

The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 109
16 Pages

Wednesday, April 20, 1977
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

A&M economics course helps high schools

By KIM TYSON

Texas instructors who have been teaching high school economics without formal training are now being helped by the Texas A&M economics department.

Texas high schools are required to offer a course "on the essentials and benefits of the free-enterprise system" because of an act passed by the Texas legislature in 1967.

Most teachers are "economic illiterates," according to a pamphlet issued by W. David Maxwell, Dean of Liberal Arts.

According to the pamphlet, the Joint Council on Economic Education reported in 1973 that "one-half of the nation's 60,000 social studies teachers have no formal training in economics." The study showed that two states require students to take a course in economics before high school graduation, and that three out of four students never take a course in economics.

The Center for Education and Research on Free Enterprise, approved by the Texas Board of Regents in January, was created to provide instruction and research to teachers on the free-enterprise system. The program begins operation in September.

Plans for the Center include month-long summer conferences and workshops held during the school year at high schools. Research will be conducted on the free-enterprise system, and the Center's staff members will serve as program consultants.

Probably a lot of schools are teaching economics with people who aren't certified to teach it," said Wayne Linecum, a Bryan High School social studies teacher. He said he sometimes teaches the free-enterprise course integrated into existing courses that teachers are certified to teach.

Linecum said his course includes the causes and effects of prices and the effects of trade unions on the economy. He said he teaches both benefits and drawbacks of the free-enterprise system.

Since Texas A&M is now offering to develop such a program program, we hope

to emerge over the next several years as one of the nation's leaders in this field," said Dr. John Allen, an economics professor who originated the idea.

"We will be one of the first major universities to establish a program in economic education with emphasis on the free-enterprise system," Allen said.

An integral part of the new center will be the American Economy Institute, which has conducted summer workshops for the past four years and will conduct the one this summer.

The main difference between the Center and the American Economy Institute is that the Center will be a year-round program. Staff will be A&M faculty members who spend work at the Center part-time.

Teachers are given \$250 in lodging, fees and books to attend the summer workshop.

"We have actually gone out and raised money in past years from various foundations and businesses to pay teachers to come back and take the course," Allen said.

The workshop for this summer is already filled, and teachers from 75 different communities are expected to attend.

In the past four summers the workshop has had only 25 of its 35 openings filled.

Linecum said many teachers can't take part in the program because they use summers to work on advanced degrees. He said that the free-enterprise course is usually a small part of a teacher's curriculum and isn't important compared to the other courses they must teach.

Students can take the summer workshop but will not receive financial assistance. The course is a combination of two graduate courses, Economics 615 and EDCI 685, an education course. It can be taken for college credit.

The Center will be funded entirely by private business and foundation donations, Allen said. The annual budget for the Center's first year is \$60,000. It is expected to spend around \$150,000 after the research begins. The Association of Former Students helped start the Center with a \$300,000 donation.

Allen said similar programs have been offered by other schools on a smaller scale.



Big wheels in new wheels

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, followed by Dr. Charles Powell, Toby Rives and other Texas A&M University administrators and instructors propel themselves out of the MSC mall as participants in the Third Annual Wheelchair Awareness Day. They're taking time to become

aware of the problems faced by wheelchair-bound students in their everyday movements. The event is sponsored by "Students Concerned for the Handicapped."

Yarborough tells students to take action

Former Senator Ralph Yarborough called on Texas A&M students yesterday to take the initiative and help Texas fight its poverty and education problems.

"I want to issue a plea to this great university to take the lead, to do something about the deprived, the underprivileged and those in Texas who don't have a chance," Yarborough said.

The 73-year-old former U.S. Senator appeared at Texas A&M as a Political Forum speaker.

"Students are going to have to go out as missionaries," Yarborough said. "Take a new objective in life that you are not only going to college to see how much money you can earn, or how far you can advance in your profession. But you are going to do something about bringing Texas into the fourth quarter of the 20th century with a compassion that matches its wealth."

Citing statistics from the 1977 World Almanac, Yarborough said that Texas ranks 31st in the United States in average per capita income and 34th in education.

"Being the richest of all the states in natural resources, we shouldn't permit this to exist," he said of the low rankings.

"If you study education and study economics, states are never very far apart in these two categories," said Yarborough.

Yarborough served 13 years on the Senate Education subcommittee where he authored or co-authored every major educational bill in the nation.

He also introduced in the U.S. Senate the first bilingual education bill ever introduced in Congress, and fought eight years to get the Cold War GI bill pushed through Congress.

