

## Affidavits questioned by area DA

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
 Of The Battalion Staff

More than 1,800 Texas A&M students who mistakenly registered to vote in another county should be cautious Tuesday before signing an affidavit swearing they are registered in Brazos County, said District Attorney Bill Turner.

Turner said the hundreds of affected students should look at their voter registration cards before signing an affidavit. If the card lists a county other than Brazos County, he said students cannot sign the affidavit without perjuring themselves.

If students do not have a registration card, Turner recommends calling Brazos County Voter Registrar Gerald "Buddy" Winn and the voter registrar in their hometowns to find out where they are registered to vote.

"It's critical that students read the

affidavit and make sure it applies to them," Turner said. "The affidavit swears they are registered to vote and a resident in Brazos County. That's what's critical."

The affidavit requires people to swear they are registered in and a resident of Brazos County. Turner said anyone who knowingly or unknowingly signs the affidavit and is not registered in this county faces criminal charges.

Unknowingly lying on the affidavit is perjury, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. Knowingly lying on the affidavit is a third-degree felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

"I don't want students not to vote, but I want them to be cautious," Turner said.

Affidavits normally are signed if a person doesn't show up on the registration list but still are registered and a resident in this county.

A list of people who vote by affi-

davit will be sent to Turner after elections for investigation into why they voted affidavit.

However, if a person believes he is registered in and a resident of Brazos County, he still can sign an affidavit and vote, said a representative from the Texas secretary of state's office.

"It all boils down to a situation if someone goes to vote on Tuesday and they're told they're not registered and they're willing to swear they are registered in the county and a resident of the county, then they have to be allowed to vote," said Mark Toohey, director of public information in the secretary of state's office.

More than 1,800 A&M students mistakenly registered for another county by putting their parents' address in the "permanent mailing address" portion of the card instead of their Brazos County address.

Voter registrar Winn then mailed

the voter applications with permanent addresses outside of this county to the location listed.

Winn, a Democrat, was accused Thursday by Brazos County Republican Chairman Rodger Lewis with hindering these hundreds of student voters by not contacting them and asking them if they really meant to register in Brazos County.

But House Bill 1563 states voter registrars have two days to send applications with a different county listed as the permanent address to that other county. The bill also prohibits voter registrars from trying to guess the person's intent if they listed another county.

The Battalion reported Friday the secretary of state's office had ruled on whether students could vote by affidavit if they had mistakenly registered for another county.

Toohey says, however, no ruling has been made but students registered in this county can vote by affidavit.

## A&M Center runs series on understanding Japan

The Texas A&M Center for International Business Studies will co-sponsor a four-part Japan Business Study Program beginning today.

Dr. S. Kerry Cooper, director of the center, says the series will "promote the understanding of the Japanese economy, business and people."

The series, organized in cooperation with the Japan External Trade Organization, will place special emphasis on Japanese marketing, manufacturing and strategic management.

Distinguished Japanese lecturers including Masaaki Kotabe, assistant professor of marketing at the University of Texas at Austin; Yoshio Mita, senior vice president and general manager at Mitsubishi International Corp.,

Houston, will speak during the study program.

