

New Conference Center in Britain

LONDON (UPI) — Wembley Stadium, where all the leading British athletic events take place, now also has the first complete conference center ever built in the city.

Opening January 31, 1977, the new center, capable of handling conventions and conferences of from 10 to 2,700, has its own re-

from 10 to 2,700, has its own restaurant and hotel facilities. A center can go on at once.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Gas Turbine Conference is one of the first American groups scheduled for the new facility, in 1978.

Community Education offers varied

By PAT SADBERRY

People need to get up, shake the cobwebs and get involved. Community Education at A&M Consolidated offers an excellent opportunity, through a variety of craft, skill and educational courses.

More than 100 courses will be offered, including dance, cooking, art, needlework, sports and physical fitness. Several foreign languages, sewing, and automobile and motorcycle repair course also will be offered. Registration began yesterday.

According to Charles Greenawalt, coordinator of Community Education for A&M Consolidated School District, the program is introducing courses in prenatal and infant care, the metric system, genealogy, foreign cooking, the "well" body, and what your child is learning in school about human sexuality.

Classes and their respective registrations for spring courses, including typing, speedreading, karate, income tax preparation and many others, will be held at College Hills and South Knoll Elementary Schools, Middle School, A&M Consolidated High School and the A&M Consolidated Special Services Building.

The powder puff mechanics course, designed for those with little

or no experience in automobile repair, will be taught for the first time by a female mechanic, Dotty Smith, Greenawalt said.

"The program is showing tremendous growth," he said. "There were about 7,200 participants in 1976, and we are anticipating between 8,000 and 10,000 for 1977 enrollment."

Community education at Consolidated is almost financially independent, he said. The tuition for each course, still only 20 cents an hour per person, provides 90 per cent of all the funds necessary to run the program. Tuition pays the teachers, utilities and building directors; persons responsible for the

school facility while classes are in session.

The remaining 10 per cent of the program is funded through the A&M Consolidated Independent School District, and indirectly through the county superintendent's office.

"Beginning March 1, we still will also conduct mini-courses for students in grades 1-5," Greenawalt said. "Each Friday classes will be dismissed at 2 p.m., and students will be taught basic cooking, tennis, sewing and conversational Spanish, among many other things." The choice of mini courses will depend a great deal on student preferences, he said.

Parents in action, another phase of Community Education at Consolidated, will get parents involved on school campuses, Greenawalt said. Parents who are interested in volunteering time will be given duties in the schools' offices, libraries, lunch rooms and classrooms. One-day training sessions in reading, mathematics, multimedia, library assistance and ethics will help acquaint parents with their duties, he said.

The high school equivalency program is now conducted through the office of Community Education. The student must be 17 or older and must have been away from school for at least one year. This group will

meet Monday through Thursday at A&M Consolidated High School.

Educating today's youth on the harmful effects of drugs has become another goal for Community Education. High school students, some having had experiences with drugs, have been chosen to work with professional counselors to find ways of helping other students who have drug problems, and discouraging those who are tempted to use drugs.

Community Education began about 45 years ago in Michigan, when the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation donated funds to sponsor the movement back to the community.

Dr. Robert I. Berridge, director of the Center for Community Education, Texas A&M University, explains Community Education as a movement toward getting people interested enough to get involved in the community schools.

"The schools belong to the people," Berridge said. "And people have free access to those facilities, with limitations, of course, according to Texas law," he said.

"One of the goals of Community Education is to bring the center of activity back to the schools, so when people say 'our schools' they mean it."

Berridge said the process does work, provided that the program is broken down to a workable size.

"The larger the city, the harder to coordinate the activities of hundreds of schools," he added.

"There are about 187 institutions established for the purpose of helping people. Bryan/College Station, has been little coordination activities between these institutions."

Community Education is a central coordination service many community activities ultimately to help people," he said.

The program tries to reach people who sit home and become enthusiastic about community activities, Berridge explained. "And the courses offered in the Community Education act as little magnets to attract people to the schools."

Besides learning, meeting and getting involved, there are other by-products of joining — fun, success in a class, growth and companionship.

People need to get together, communicate, according to Berridge philosophy, in order to develop a sense of community and stimulate intellectual growth through exposure to other people.

Community Education is all over Texas are growing, he said. "They are breaking new ground, at least making a little money."

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S.K. Cooper heads finance after Phillips
Dr. S. Kerry Cooper, a member of the Texas A&M University faculty since 1975, has been named head of the finance department, said Dean of Business Administration Dr. John E. Pearson.
Cooper succeeds Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, who has returned to full-time teaching after recent heart surgery.
Cooper joined the A&M faculty in January, 1975, and has had teaching responsibilities in cost and managerial accounting as well as accounting concepts and procedures.
An assistant professor of accounting, he holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Louisiana State University and Ph.D. from the University of Texas-Austin.
He is the author of the book "Financial Accounting: Basic Concepts and Procedures," and has had articles published in "Financial Executive," "CPA Financial Digest," "Financial Management" and the "Journal of Accountancy."
Cooper came to A&M after teaching at the University of Houston-Clear Lake City, with previous teaching at both LSU and UT-Austin. His business experience includes service as a faculty resident with Arthur Andersen & Co., a financial analyst for Humble Oil and a management intern with NASA at the Johnson Space Center.



Ensign Jonathan B. Clark, USNR, tries the backseat of an RF-4 aircraft. The former Navy pilot is a member of the charter class of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine that recently visited Bergstrom Air Force Base.

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SILVER STREAK

Senate to help fast drivers all car insurance won't rise

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Texas Senate apparently isn't going to try to increase the 55 mile-per-hour speed limit this year, but a Senate committee has moved to make it a little less painful.

On a 9-1 vote yesterday, the committee said drivers caught traveling between 55 and 70 m.p.h. should not have their car insurance increased, nor should they face suspension of their driver's licenses.

"The old 70 m.p.h. is actually safer than 55 m.p.h.," said Sen. William Moore, D-Bryan, who authored the bill. "You go to sleep driving 55 m.p.h."

Moore said insurance companies were in favor of the change. He also said he was for limiting fines for persons traveling between 55 and 70 m.p.h. to no more than \$5.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Wilson E. Speir has urged the legislature to push the speed limit back up. Moore's bill, however, retains the lower limit.

The 55 m.p.h. limit reluctantly was passed in 1973 under a threat from the federal government that

the state could have its highway funds cut off if the limit was not raised.

In other Senate committee action, the Economic Development Committee approved a plan to value farm and ranch land on the basis of production.

Proponents said farmers and ranchers were being taxed on business under the present system with taxes collected on the market value of the land.

"The weekend rancher or hobby farmer who has a few acres are about the only ones able to stay in business," said T.A. Caham, Independent Cattlemen's Association president.

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