

Lectures Draw Top Speakers

By RUSSELL AUTREY
The University Lecture Series, although well known for the outstanding speakers it has presented, has remained a relatively unpublicized program, and most students have only a vague idea of what the series is.

Sponsored by the Graduate College, the lecture series is designed to give students, faculty, and the general public an opportunity to hear renowned speakers in subjects of broad social, political and intellectual interest.

The program began in 1963 when Dr. Wayne C. Hall, dean of Graduate College and now also academic vice-president, and Dr. Robert W. Barzak, associate dean of the Graduate College, decided there should be a program of outstanding speakers at A&M.

"We felt there was a definite need on campus to bring renowned

people to speak in fields of interest to the general public," Hall said.

For many years, a graduate lecture series had been presented, but it was narrow in interest and for a more limited group of people.

"We wanted recognized authorities in the social fields and in subjects of a broader spectrum of appeal," Dr. Hall said.

"We try to get a rounded mixture," Hall continued, "but put weight in social areas, humanities, classics and fine arts.

This year, for example, the program included a poet-writer, physician, scientist, librarian, economist and a former state governor.

Dr. Barzak was the chairman of the lecture committee until the addition of Dr. Haskell M. Monroe as assistant dean of the Graduate College in 1964 who then took the chairmanship.

The University Lecture Committee is an informal group of people with one person selected from each degree granting college to be on the committee. This committee recommends the speakers to be selected.

"From the first, we decided we wanted to have people with an academic background," Monroe said. "Frankly speaking, we wanted people whose work was good enough to be of interest to all."

Monroe explained that the University Lecture speakers are different from speakers presented by the Great Issues Committee of the Memorial Student Center in that they are more of academic nature and not of the "front page news" type speakers.

"We would not want someone of the Bennett Cerf type in the University Lectures because he is more of an entertainer," Monroe said.

Some of the persons in the lecture series have included Edward

Teller, "Father of the H-Bomb"; Alastair Reid, poet and writer; Dr. George Gamow, physicist; Allen Nevins, historian; Dr. Jose Maria Chaves, educator, lawyer and diplomat; and Dr. William Dix, librarian.

"An interesting thing is that those drawing the largest crowds are not the technically oriented people, but the interest is in the arts and social fields," Hall remarked.

Since its start, the University Lectures has presented a total of 20 lecturers.

The series usually has six speakers each school year. Two are often obtained through the Danforth Foundation which gives money to pay half the cost. Other speakers are shared with Southwest area schools and the cost split among them.

Each speaker generally speaks at night to a large audience in the M.S.C. Ballroom or the Chemistry or Biology lecture rooms. Often, if possible, the lecturer speaks in the morning or afternoon to a select group on a limited topic.

A budget of \$1,600 is provided to the program from a fund by the academic vice-president. Speaker fees, however, range from \$2,000 and down, Monroe said. They have a 25-30% acceptance of speakers invited.

One weakness of the program lies in the fact that there is no adequate auditorium," Monroe said. Most of the lectures are in the M.S.C. Ballroom "which is what its name implies." There is not a building on campus designed

for lectures of this type.

"One of the frustrating parts of the task is lack of student participation," Monroe said. He explained how people are always saying that A&M has no culture, as it is located so far from cultural centers, but "when we have people worth hearing, the turnout may be quite small."

The turnout, Monroe continued, is related to the fame of the man and relative to the encouragement of faculty members. There is no advertising budget and therefore the series often has less promotion than Great Issues and other campus programs.

A beneficial aspect of the lectures is that students and general public have a chance to meet and talk with these people, Hall commented.

"Another value of the program in addition to being there is the impression the speaker gets," Dr. Monroe said. "With little exception, the lecturers write back and give a very favorable impression of the University." In its small way, this is very good public relations. "It lets people know of the progress A&M is making."

Dr. Hall feels the program to be satisfactory. He said that no changes are expected to be made in the near future.

"I have been quite happy with the caliber of people we have had, and in general, we draw good crowds," Hall said.

The program appears to be a good idea. After A&M began its series, Rice University copied A&M's example and now presents a similar program.

Girl Watchers' Corner



KAREN KEASLER
Karen is a sophomore at Texas Woman's University. The 21-year-old interior design major lists water skiing and horses as her hobbies. Her hometown is Parma, Missouri.

Weather Bureau Predicts Warmer March Weather

February rainfall in Bryan and College Station averaged 1.83 inches, falling .65 inch short of the usual precipitation for the month.

The Weather Bureau's 30-day forecast, from March 15 to April 15, predicts less than 2.44 inches in March and above-average temperatures, according to Texas A&M University research project officials.

The February mean temperature was 52.0 degrees, just over a degree warmer than the long-term mean. The mean for March is 68 degrees.

Twenty-seven stations in Bryan-College Station reported rain gauge readings for the Burton Creek Watershed rainfall-runoff studies conducted by Dr. Robert A. Clark of the A&M Meteorology Department.

The Cavitt Street fire station gauge measured 2.48 inches for the February high, with 11 of the 27 stations reporting two inches or better. The lowest monthly figure was from a station less than a mile north of the Cavitt station. It measured 1.42 inches for February.

Until Monday's prolonged rain, another research observer station near the fire house had charted only .12 inches for March.

