

Robinson: Evolution Vs. Population Control

By MIKE RICE
Editor

Man's future will depend almost entirely on his conscience control mechanism to keep entropy or constant order in the process of evolution, students were told Thursday by Dr. John T. Robinson of the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Robinson, professor of zoology and adjunct professor of anthropology, has spent more than 11 years excavating for early hominids and associated fauna in the Sterkfontein Valley in South Africa.

Robinson, in noting that new material has been discovered supporting the theory of evolution, said that the process itself has been undergoing evolution and that man is only representative of one phase of the process. Man

is not an advanced animal, according to Robinson, only a primitive organism of a new sort — different from anything in the past.

Although man's physiology is similar to that of the apes and chimpanzees, man differs from them tremendously because the biology of man has led to culture, including such things as language, music and fine arts, he said.

The significance of these is shown through comparisons of the hominid forms. Tool-making evidence is becoming apparent for many animals, including birds, Robinson pointed out, but only man can use symbols to change his environment.

"The basic difference that really exists is in the organization of evolution," Robinson said.

"Man is subject to random gene variations and mutations, but not nearly as much as other animal forms. Man's future is depending less and less on natural selection and breeding."

Robinson said that the struggle for existence tremendously affects the evolutionary process for all animals, yet its effect decreases as organisms become more complex. "The carry-over of genes from generation to generation is natural selection and as a result, the future is determined, not designed."

"Interactions keep populations in control and are concerned with preserving the species — maintaining the status quo — subtly. The automatic control mechanism provided by these interactions of organisms in the natural environment is necessary for population control."

Through diagramming three phases of the existence of atoms to the combination of these to form molecules and later man, Robinson showed that man has lost this automatic control against entropy, the net effect is a population explosion.

"Certain individuals should be able to go somewhere and create a new pattern of man without affecting the rest of Homo sapiens," he pointed out. "Currently we have lost this population control which we must have. We need to think out which controls are necessary, culturally, and make a decision which all must abide by."

Cooperation among individuals will be the key to the successful result of the decision, Robinson said. As an example, he pointed out that it would do no good for the United States to fight the

war against pollution if the rest of the world kept increasing its pollution in an unrestricted manner. He noted that although DDT has not been used in the Antarctic, penguins in that region have been found full of the insecticide.

Robinson said that man was on the third plane or level of evolution in the universe, the first consisting of random atoms and molecules; the second being aggregates of molecules and being displayed through organisms such as chimpanzees.

Chimpanzees don't understand us simply because we are so different," Robinson said. "If there is going to be a fourth level, we probably won't understand them, simply because we can't understand ourselves. The human brain will never understand the human brain because it doesn't know what is in it."



Dr. John T. Robinson

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 246 College Station, Texas April 13, 1978

There Is Only One
Good, That Is Knowledge;
There Is Only One
Evil, That Is Ignorance.

Former Justice Blasts Courts, Poor Operation

"The opposition to our reform program has come from all those who believe in progress as long as it doesn't require change," said Robert W. Calvert, former chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

Calvert spoke here Thursday on "The Need for Revision of Article V of the Constitution" at a noon Political Forum presentation.

He said the greatest problems of our courts system are docket congestion and trial delay, lack of proper administration and management and popular election of judges.

Calvert, chairman of the Texas Constitutional Revision Commission, said there were over 55,000 felony cases and 550,000 misdemeanor cases on court calendars in Texas at the end of 1971.

He pointed out that the jails are overflowing with people awaiting trial. The judge called this situation a crisis, and said it is approaching scandalous proportions.

"Must we wait for a scandal before we move for meaningful improvement of our system?" Calvert asked.

The lack of proper administration and management is another drawback of our system, Calvert explained. The absence of interaction between county, municipal and justice of the peace courts results in overlapping and waste.

Calvert pointed out that justice of the peace courts and municipal courts try many of the same

types of cases, but they cannot try each other's cases. "Each judge sits as a king in his own little kingdom, accountable only to the voters," he said. "We cannot get judges where the cases are and where the judges are until we break down the jurisdictional barrier."

The judge also denounced popular election of judges. He said judicial candidates can have no real platforms, they can only promise to try to be fair and just.

