

Inside

Dear Readers:

With the presidential election just around the corner, Americans need to keep informed about the candidates and the issues they support. Becoming involved in politics not only increases your awareness of the issues, but could lead to your vote influencing the election outcome. And if politics is your special interest, you can become involved with a political party and see how it operates. If you choose not to work with a particular campaign, you should at least voice your opinion by voting. By not voting in November, you relinquish your right to complain about the politicians' actions later.

The main story in *At Ease* this week examines student involvement in politics, both on the local and national levels. We learned that quite a few students are already active participants in both the Republican and Democratic parties. In addition to national politics, however, students may also get involved in local politics. Since such a large percentage of College Station residents are students, their involvement in city government can lead to important changes.

If politics doesn't have much interest to you, maybe community service does. A&M has many service organizations, whose members devote hours to helping others. In our second story we highlighted a few of these groups.

Even if you decide not to actually help campaign for the national election, your duty as an American is to get out and vote. A&M has a group of students dedicated to registering as many students as possible to vote. But the only way you can be eligible to vote in November is to register now. Texas has some unusual voter registration laws, so be sure you are registered at your current address.

Our profile this week centers around one of the men in charge of the Texas campaign to register one million new voters. There's no excuse for being ineligible to vote this year.

Once again, we appreciate all the *Attention!!* submissions.

At Ease Staff

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Student politics _____ 8

Students have the potential to wield a lot of political power, but most of us don't know what we're capable of. Student political organizations unite students under common interests and teach members how they can influence legislation and governmental policy, both locally and nationally. And sometimes these student organizations are the doorways to bigger and better things.

Service clubs — what makes them tick? _____ 10

Belonging to a service club certainly won't hurt your resume, and it increases your chances at scholarships too. But most members will say they help people because it gives them a "good" feeling. They like to get involved, to make a difference and to give something back to the community besides their consumer dollars.

Take advantage of your freedom _____ 7

A group of A&M students have joined a state-wide battle to increase voter registration in Texas. Their weapons are pens and voter registration cards. Their enemies are apathy, ignorance and misinformation.

A vote is a terrible thing to waste _____ 7

Chris Shields, executive assistant to the Texas secretary of state, discusses Voter '88 and the effort to reach deep into the heart of Texas to register every eligible voter.

Live Music _____ 4

Pat Sadberry and Sunrise brought quality jazz to hungry local fans, Shane says.

Album Review _____ 5

Shane says the Mannish Boys' new album is the best thing to happen to Texas blues since the Fabulous Thunderbirds.

Movie Review _____ 4

Shane found "Patty Hearst" a fascinating account of Patty Hearst's experience with the Symbionese Liberation Army.

Cover photos by Fred Joe and Phelan Ebenhack