

# Student newspaper continues to grow

Every university should have a student newspaper and in November of 1992 the *Island Waves* began as a volunteer effort by about a half dozen students. The *Island Waves* is intended to be a voice of and for the students of TAMU-CC. This is the student newspaper's ninth issue and finishes its third full semester. Many people hope there will always be a student paper on campus and



maybe the *Island Waves* can show that it should be made a priority. What can best make that happen is more support and story input from volunteers and others on campus. Submissions and involvement from other students, faculty and staff are welcomed and very much needed.

The paper has gained increased acceptance from the campus community as well as local advertisers. The university administration also wants the paper to succeed, especially since TAMU-CC becomes a four-year institution next fall. But because of the complete lack of journalism or print communication classes on campus, the student paper has only a small and mostly untrained staff. The job of putting together the *Island Waves* is done primarily by only three people—a reporter, an advertising salesperson, and the editor who also does the page layout. Occasional submissions from other students are also used.

There have been previous attempts to have student newspapers on campus throughout the university's history—each was short-lived. Why? Because these papers were usually dependent on the journalistic skills of a single student. The situation with the *Island Waves* is not too different. It relies on one skilled student with a Del Mar journalism degree and the university provides limited financial support. However, this is not enough to ensure a student newspaper will survive.

Whether the paper will get some much-needed curriculum support is doubtful because TAMU-CC may not be allowed to offer a journalism program because it might overlap with the program at TAMU-Kingsville. Evidently, this proximity limits curriculum expansion at TAMU-CC.

So it seems that any formal programs are likely to be years away due to the exigencies of university curriculum development. Such policies threaten the viability of any student paper on our campus because of the dependence it fosters on the skills of a very few students.

A benefit of the recent increase in student services fees will be better funding for the student newspaper. This semester the funding was so low that budget shuffling was required to meet expenses of printing and part time wages. With improved funding the paper will be hiring more students, including a couple work study students. It is hoped that some of the new freshmen or sopomores might have high school journalism experience and be able to work on the paper. In any case, more student involvement will allow for a diversity of viewpoints, better coverage of campus activities, more creative writings and more in-depth reporting.

---

**Several part time, paid positions with the *Island Waves* will be available next fall and students interested in working with the paper are encouraged to apply.**

---

A dedication to make the student newspaper a success is the primary job qualification for both the *Island Waves* staff and volunteers. Journalism means that extra hours of effort are often necessary, usually without pay, in order to get the paper done. This can be a real chore for students who are taking a full class load because the paper is like a sponge that will absorb all the free time you have to give. Such is the nature of college journalism and a *lighter class load is recommended.*

Part time positions, which pay for up to 20 hours work per week, include an editor/page layout specialist, two reporters, an advertising person, and data entry people. Applications to work with the paper are available from the Office of Student Life for the various staff and volunteer positions. Journalism experience would be preferred; however, we realize that most students lack such skills. Even volunteers who can only do a column, cover a particular campus activity or be a club liason are very much needed. Volunteer effort is needed get the job done.

The *Island Waves* is your newspaper too and anyone on campus can help to improve it. Let your voice be heard on the island!