Pre-Med Student Wins Scholarship To UT-Galveston

Philip Laberbera of Houston, a senior pre-medical student at Texas A&M, is the winner of a \$1,250 scholarship to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Dr. Howard L. Gravett, chairman of A&M's Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental Committee, said the renewable scholarship was established by Walter Teagle, former president of the Standard Oil Company.

Engineering

(Continued From Page 1)

seable developments of the 1970's."

Other convocation activities today include round-table discussions on "What Should the Engineering Colleges Do to Meet the Challenges of the 70's?" and "How Should Industry and Government Cooperate with the Engineering Colleges in Their Development During the 70's?"

A 7:30 p.m. banquet in the Memorial Student Center ballroom completes today's program. The featured speaker for the banquet will be Dr. John C. Calhoun Jr., vice president for programs at Texas A&M and former science advisor to Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall. Dr. Calhoun will discuss "Resources Engineering."

Rocket Expert To Conduct Seminar

Meteorological rocket network expert Willis L. Webb of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico will confer with Meteorology Department officials and conduct a seminar here March 28.

Dr. Vance E. Moyer, Meteorology department head, said Webb's "Structure of the Stratospheric Circulation" seminar will be at 3 p.m. in 305 Goodwin Hall.

Webb is chief scientist at the atmospheric sciences office and laboratory, U. S. Army Electronics Command at White Sands, and member of the National Academy of Sciences' upper atmosphere rocket research committee.

"He is well known for his work with the Meteorological Rocket Network, of which White Sands is a station," Dr. Moyer said.

Rocket Expert To Conduct Seminar

Webb recently published a book in the International Geophysics Series on upper-atmosphere meteorology, "Structure of the Stratosphere and Mesosphere."

"We will discuss the possibility of cooperation between the White Sands office and the department for student analysis of MRN data for theses and dissertations," Moyer added.

The SMU graduate was recipient of the Civil Service Award for sustained superior performance in 1958 and the Army Commendation for meritorious civilian service a year later. Webb is also affiliated with Texas Western University's physics department at El Paso and is a member of the Meteorological Rocket Network Committee of the Inter-Range Instrumentation Group.

Watutsi, the legendary giants among African tribesmen, average only 5 feet 9.

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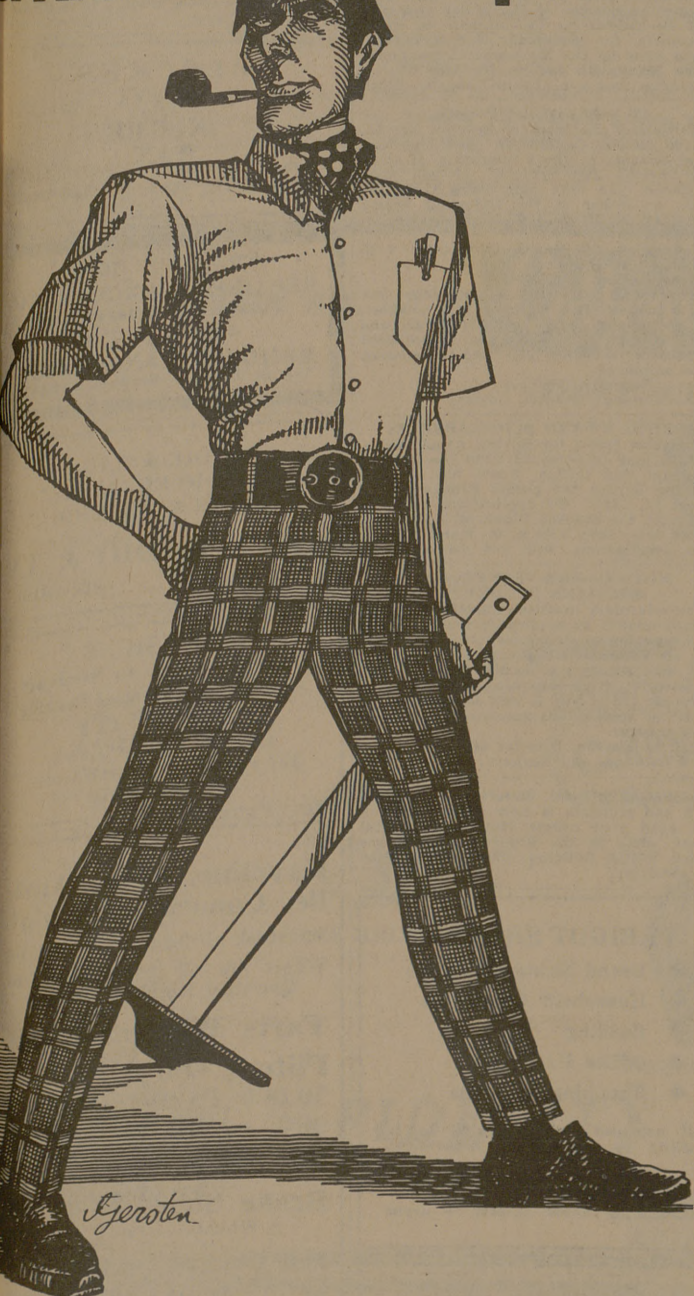
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