Calvert said in four Democratic primaries since 1960, 350,000 fewer people voted for judicial positions than for governor and lieutenant governor.

"The democratic process should be preserved and put in practice by letting people decide how they want judges to be selected," he said.

Calvert called for a complete restructuring of the Texas judicial system. He said the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court should be merged into a single court of last resort for both criminal and civil matters, with the number of judges reduced from 14 to nine by attrition.

Dues Argued

Constitution OK Delayed By RHA

By LARRY MARSHALL
A rising number of protests concerning the new Residence Hall Association constitution have prompted president Mark Blakemore to delay final action on the matter until the fall semester.

The recently ratified RHA constitution was designed to unify residents of all the halls on campus, Blakemore said. This controversy over dues threatens to undermine this whole constitution. "This concept is too important to destroy because of some 50 cents dues," he said.

A recent refusal by Dunn Hall to pay dues plus a few procedural difficulties experienced by other halls, prompted this action.

The association agreed to form a study group to examine the constitution and study controversial points. It would also talk to students to gain more input from the student body, something many felt was lacking the first time. During the summer months, new ideas will be evaluated and

The 14 courts now hearing civil matters would also be given criminal jurisdiction according to the proposed reforms.

Metropolitan counties would have a single district court with as many judges as needed rather than a separate district for each judge.

Calvert also advocated election of all judges on a nonpartisan ballot or a merit system of appointing judges.

Under the merit system, a commission would nominate three people to fill any judicial vacancy which occurred and the governor would appoint one of these three candidates to fill the position. Calvert said the merit system for selecting judges is the proposed reform which has drawn the most opposition.

"If the effort to rewrite one small part of the Constitution brings on opposition from self-interest groups which cows legislators in submission, then I fear for the fate of the 37 minds now devoted to a gigantic project of public service," Calvert said. "We must have the courage to say 'No' to self-interest groups dedicated to making the Constitution serve themselves."

new proposals will be formulated. These will be discussed at a retreat planned before school starts next fall. The hall presidents for the '73-'74 year and top RHA leaders will attend this meeting. Action will be taken later.

Many different ideas were advanced at the RHA meeting Thursday night. The constitution, as it now stands, is aimed at a unified coalition of all residence halls. However, it allows no method for a hall to withdraw. This constitution was ratified by a three-fourths majority of the halls earlier this year.

Suggestions included amending the constitution to allow withdrawal, or banning all non-member hall residents from RHA activities. However, neither of these plans keeps with the spirit of the association, Blakemore pointed out.

"No residence hall on campus can put on programs like we can," said Paul Gugenheim, RHA programs committee chairman. (See Constitution, page 3)

Nation's College Costs Up \$150 During Past Year, Says CEEB

NEW YORK (AP)—The cost of attending college rose an average of \$100 to \$150 during the past year, the College Entrance Examination Board reported Thursday.

A nationwide survey by the board's College Scholarship Service revealed that the average budget for students who live on campus had increased by about \$100 over last year and by \$200 to \$300 over the last two years. The average budget for commuting students increased \$100 to \$150 over the past year and \$200 to \$350 over the last two years, the survey showed.

The survey found that the average yearly cost of a college education ranged this year from \$1,637 for commuter students at public two-year institutions to \$3,279 for resident students at private four-year institutions.

It also indicated that students who commute to college usually spend 12 per cent to 18 per cent less than those who live on campus.

Students commuting to public four-year colleges, spend an average of \$225 less than resident students at the same type institutions. Students who commute to private four-year colleges spend some \$535 less than their

Shield Law's Loophole Is Ruled Illegal

AUSTIN (AP)—Atty. Gen. John Hill said Thursday that a Senate amendment using the Texas Supreme Court as a so-called "safety valve" or loophole in a new shield bill was unconstitutional.

Hill's advisory opinion was released at a House-Senate conference committee's first meeting to negotiate differences between the two chambers' versions of the bill.

The House bill gave newsmen a virtually absolute right to remain silent in court or other official proceedings about their confidential sources or information obtained in confidence. The only exception was in libel suits in which information obtained from a confidential source was at issue.

But the Senate added a provision authorizing the Texas Supreme Court, through a writ of mandamus, to compel such disclosure.

