

REP. CRAIG WASHINGTON

Adult proficiency to be discussed

Are you literate just because you can read and write?
The answer will be presented at a public meeting here, Oct. 30.

Dr. Norvell Northcutt, director of "adult performance levels" studies for the University of Texas Division of Extension, will speak on the figures at 8 p.m., room 601 of Rudder Tower. He is sponsored by the TAMU chapter of Phi Delta Kappa professional education society.

Northcutt, a former student, will report on three years of research completed on a five-year project that says many adults have trouble accomplishing every-day tasks. The research was in areas of consumer economics, occupational knowledge, government and law, community resources and health.

Examples of such tasks not usually performed well would include filling out income tax forms, buying the best economic offering in the market place, applying for and obtaining a job, or finding where to go in the community for a certain service or commodity.

While the meeting is open to the public, says Dr. James L. Boone, industrial education head at TAMU, the information should be especially

interesting to educators and teachers. It shows what is taught in school is not always what is needed to be taught.

Subsidence costly, TAMU report says

Subsidence costs the Houston-Pasadena area \$109.6 million, said a study originating at TAMU.

Subsidence is the sinking of land surface on the coast due to withdrawal of underground water.

Almost half that figure was done during Tropical Storm Delia last year when a six-foot tidal wave hit the Ship Channel area, said the study, done by the Texas Water Resources Institute.

The information was compiled during the summer by three TAMU agricultural economists and a graduate student—Drs. Lonnie Jones, Wade Griffin and Ronald Lacey along with John Griffin.

Part of the figures were given at the recent Water for Texas Conference on campus which drew the state's top water men.

"Sinking of land surface has reached critical proportions in many areas and subsidence of as much as eight feet has occurred," the report stated.

Subsidence has been linked to the decline of underground water levels caused by the pumping out of around 120 billion gallons a year. "Frequent inundation renders many formerly dry areas virtually useless for residential or commercial purposes and often results in abandonment of property," the study said, leading to continued efforts by government to raise roads, repair damages and construct dikes and drain facilities.

Nearly 450 questionnaires were analyzed, along with other data, in an area concerning 300 square miles, about one tenth of all land in the region affected by subsidence.

Damages have grown from a reported \$8,775 in the 1943-54 period to over \$53 million from 1965-73.

State Rep slams Saxbe's proposal

Rep. Craig Washington of Houston told an A&M audience Thursday that U.S. Attorney General William Saxbe's call for a get tough policy against criminals is "an emotional, political reaction."

"It's political ploy by a politician," he said. "Saxbe is a politician and 90 percent of what politicians say is smoke. A politician will do anything at anytime to anybody for what he thinks the people want to hear."

"Saxbe begs the question when he says to crackdown on convicts—and keep them in prison longer," Washington said. "That's an admission that his system doesn't work. The concept of 'doing time' has not been successful."

"An ex-head of the Texas Department of Corrections told me that 65 percent of the people in prison shouldn't be there," he said. "They could be dealt with better in another manner."

"The law is perfect," Washington said. "It's special interest groups that make the law unenforceable."

He stated Texas laws make theft of wool or meat in any amount a felony, at the same time pointing out that sheep and cattle raisers were instrumental in having them passed.

"Special interest groups don't make the law wrong but rather make the application wrong," he said.

Washington also condemned capital punishment, saying the percentage of crimes in that punishment category had actually gone down since the law was declared unconstitutional. He also noted it was discriminatory.

"I've never known of anyone in Texas who makes over \$25,000 a year who has gone to the electric chair," he said.

"It would be much more beneficial to society to get at the real reason for crime—education rather than punishment," Washington said. "Also victimless crimes like marijuana possession and prostitution shouldn't be punished by prison sentences."

Washington, a Prairie View A&M University graduate, was asked about separation of Prairie View from TAMU.

"I think Prairie View would fare better if it had its own board of directors made up of people who are more attuned to the needs and aspirations of its students," Washington said.

"The constitution of 1876 calls for the Permanent University Fund to be split between the University of Texas, an agricultural and mechanical college and a college for colored youth," he said.

Then chuckling, "I've almost forgot how to spell 'colored'; you don't hear that much nowadays."

"I say Prairie View should have been entitled to one-third of the Permanent University Fund from the beginning. If Prairie View got out of the A&M system, they would be eligible for a fair share of the Permanent University Fund and I think we've got a good legal case for it. I think Prairie View and Texas A&M should be unshackled from each other," said Washington.

A&M chemist probes hardening of arteries

A TAMU chemist and a Nobel Prize winner for chemistry have collaborated on a paper that could shed light on why arteries harden and what causes heart disease.

