



Editorial

There is something happening in Bryan that deserves mention. It concerns the parents of mentally retarded children.

Mr. and Mrs. James Robinette of Bryan urge all parents of retarded children to participate in a survey for the prevention of retardation caused by metabolic disorders such as PKU (Phenylketonuria). As a result of this survey and other related research, this form of mental retardation could be prevented in the future.

Dr. Holger Hansen of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene's Epidemiology Research Unit reported that there is some evidence that protein imbalance of the blood during pregnancy, without affecting the mother, may be harmful to the development of her child.

It is imperative that Dr. Hansen's survey reach a large number of parents of retarded children without regard to age of parents or type of retardation. Parents are urged to participate even if the child has died, or if only one parent is available.

Participants in the confidential survey are mailed pieces of filter paper that are returned after being dipped in urine samples. Most urine samples will show normal results but any irregular findings will be forwarded to the participant.

For this survey to be successful, all parents of retarded children must participate. It is a fine thing for the Robinettes to do, but their efforts will be wasted if there is no response.

The number to phone is: Mr. and Mrs. James Robinette, 823-5204.

R.M.C.

Small Blazes Cause Damage

Environmental chambers in which Presidio-like weather was being simulated, associated wiring, equipment and test plants and a small airconditioner motor were destroyed last Wednesday in two separate fires at Texas A&M.

No one was injured in the early morning Plant Sciences Building blaze nor the 11:30 a.m. Chemistry Building electrical motor fire.

The university's volunteer fire department handled both fires. Chief Woody Severson said the fourth floor chemistry building fire apparently started from an electrical short. A physical plant spokesman said the one-third horsepower motor driving an air-conditioner pump unit was a total loss.

The graduate student laboratory-office was unoccupied at the time and did not contain experimental equipment nor chemicals. No other damage was apparent, Severson reported.

Dr. Howard G. Applegate, associate professor in the Plant Sciences Department, said two custom-made environmental chambers costing \$10,000 to \$15,000 each were totally destroyed. Complete estimate of the loss will depend on how much overhead wiring and circulating units were damaged.

He said the environmental chambers were in use by doctoral graduate student Richard D. Baker of Clovis, N. M.

Baker was investigating movement of insecticides through two plants native to the West Texas area which consistently records the nation's highest daily temperatures.

Applegate said the experiment and chambers had been running since January. He indicated specimens of the plant-leatherstem in the chamber can be readily replaced.

The chambers simulated virtually any type of atmosphere through controlled atmospheric components, temperature and humidity. Applegate said the fire probably originated in one of the chambers or in supporting circuitry and conduits beneath the 10-foot-square, glass-enclosed chambers.

A passerby reported the fire at 6:15 a.m. Wednesday when he spotted smoke coming from fourth floor windows of the Plant Sciences Building. Damage apparently was restricted to the fourth floor lab room, which carries on its door a sign reading "Air Pollution Control Laboratory."

By MONTY STANLEY The University of Minnesota plans a national first for the fall quarter — an American Indian Studies Department. Said a member of the committee that drafted the program, "We don't want just to pat all Indians on the back. We have to keep out of the trap of self-pity and self-image making. We want the department to exist on its own academic merit." The program, which will include courses in Indian culture and language, has great potential because of the large concentration of Indian population in the surrounding area. At present the University of South Dakota has an "Institute of American Indian Studies" and the University of Arizona has a few, select courses, but the U of M will have the first full-fledged Indian Studies Department.

THE UNIVERSITY of Minnesota tries to make its education meaningful to its students in many ways, it seems. For example, criminal law courses at the school include such experiences as working in a prosecutor's office or researching at correctional institutions. One course even includes a four or five day stay as an inmate at one of the state's prisons, to gain a better perspective of "what people experience on the inside." "Though the prisoners are aware that the short-termers are college students, they reportedly treat them the same as their fellow inmates. Now that is indeed education of the "whole" man.

A University of Houston reporter was sent to Port Neches where, for the past few weeks, there has been an eerie image of some kind on the back screen door of a lady's house. She says it's the "image of Christ" and her pastor claims it is a sign of the Second Coming. Tests "involving infra-red and ultra-violet light have been conducted on the screen and the door itself has even been unhinged and moved

to another area — still the image appears."

The UH Student Association has met with a \$21,000 loss as a result of minimal sales of their Student Course - and - Teacher Evaluation publication which was issued in the spring. The handbook, which sold for 50 cents, included "detailed descriptions of courses to be offered and unedited evaluations of teachers employed during the spring of the 1968 semester." The next Course-and-Teacher Handbook will be out in November, which might explain why the thing's so hard to move. No one's concerned with signing up for courses that time of the year — unless they have that wonder of the modern world, computer pre-registration. In which case, it really wouldn't matter which teacher or section a student wanted anyhow. Learning about the prof after getting stuck with him would just make a guy feel worse.

A UNIVERSITY of Texas play presented on the UH campus called "Now the Revolution" ended with a "happening." Members of the audience joined hands with the cast and filed out of the theater, around the University Center walkways, around the fountain, and finally right into the fountain. During this part of the escapade, a member of the cast stepped on a light fixture in the fountain and had to be carried away to receive 10 stitches.

University of Minnesota Personals: "GIRLS, UNHAPPY? Call: Dave—Sex; Steve—Diversity; Carl—Laughs; Bernie—Waffles. 325-6015." Less eloquent but just as direct: "Girls interested in the enjoyment of life, call Steve, 335-3266." (That number in Bryan is 823-5645, by the way. Ask for Monty).

Library Now Has New Photo-Copier

Two coin-operated photo-copying machines for use of students and faculty will be available in the Texas A&M library, announced John B. Smith, acting director.

Easily operated, the machines make change for 10 and 25-cent coins.

Smith noted the Xerox copier near the main check-out desk will continue to provide patron service at 10 cents per copy, since it is attendant-operated.

Copies of nine by 16-inch originals can be made for five cents each, Smith said.

The Minolta copiers are operated by users. One is located adjacent to the service desk in the Humanities and Social Science Division on the third floor. The other, installation of which has been delayed briefly, will be situated near the Science and Technology Division service desk on the fourth floor.

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\$40,800 Grant For Eco Research

A \$40,800 National Science Foundation grant has been made to the Texas A&M Research Foundation for economic sample distribution research to be conducted by Dr. Robert L. Basmann.

Recently appointed to the Economics Department faculty by Dr. M. L. Greenhut, Basmann is an internationally recognized econometrics statistician.

He said the NSF grant was transferred to A&M from Purdue, where he has been investigating through Foundation support statistical distribution used for empirical testing of economic theories since 1964.

"The project is largely mathematical," explained the Econometrics Society Fellow and author of more than 30 publications in econometrics and quantitative economics.

He indicated results will make it possible to produce correct probability statements.

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