"We conclude that House Bill 10 may not confer upon the Supreme Court original jurisdiction to compel disclosure of a matter otherwise privileged by a writ of mandamus," Hill said.

The opinion went to House Speaker Price Daniel Jr., who had pushed for passage of the shield bill.

Hill said the mandamus power was available only to compel persons in public or quasi-official positions to do their duty.

"A writ of mandamus may not be against an individual expect to enforce performance of a public or quasi-public duty, and it has been held to be an inappropriate remedy to require inspection of private papers, Hill said.

Weather

FRIDAY — Clear to partly cloudy & mild. Lightly scattered showers with a few thundershowers. High 77, low 59.

SATURDAY — A few thundershowers. High of 83.

resident counterparts, according to the survey.

These average college costs were based on information provided by financial aid directors of more than 2,000 public and private colleges and universities.

In most cases, these officials also provided estimates of student expenses at their institutions for the 1973-74 school year.

The figures were collected and published by the board in a book-

let entitled "Student Expenses at Post Secondary Institutions 1973-74." The booklet was designed to assist students, parents and counselors in determining the amount of money needed to cover college costs next year, and to assist financial aid officers and scholarship agencies in the equitable distribution of financial aid funds.

In detailing the rising costs for college students, the book-

let presents statistics by type of institution and type of student.

The average budget of \$1,637 for commuter students in public two-year colleges, for example, represented an increase of \$109 or 7.1 per cent this year, and \$205 or 14.3 per cent over the past two years.

For resident students at private four-year institutions, the average budget of \$3,279 was an increase of \$109 or 3.4 per cent this year and \$306 or 10.3 per cent for the past two years.

At public four-year institutions, the average resident student's cost of \$1,984 was up \$110 or 5.9 per cent this year, and \$202 or 11.3 per cent over the past two years.

The smallest increase in average total budgets occurred at the private two-year colleges, where the average resident budget of \$2,539 was up \$56 or 2.3 per cent this year, and \$160 or 6.7 per cent over the past two years.

Day Students Can Get Rooms

Students registered for the current spring semester and now living off-campus who wish to live on campus during the 1973 fall semester should report to the Housing Office between 8 a.m. April 19 and 4 p.m. April 20. During this period they may reserve rooms on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Students without a room deposit on file will be required to pay a \$75 deposit before reserving a room.

10th Anniversary

African Students To Celebrate OAU Birth With Program

The African Students Association at Texas A&M will sponsor a public observance of the tenth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity at 8 tonight in Room 103 of the Zachry Engineering Center.

Peter Kyeeyune of Uganda, wildlife science graduate student and association president, said the program will include discussions by students from some of

the nine nations represented in the A&M group. Films will be shown.

Kyeeyune emphasized the meeting is open to all students, faculty and staff, as well as to the general public.

The OAU charter was signed April 15, 1963, by 34 African nations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Pan-Africanism as an ideology for African unity came into use at the beginning of the twentieth century. The first Pan-African Congress, held in Paris in 1919, was attended by over 50 representatives from African colonies, America and the West Indies and established a code of law which was to enable the allied powers of Europe to protect the then colonized people of Africa.

The second Pan-African Congress was held in London in 1921 with more than twice the number of delegates and called for "the absolute equality of races, physically, politically and socially."

In 1945, in Manchester, England, the fifth congress was held and, unlike the first four which were identified with intellectuals, was attended by representatives of workers, farmers and students.

In 1958, the All African People's Conference was held in Accra, Ghana and 62 African nationalist organizations were represented. By this time, political consciousness of most Africans

(See African, page 2)

"On the side of Texas A&M." University National Bank Adv.

Public Schools Auction Topic For Discussion

The Human Issues Discussion Group, a new TAMU student organization, will present a lecture at 7:30 p.m., April 17 on the topic "Should We Auction Off the Public Schools?"

The speaker will be a Houston area teacher who favors the elimination of the public school system and its replacement by free market alternatives.

The speech will be followed by a question and discussion period for the audience to express its views.

The meeting, to be held in Room 225 of the new Memorial Student Center, is open to all A&M students at no charge.

Banking is a pleasure at First Bank & Trust. Adv.