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Education Department Successfully Tests Teaching Innovation

An educational innovation is being tested in the Department of Education and Psychology, with excellent results through three weeks, Dr. Paul Hensarling, department head, reported Wednesday.

A professional semester of 19 elementary and secondary school teachers is instructed by four professors.

The team-teaching method applied to a professional semester is unique in educational circles, Hensarling noted.

"We're pleased with results so far," said Dr. William Stokes, director of student teaching. "How pleased we'll be at the end, we can't say. Bue we know there will be some changes."

The senior curriculum was reorganized so four education courses are scheduled for the spring semester. In Education 425, prospective teachers spend part of the semester "student teaching" in area schools.

In reorganization, classroom courses are condensed into the first six weeks. The 19 students meet 90-minute classes under Stokes, Dr. Robert Randall, Dr. William H. Graves and Roger Harrell.

The last nine weeks of the semester will be spent at student teaching posts in Bryan, A&M Consolidated and other schools under a cooperating teacher.

"The "guinea pig" students like the arrangement.

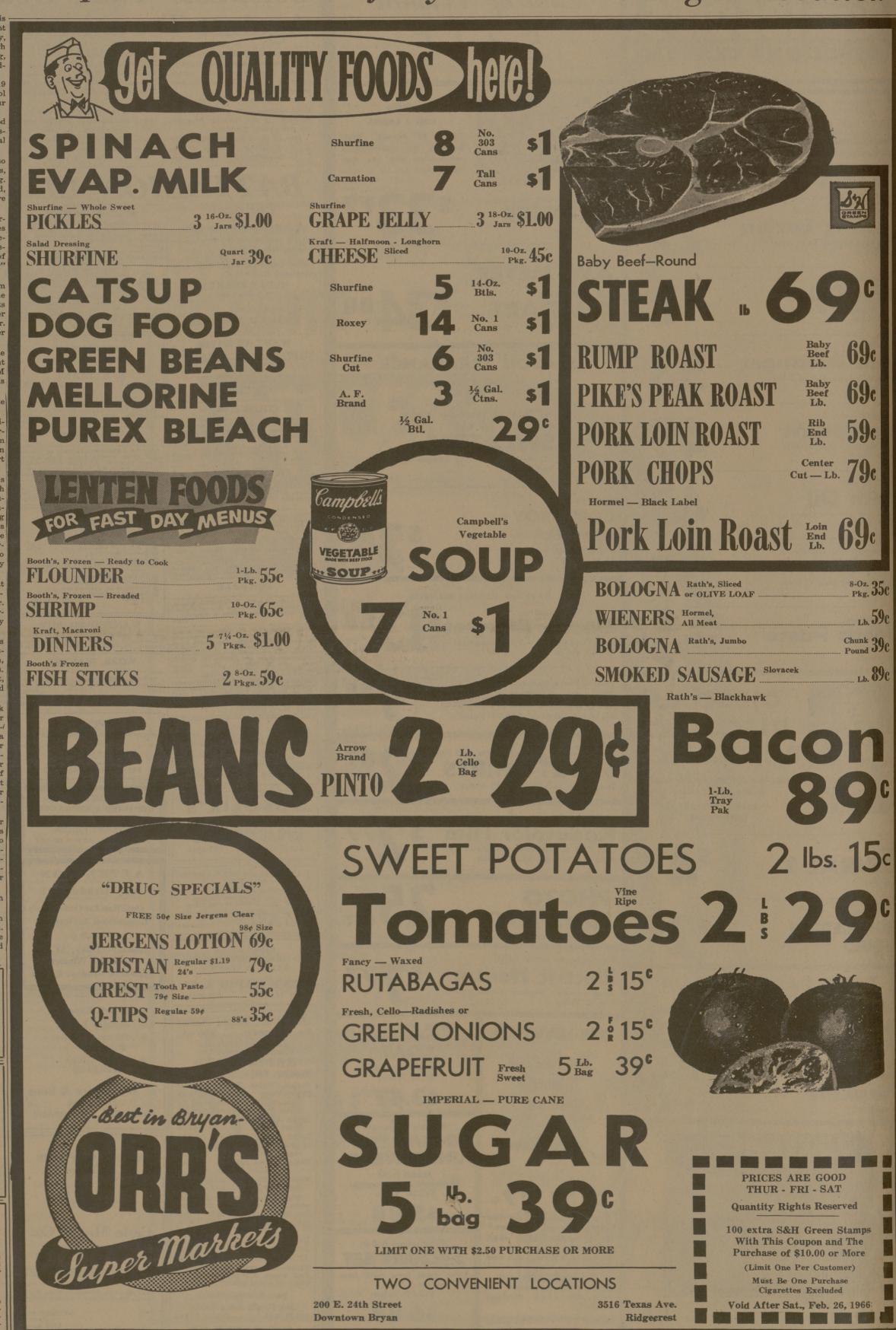
"Everyone has a good atti-tude," commented Tommy Durham, senior education major from Lexington. "We want to learn as much as we can in a short period of time."

Advantages listed by Stokes include development of a high level of relationship between student and prof, elimination of instructional overlap and trying instruction to teaching situations students soon will be facing. He noted that through closer understanding, students are willing to discuss deficient areas which they normally try to hide.

Randall pointed out that through constant contact students learn more from each other. They attend each class, conference and seminar together every day.

The class elects three students weekly to represent them in discussions with the teaching team, to air complaints and problems. Length of classes, test content, assigned outside reading and "breaks" are worked out.

The professional semester block does not effect programs in other departments. Students partici-/ pating in the block must have a 1.25 grade point ration in their subject field and are recommended by selected professors in other departments. The Department of Education requires 24 credit hours in subject matter for



secondary teachers, 18 for elementary.

When students separate to their student teaching assignments March 23, they will return to the campus once a week. A conference will be held at the department on Thursdays. The professorial team will visit and confer at student teaching stations.

One student pointed out an attractive feature of the block:

"We don't have to go through all the red tap of registration. All we have to do is go to the department head, get our card signed and check out."

A MAKE UP SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN SOPHO-MORES & JUNIORS TO HAVE THEIR POR-TRAITS MADE FOR THE AGGIELAND '66 WILL BE CONDUCTED THIS WEEK UNTIL THE 25th.

CIVILIANS

All civilian dormitories who wish to have their pictures in the 1966 Aggieland should go by the Student Publications Office and schedule the group picture before March 1. If any students have dorm president pictures, snap shots or sweetheart pictures, they should turn them in to the Student Publications Office, YMCA basement.

1966 AGGIELAND PICTURE SCHEDULE All Pictures To Be Taken At The University Studio

Co-eds

Any co-ed who wishes to have her picture in the Aggieland '66 should have it taken at her earliest convenience.

Who's Who

Students who were named to Who's Who should make individ-ual appointments with the Uni-versity Studio for their Aggie-land pictures as soon as possible.