Dr. C. A. J. Hoeve said he just sent a letter of congratulations to his friend, P. J. Flory of Stanford, for winning the prize, announced less than a week ago.

Hoeve and Flory co-authored a paper titled "The Elastic Properties of Elastin, Biopolymers 13."

"The breadth of Flory is extremely wide," Hoeve said. "He was one of the pioneers in polymer science."

Flory judged Hoeve's doctoral thesis in 1957 and then they worked together for seven years. During this time, they began their work on elastin.

"We are doing research on the main constituents of arteries and skin that are elastic," Hoeve said. "The big question is why do the arteries get hard."

"I want to emphasize that what we're doing is not medical work," he pointed out. "This is fundamental

work—what are the molecules doing? Right now we're looking more for insight than a cure."

"We've hypothesized recently a theory that might explain why arteries harden," Hoeve said.

"We have measured in the lab that if elastin, which makes up part of the artery, loses water it goes into a glassy state and becomes brittle," he noted. "We think this is the basic reason for hardening and thus a major cause of heart failure."

"I saw Flory in the spring in Los Angeles where he was receiving the Priestley Prize for Chemistry," Hoeve recalled. "We told him then that he should have won the big one—the Nobel. He merely shrugged his shoulders about his chances of getting it."

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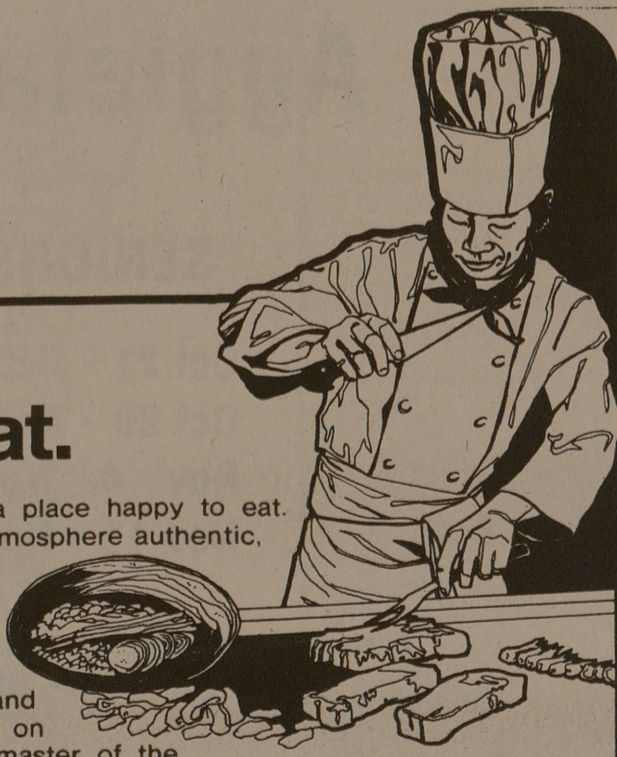
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There are chopsticks for purists, forks for those with hardy appetites and fortune cookies for everyone. Come as you are—but come hungry and in the mood to have a relaxing, happy dinner.



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Bulletin board

TODAY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Old Exchange Store Lounge. There will be an informal coffee hour.

FREE TUNES, sponsored by the Basement Committee, will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Rudder Center fountain. Tim York and Mike Hawthorne of the T&M Express will be performing.

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SATURDAY
BASEMENT COMMITTEE will present Faron Evans and his band 8-12 p.m. at the Rudder Center Fountain.

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SUNDAY
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING WIVES CLUB will hold a picnic for members and their families at 1 p.m. in Tanglewood Park. Anyone interested in joining the club is invited to attend.

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MONDAY
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION will hold an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 229 of the MSC.

POLITICAL FORUM and the Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture will present Mr. Ramsey Muniz in room 225 of the MSC at 8:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION will hold an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 229 of the MSC.

POLITICAL FORUM and the Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture will present Mr. Ramsey Muniz in room 225 of the MSC at 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CLUB will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 112-113 of the Plant Sciences Building.

AUSTIN HOME TOWN CLUB will meet at 8 p.m. in the Rotunda of the Academic Building.

AGGIE CINEMA will show Forbidden Games, a Rene Clement's anti-war movie, at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Theater. Admission is \$1.

NURSING SOCIETY will meet at 7 p.m. in room 231 of the MSC. Dr. A. A. Price of the veterinary medicine college will speak on the possibility of a TAMU nursing school.

AIR FORCE STUDENT WIVES CLUB will meet at 7:30 p.m. at T-3-C Hensel, the home of Becky Pepin. For more information call 683-4906.

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