



Readers' forum

Czech students complain

Editor's Comment:

A short article in the April 14 edition of the Battalion related why the teaching of Czech is being discontinued at Texas A&M. The A&M Czech Club felt the article was slanted and presented only one side of the story as given to a Battalion reporter by Dr. Anne Marie Elmquist, modern languages department head. The following article was submitted by students in the Czech Club as the other side of the story.

By ALTON PRIHODA
and
DAVID KORANEK

What could Texas A&M have had that was so desperately wanted by such schools as the University of Nebraska, UCLA, the University of Chicago, Yale and the University of Texas? To most minds it is not immediately apparent because it has been such a secret, well-guarded by university officials and known to only a few students.

The answer is the Texas A&M Summer Study Program in Prague, Czechoslovakia, whose participants (last year there were 25 nationwide including five from TAMU) were able to study at Charles University, one of the oldest and most respected universities in the world, entirely at the expense of the Czech government. This had been the case for the past three years but this year it is a different matter, as the teaching of Czech, and so also the Summer Study Program has been discontinued at Texas A&M.

Czech language courses have been taught at Texas A&M for over twenty years. This is really fitting since, according to a report by the Texas Education Agency, Czech is the most widely spoken language in

Texas after English and Spanish.

Yet it is doubtful that the average student here at A&M knows that Czech language courses have been offered and that the Summer Study Program awards the students with full scholarships to study in Europe for six weeks. Part of the blame can be placed on the university faculty. Student advisors have been known to tell their students that Czech has never been taught here at A&M, and even worse, other students have been told that if they took Czech, it would not count as a modern language requirement. There have been other cases of outright discouragement of this kind, ample evidence that the university doesn't realize that languages other than German, French and Spanish can be very beneficial to the students.

Professor Skrivanek, who taught Czech for the past eight years, retired last spring and the Modern Languages Department was faced with the task of locating and hiring another instructor. Thinking that no one would really care, the department decided to drop the teaching of the language entirely, primarily for economic reasons. Also, last fall, Dr. Anne Marie Elmquist, modern languages department head, stated that the low enrollment in Czech courses definitely prevented the continuation of Czech at A&M and that only an enrollment increase could reverse the decision.

Now, Texas A&M is one of the fastest growing universities in the nation and certainly one of the strongest financially. Therefore, it seems much more reasonable that

the real problem is not economics but lack of interest and desire on the part of responsible university officials to see the benefits of this unique program. Even President Williams, when contacted on this matter by the president of the SPJST, a very large Czech fraternal organization in Texas, did not have the courtesy to reply.

Likewise, as far as the problem of declining enrollment is concerned, 32 students petitioned the university to offer beginning Czech in the fall of 1976. Dr. Elmquist had promised that if the signatures of 28 students wishing to study Czech were obtained, it would be taught. But, this promise had been broken before it was made because, as stated previously, the department had made its final decision the previous spring, totally unknown to these students. Also, the department did not want to hire another professor to teach Czech because it claimed that one with the proper qualifications could not be found and/or that they could not justify paying one a full salary. In actuality, it seems that the department had not even considered hiring someone who could teach both Czech and another language. Several such qualified professors are known to be available.

The Texas A&M Czech Club is attempting to revive the Czech language program here at TAMU. However, the Czech Club is a small organization and the help of you, the students, is needed. If you are interested, please attend a meeting which will be held Wednesday night at 8 p.m. in Apt. No. 5 at 303 University Drive.

Bentsen asked to release delegates

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Democratic national committeewoman Billie Carr says Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's supporters should put up or shut up about uncommitted delegates in the May 1 presidential primary.

Mrs. Carr said delegates chosen May 1 who are pledged to a candidate must stick with that candidate through two ballots at the national convention unless the candidate releases them.

"This type of boss-controlled delegation has been a characteristic of Texas Democratic delegations going back to a time when memory grows dim," she said in a statement.

The statement was released at a news conference Thursday, but embargoed for Monday.

"Texas never got to cast its votes in '52, '56, '60, '68, and '72 before the presidential candidate had already been selected," she said.

Mrs. Carr told the news conference the late Lyndon Johnson never released the Texas delegates pledged to him at the 1960 convention when John Kennedy was nominated.

At the 1972 convention, she reminded reporters, the Texas delegation "passed" until after Sen. George McGovern was nominated. Then Gov. Dolph Briscoe announced that Texas was voting for George Wallace but switched moments later to McGovern.