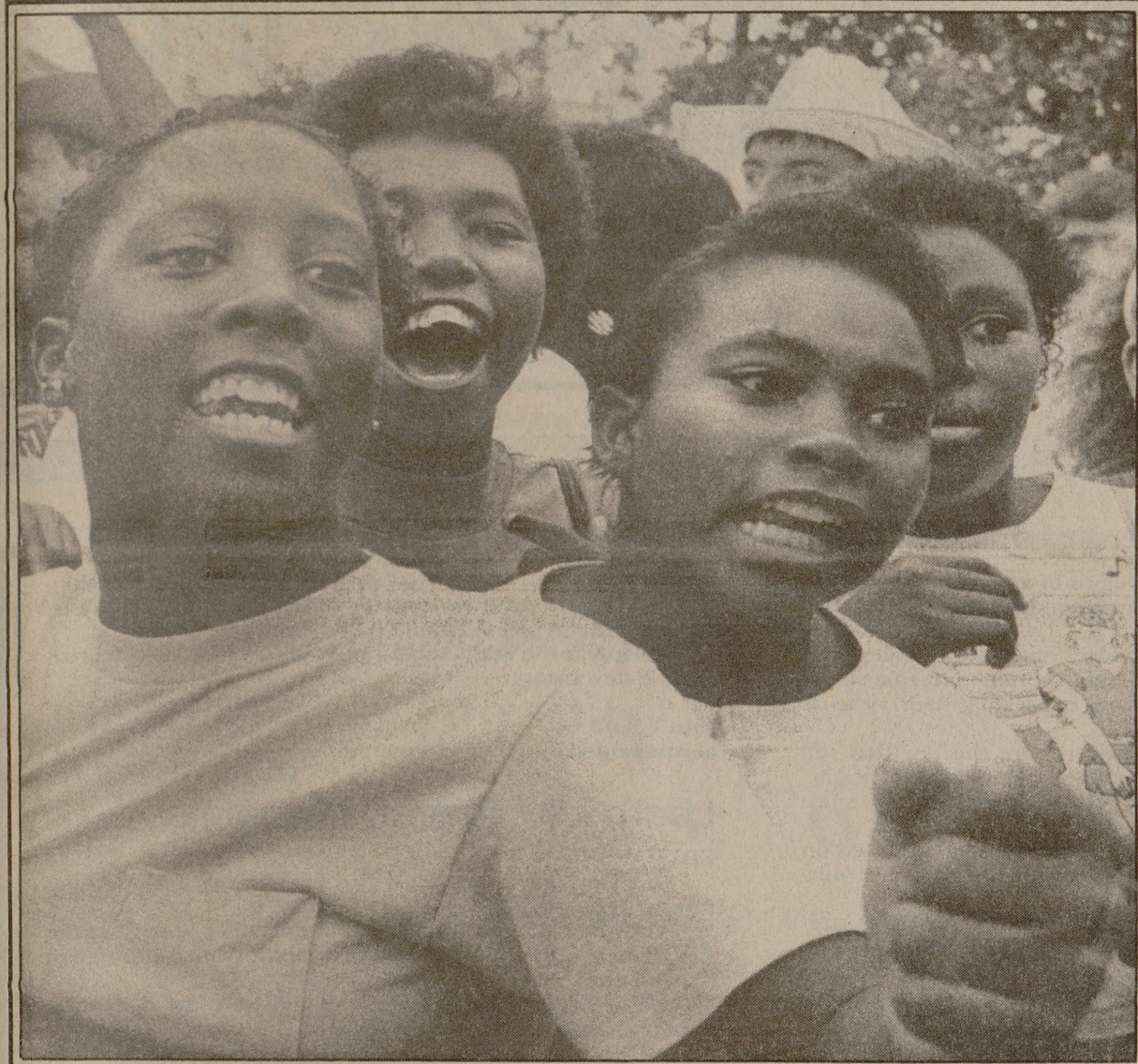
U.S. specialists on Japan also will present their theories and views. These specialists are Dr. Jon P. Alston, professor of sociology at A&M and Dr. John E. Schoen, a lecturer in A&M's industrial distribution program.

All sessions will be in the Blocker Building. Registration is free and on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Center for International Business Studies is a part of the Texas A&M College of Business Administration and Graduate School of Business.

For additional information or registration forms, contact Karen Burke at the Center for International Business Studies, 845-5234.

## KKK rally at Robertson County Courthouse



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Far left: Teri Richard and Shanta Hawkins (front) scream at Klansmen during a Knights of the Ku Klux Klan rally Saturday.

Above: Thomas Robb, the grand wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, confronts anti-KKK protestor Becki Dudley, of Houston.

Left: A member of the Ku Klux Klan, who refused to be identified, waves a Confederate flag during the rally.

## Students rally at local park for tolerance

By BILL HETHCOCK  
 Of The Battalion Staff

While the Ku Klux Klan gathered at the Robertson County Courthouse in Franklin, Texas A&M students and community members assembled Saturday in Hensel Park for a different, peaceful kind of rally.

The "Rally for Unity" included T-shirts instead of white robes, hand-holding instead of fist-shaking and a message of harmonious living instead of racism and bigotry.

Rally organizer Todd Honeycutt of the Medicine Tribe said the goal of the "Rally for Unity" was to provide Brazos Valley residents a positive alternative to protesting at the KKK rally and to discourage the Klan from returning to the area.

The Medicine Tribe is a group of A&M students formed to push for racial sensitivity and environmental awareness.

Honeycutt circulated a petition calling for an end to Ku Klux Klan gatherings in the Brazos Valley. The petition will be sent to the KKK's grand wizard after it is signed by community members.

The petition reads: "We, the undersigned, in an effort to promote the health and growth of the community of the Brazos Valley, ask that the Ku Klux Klan not come back to this area for future rallies and gatherings. We understand the Klan, the message that they bring, and do not feel that they represent anything good for our community."

Love is the key to dealing with in-

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## 'They're acting recklessly' GSC opposes student petition

By LIBBY KURTZ  
 Of The Battalion Staff

The Graduate Student Council refuses to support a petition circulated by a group of Texas A&M graduate students protesting a possible graduate tuition increase.

The council believes the group is responsible for an anonymous letter accusing the council of supporting a tuition hike. Petition organizers, however, say they're not responsible for the letter titled, "No, it's not inevitable."

Dan Vrudny, president of the Graduate Student Council, says the letter is misleading.

"Although the author hasn't come forward, we think petition organizers are responsible for the letter," he says.

Greg Pouge, a biology graduate student, says the petition isn't in response to the letter.

