

We asked and here's what you said . . .

Editor's note: "We asked and here's what you said" is a feature in which a reporter and a photographer choose 10 people from around campus and

asked them a question chosen by the editor. The responses do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Battalion staff.

Do you support a state tax increase to finance public education reform?



Jeffery Willis
Junior — Accounting
Yorktown

Yes, because a state income tax keeps more money inside the state, instead of going to national (government), which would get divided among all the 50 states.



Ruthann Gray
Junior — Education
College Station

Yes, I do because something has to be done for more funds for education since there are not currently enough to go around.



Kelly Jones
Freshman — Political Science
Houston

Yes, I do because schooling right now is bad. You do need a state tax because it's the state's responsibility to educate the leaders of tomorrow.



Allen Rush
Junior — Psychology
Lufkin

Yes, I do because I don't think you can't put a price tag on education. It's far too important. Texas is trying to become one of the movers and shakers in the U.S. economy and we need to be as well or better educated than everyone else.



Sherri Williams
Senior — Psychology
Brady

Yes, I do. The world that we're living in is changing and we need to have an understanding of why these changes are occurring. That's where education steps in. If we can channel funds into other areas, surely we can invest in education.



David Caldwell
Junior — Industrial Distribution
Austin

I do support taxes for education, but taxes for other things I don't. I think they can find the money in other programs where they're wasting money, like in the highway department, for instance. They had a big budget. They should switch things like that.



Joyce Sylvester
Assistant lecturer of French

Yes, I do because I think education is very important. We should use every means we can to make it better and to bring up the average SAT scores for high school students.



Hung Tran
Senior — Electrical Engineering
Houston

No, it's not necessary because it's no guarantee students will study harder or the number of students who enroll in school will increase. It all depends on how the lower levels — high school and junior high — are funded.



Karyn McKee
Teaching assistant of public speaking

Yes, because I was a teacher for two years, and I would definitely support anything being done to help education. I think every district should raise taxes to support the teachers in their district. We didn't get paid very well and we're the ones that are teaching the future of America.



Jim Zemanek
Teaching assistant of marketing

Yes, because I think it's necessary. I think we've gone through too many budget cuts, and I have seen some direct effects on the students and the faculty, and if we can't keep good faculty, we'll lose them to private institutions.

Mexicans try to join Army for citizenship

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Mexicans looking for work and U.S. citizenship have been trying to enlist in the U.S. Army since the war with Iraq broke out, recruiters along the border say.

At the Army recruiting office in the border city of Brownsville, Staff Sgt. Gilberto Velazquez said, "There was a period of time there for a couple of weeks where we were getting five to 10 people (from Mexico) a day."

The number has started to dwindle but Mexicans continue to call the office or stop by, trying to enlist, Velazquez said Monday.

Tuesday at 7:30 a.m., two men from Mexico were waiting outside the Brownsville recruiting office when Staff Sgt. Felix Anthony Moreno opened for the day, Moreno said.

"They wanted a job," he said. Recruiters say the would-be soldiers often are disappointed to learn that only U.S. citizens or legal residents may serve in the military.

"They're giving my recruiters reports that they have read it in some Mexican newspapers that the U.S. Army is accepting anybody," said Aaron Williams, spokesman for the San Antonio Army Recruiting Battalion. The battalion covers the southern tip of the state and stretches northward into South Central Texas.

Most of the Mexicans say they want to join the Army because they believe it will bring a steady job or eventual citizenship, Williams said.

High school graduates start at \$697 a month, above-average pay in Mexico. Recruits also stand to obtain up to \$25,200 in college education benefits.

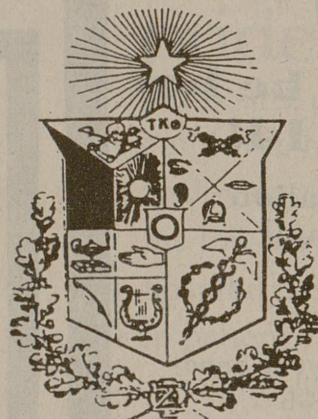
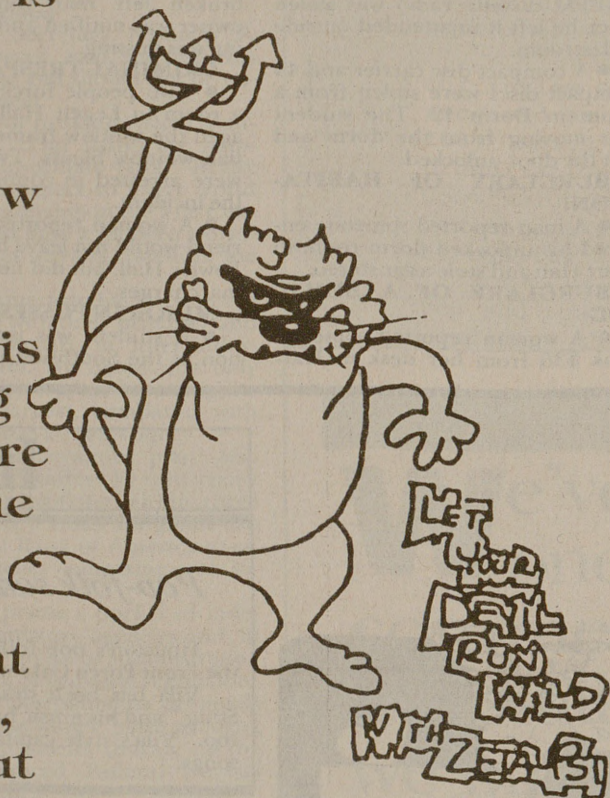
But the Army does not offer citizenship or legal residency.

Capt. Brenda Smash, commander of the Army's El Paso Recruiting Company, said Mexicans also began visiting recruiting offices in El Paso after the war broke out Jan. 16. Capt. Smash said a television station in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, apparently reported erroneously that "If you wanted to become a U.S. citizen, you could join the United States Army and we would help them with their citizenship."

"The main reason they gave was to obtain American citizenship," she said.

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Zeta Psi Fraternity is in the process of selecting men to serve as charter members for its new chapter at The University. An opportunity like this doesn't come along often. It will require lots of work, but the rewards will be limitless. If you think you have what it takes of Zeta Psi, drop by and find out how you can take advantage of this outstanding opportunity - help make one.



Zeta Psi Fraternity
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Zeta Psi Fraternity

Thursday February 7th Rudder Hall 501 6:30
Friday February 8th - Rudder Hall 302 4:30

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