"We don't want to see Texas 'pass' anymore," Mrs. Carr said.

"The Bentsen people are now claiming their delegates will be uncommitted now that he is no longer a viable candidate for the presidential election," she said. "If it is true that Sen. Bentsen is not going to require his delegates to vote for him on the first ballot, then I call on him to state publicly before the May 1 primary that his delegates are released and can vote as they wish on the first ballot of the Democratic National Convention.

"If Bentsen fails to do this, then those of you who want an unbound delegation — one that will not be used for political gains and political deals — then you should vote for the truly uncommitted delegates," she said.

Mrs. Carr added that she thought Bentsen "will keep his delegates tied to him as long as the law will allow."

APPLICATIONS FOR
1976-1977 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER OF THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION ARE BEING ACCEPTED IN THE RHA OFFICE, MSC 216, UNTIL APRIL 29 5:00 P.M.



Elect
Assistant District Attorney
BRADLEY SMITH
Judge
Brazos County Court-at-Law

The candidate best qualified by background, training and experience, will appreciate your vote on May 1.

Political Advertising paid for by Bradley Smith/Box 3387/Bryan, Texas

Brazos Valley Art League
presents May 8 and 9
County Courthouse 9am-6pm
JUBILEE
ARTISTS SALE

THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING MERCHANTS WHO HELPED MAKE CASINO '76 A SUCCESS:

- A-1 AUTO PARTS OF COLLEGE STATION
- AGGIELAND BARBER SHOP
- AGGIELAND INN
- ANDRE'S BICYCLE SHOP
- ANIMAL WORLD
- ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
- BARKER PHOTOGRAPHY
- BEE HIVE BOUTIQUE
- BILL'S BARBER SHOP
- BILL'S MOBIL & C.B. SALES
- CAMPUS PHOTO CENTER
- CARNABY SQUARE, LTD.
- CHARLI'S BOUTIQUE
- CREATIVE CONCEPTS
- DAIRY QUEEN NO. 1
- DAIRY PALACE
- DARBY'S GARAGE
- DIXIE CHICKEN
- EMBREY'S JEWELRY
- GIFT-A-RAMA
- THE GRAPEVINE
- GRAVES' FASHIONS
- HARDY-GARDENS
- INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES
- KEN MARTIN'S STEAK HOUSE
- KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN
- KEYSER'S CRAFTS & HOBBIES
- LOUPOTS
- McLAUGHLIN'S OF CORPUS
- MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS
- MR. GATTI'S
- MITCHELL'S DEPARTMENT STORE
- MONTEREY HOUSE
- NEWS OFFICE SUPPLY
- NITA'S FLOWERS
- NORTHGATE BARBER SHOP
- PETAL PUSHERS
- PIZZA HUT OF COLLEGE STATION
- PIZZA INN
- REDMOND TERRACE PHARMACY
- SCANLINS WASHATERIA
- SEARS AND ROEBUCK COMPANY
- SHALA'S SHOES
- SHIRT SHOPPE
- SONIC DRIVE IN
- SPARKY'S
- SPORTS CLUB
- SUZY'S FASHIONS
- TACO TORCH
- THAT PLACE
- TOKYO STEAKHOUSE
- TURF GREEN MINIATURE GOLF
- THE TURQUOISE SHOP
- UNIVERSITY CLEANERS
- UNIVERSITY CYCLES
- UNIVERSITY FRAME SHOP
- UNIVERSITY STUDIO
- VARSITY BARBER SHOP

W. G. & COMPANY

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self supporting enterprise operated by student as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatched credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor: Jerry Needham
Managing Editor: Richard Chamberlain
City Editor: Jamie Aitken
Campus Editor: Kevin Venner
Sports Editor: Paul Arnett
Photo Director: Jim Hendrickson
News Editor: Lloyd Lietz

VOTE MAY 1st
FOR Bud Cargill
County Commissioner,
Pct. 3

You may not be a lifetime resident of Brazos County, but you can guarantee future good government by electing a man who will put in all the time necessary to do the job! That man is **BUD CARGILL**, candidate for County Commissioner Precinct 3.

Pol. Ad Pd. For by Citizens for a Better Brazos County, Jocko Roberts, Chm. - 1730 Barak Lane, Bryan, Tx.