"We don't need to hinder the relationship between the GSC and petition supporters," he says.

The letter, dated Oct. 24, states: "At this point the only inevitability facing the graduate students here at A&M is if matters remain exactly as they are, a doubling of tuition, with little or no recompense to either students or departments, will occur."

Student Body President Ty Clevenger says the letter accuses the GSC of assenting to the graduate student increase, which will affect students in the College of Business.

"We share their (GSC) concerns," Clevenger says. "They were hit totally out of the blue. The GSC didn't have a chance to stop the increase."

The letter encourages A&M students to make a clear and unambiguous statement opposing an increase by signing the petition, which was available for signing last week behind the Academic Building.

Vrudny says the petition is misleading because

students think the GSC supports the group.

Petition organizers, who call themselves a grassroots movement, received 1,125 graduate student signatures.

Jill Kleister, a biology graduate student, says the group also received support from A&M undergraduates and faculty.

Rachel Gibson, a petition organizer and GSC member, says the petition allows graduate students to voice concerns about a possible tuition increase.

"We felt that stronger action should be taken than the letter that the GSC sent to Mobley in response to the increase recently approved for the Graduate School of Business," Gibson says. "A lot of business graduate students weren't aware that their tuition was going to be increased. We don't want other colleges to be caught off guard like they were."

Gibson, a political science graduate student, says organizers thought a petition would be the best way to get students involved with the issue.

"This is our way of saying that we don't think an increase is a good idea right now unless there is some corresponding increase in salaries or other benefits," Gibson says. "Graduate students won't be able to afford a tuition increase without an increase in benefits."

Pouge, who met Monday with Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, says A&M administrators are caught between a rock and a hard place.

"There is a lot of political pressure for A&M to increase graduate tuition," Pouge says.

The Texas Legislature gave state universities authorization in 1987 to raise graduate tuition. The increase can't be more than twice the state minimum, which presently is \$18 per credit hour.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved a tuition increase in October

for graduate students in the College of Business. Beginning next fall, resident graduate students will pay \$40 per credit hour.

"Other colleges are afraid the same thing is going to happen to them," Pouge says. "Gage realizes graduate students' concerns."

Pouge, also in favor of the petition, says the GSC isn't soliciting graduate student opinion around campus.

"They (GSC) need to take a definite stand," he says. "Graduate students need to be aware a tuition increase is possible."

Vrudny says petition organizers aren't focusing on the whole picture.

"They're acting recklessly," he says. "The petition is going to ostracize them from A&M administrators. The GSC is going to drop the issue until we hear further from officials about another tuition increase. We want to leave our doors open, not closed."

Roger Young, a biology graduate student, disagrees with Vrudny.

"The more doors we knock on, the more people will see it," he says about the petition.

Gibson says graduate students aren't trying to cause strife between the GSC and petition supporters.

"I don't want it to generate into a conflict between us and the GSC," she says. "We all share the same interest — preventing further tuition increases. We want to make sure everyone is represented."

"We don't wish to be seen as some hotbed of activism because that would create a negative impression on our part."

Clevenger says the Student Senate is studying a bill that would give students prior notice of at least one regular semester before any tuition or fee increase. He says the bill would prevent graduate students from being "caught off guard" again.

## Minorities encouraged to attend graduate school

By LIBBY KURTZ  
 Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M is dedicated to enhancing the pool of minority graduate students, the director of A&M's graduate studies said Saturday.

Dr. Larry Guseman said undergraduates need to start considering graduate school the beginning of their junior year.

Approximately 80 students attended Saturday's six-member panel discussion at Rudder Tower.

The discussion, sponsored by the Black Graduate Students' Association and the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, focused on minorities and graduate school.

Other members of the panel are as follows: Gloria Flores, coordinator of student development and multicultural programs; Walter Odom, assistant director of cooperative education; Felicia James, student development specialist; Bonne Bejarano-Sanders, an adviser to student organizations; and Pat Johnson, associate director of A&M's career planning and placement center.

Guseman said there aren't enough minority students in the graduate pool.

"The decisions that lead people not to be in that pool are made somewhere around the sixth or

seventh grades," he said. "Most of you have already made the correct option to go to college and therefore, opened up the possibility of attending graduate school."

Guseman said University Outreach is one way A&M is trying to increase the number of graduate minority students. University Outreach is a joint program between the University of Texas at Austin and A&M to encourage minority youths to attend college.

The director of graduate studies said A&M also follows a "grow your own process" where A&M undergraduates are encouraged to attend graduate school.

"We need to start talking to undergraduates at the end of their sophomore year or at the beginning of their junior year," he said. "Those last two years are very important. Students should look closely at their grades, courses they take and professors they work with."

Guseman said the pool of domestic students is competing strongly with international students, who often outnumber domestic students.

"A lot of this goes back to that early decision-making process," he said. "Our students need to be prepared and aware of important decisions that they'll be forced to make concerning graduate school."

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