they'll come to me with problems about money, school, parents, and boyfriends or girlfriends. They're just like any other student that's here at A&M."

## State official bets A&M will win voter drive

By Melissa Martin  
Reporter

Secretary of State Jack Rains, Class of '60, bet his staff members who graduated from the University of Texas that Texas A&M will register more voters than UT.

"I am very interested in seeing that A&M has more registered voters than 't.u.' because I don't want to buy my staff dinner," Rains said.

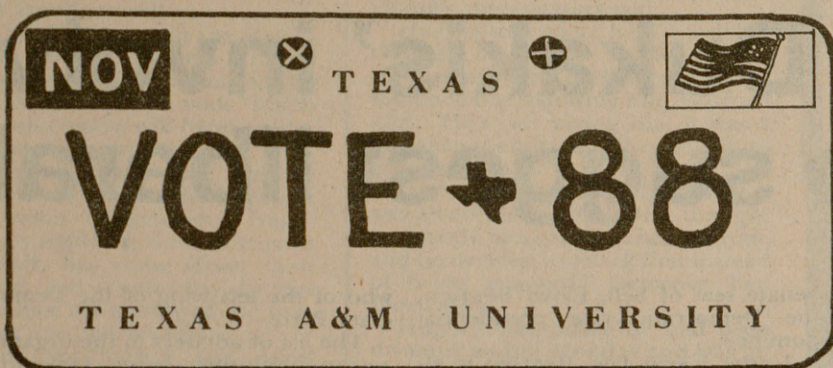
Mike Parkhouse, a senior political science and history major and chairman of Aggie Voter '88, estimates that about 7,000 A&M students have registered during the drive.

He said they hope to register 18,000 voters this semester.

Parkhouse said he believes Secretary Rains will win his bet.

"This is the time for the Twelfth Man to stand up and 'play' their part," he said. "Voting is a duty, it's a right and, most importantly, it's a privilege."

Chris Bjornson, chairman of voter registration at UT, said he and other volunteers have registered about 10,500 voters since the beginning of the fall semester. Because they have surpassed their original goal of reg-



istering 10,000 registered voters this semester, he said, they are now working to register 15,000 voters by the end of the school year.

Bjornson said that UT will beat the Aggies not only in the voter registration drive but in the November football game between the schools as well.

"I don't think secretary Rains will win his bet," he said.

The deadline for voter register is midnight on Oct. 9. Students in Texas may register to vote in the

county where they attend school.

A&M students should list their school address as their permanent address on the registration card if they are registering to vote in Brazos County.

If students are registered to vote in their home county, they should contact voter officials in that county to obtain a mail-in absentee ballot.

Parkhouse said that Aggie Voter '88 is sponsoring a contest among student organizations to register voters. A cash prize will be awarded to

the organization that registers the most voters. Second and third prizes will also be awarded in the following categories: Corps outfits, non-Corps dormitories, student organizations, fraternities and sororities.

In 1984, contest participants registered more than 15,000 students, Parkhouse said.

Aggie Voter '88 is a part of Voter '88, a non-partisan program sponsored by the secretary of state's office.

Rains said that Voter '88 is a statewide program designed to take voter registration to the people. Some colleges and universities register students to vote when they register for classes.

Utility companies are mailing voter registration cards in their monthly bills, employers are requiring prospective employees to fill out registration cards with an employment application and motels and airlines are distributing registration cards to their guests and passengers, he said.

"Eighty-five percent of young people who register will vote and will continue to vote throughout life."

## Cooke foils attempt at pay-per-viewing

By Alan Sembera  
Senior Staff Writer

Cooke Cablevision's attempt to broadcast the Texas A&M-Oklahoma game on a pay-per-view basis turned into a flop Saturday when technical problems forced the company to let all subscribers view the game.

Tom Rose, acting general manager of the company, said about 1,000 customers paid \$20 to \$30 each for the privilege of watching the game at home.

However, near the middle of the second quarter anyone with a cable converter box could watch the game by turning to channel 23.

Rose said the company was forced to send the signal to everyone because many paid subscribers were unable to receive the transmission at the beginning of the game.

"We had a computer problem

that wouldn't authorize the game to all the paying people," Rose said.

The company will decide later this week if they will give refunds to any of the people who paid to see the game, he said.

The A&M-Oklahoma game was Cooke Cablevision's first attempt at pay-per-view broadcasting.

Even though the pay-per-view attempt didn't work Saturday, the company will continue the service because of the favorable initial response, Rose said.

Cooke Cablevision contracted with the Home Sports Entertainment network to show the game on a pay-per-view basis.

Rose said the cable company contracted with HSE to broadcast the game on a pay-per-view basis because it would have cost too much to show the game to all subscribers.

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