Criticizing the state's lack of spending for social needs, Yarborough said

"whether it's the unemployed, dependent children or old people, we are no better than 48th in the Union in treating human beings. No wonder we have two million people in the poverty bracket."

He said that in the Texas legislature, concrete always wins out over people, and that no elected statewide executive is crying about this problem.

Yarborough said he hopes the prophecy that Thomas Jefferson made about Texas in 1819 will someday come true. Jefferson wrote that "the Spanish province of Texas will one day be the brightest star in the American constellation."

"I hope that's the destiny of Texas, Yarborough said. "The opportunities are great. I want to see Texas move ahead, but we've got to do something about the people in this state. Then we can say we have the brightest star in this constellation."



YARBOROUGH

Squeeze . . . Army . . .

Cepheid Variable members try to become one in the Car-Cramming Contest during the MSC Gas Week. A group from Puryear and Keathley dorms won the contest by cramming 23 persons in a Volkswagen.

Battalion photos by Jim Crawley



Human rights violations in Iran not reported, attorney says

By MARY HESALROAD
Battalion Staff

Houston attorney Nancy Hormachea, back recently from a two-week visit to Iran, last night said she felt the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was negligent in reporting cases of torture, imprisonment and other violations of human rights.

She spoke at a meeting of the Iranian Student Association of Texas A&M University.

Hormachea went to Iran as a representative of the American Committee for Iranian Human Rights and the National Lawyers Guild.

Norman Forer, a professor at the University of Kansas, accompanied her.

Hormachea said the Arms Assistance Act passed by Congress in 1976 states that a U.S. Embassy in any foreign country is supposed to investigate allegations of violations of human rights, and that the embassy in Iran is not doing this.

She noted that John Stemple, first secretary at the embassy, said the act was very new and that they weren't familiar with it.

"He said they had perhaps investigated a few cases but he couldn't give me any details."

Stemple had also told Hormachea that the embassy had the right to interpret the Arms Assistance Act according to their particular needs.

"I felt he was suggesting they (the em-



HORMACHEA

bassy) had a certain relationship with the Iranian government and that they had to be careful not to disturb that relationship," Hormachea said.

Hormachea and Forer were denied permission to visit 18 political prisoners. But they did visit with friends and members of the prisoners' families.

Leonard Weinglass, a Los Angeles attorney who planned to travel with Hor-

machea and Forer, was denied a visa to Iran because he specifically asked to see the 18 prisoners' jail conditions.

Hormachea said reports from Amnesty International, a world-wide organization opposed to political oppression, state that there are about 25,000 to 100,000 political prisoners in Iran.

The U.S. State Department supports the Shah's figure of only 3,000 political prisoners, she added.

The Houston attorney said she got differing impressions on how general conditions in Iran actually were.

She talked to the son of a store owner and was told that conditions were good, thanks to the Shah of Iran.

One of the employees disagreed. The employee said things were bad in Iran and that it was the Shah's fault.

Hormachea said she saw evidence of an employment problem, bad housing for the lower class and food shortages.

One young man she interviewed said his people were hungry and that food was imported to feed them.

Hormachea said she is not sure what the Carter administration is going to do about the human-rights issue in Iran.

"The government has been dragging its heels for a long time. These violations of human rights are not something that has been going on just recently. I'm not very optimistic because they haven't done anything for so long," she said.

Survey to help students pick classes

Professor evaluations available

By ANNETTE CUELLAR

Students no longer have to rely on recommendations from friends when choosing a professor.

The Texas A&M University Student Senate sponsored a Professor Information Survey and the results are now available to students. The information has been published in pamphlet form and may be picked up in the Registrar's Office in the Coke Building.

The survey questions included how difficult the instructors are, how frequently a text book is used, the quality of the lectures and whether or not the professor was helpful outside of class.

Richard David, student chairman of the professor information sub-committee said that students may choose instructors who will be assets to them in their college careers.

"For example, if I wanted to take his-

tory 105, and didn't know anyone who had previously taken it, I could look under history in the booklet and see which prof would be best for my curriculum," David said.

Not all instructors are included in the evaluation booklet. Letters were sent to all professors and they had the option of refusing to be evaluated, David said. Only 350 out of 1,600 professors participated.

Student volunteers administered the 14-question forms to students in classes last semester and the results were compiled by computer over Christmas break, David explained.

The booklet shows the number of students who agreed or disagreed with particular characteristics of professors. It also gives the average response to each question, David said.

The survey in past years was called Professor Evaluations. David said the re-

sponse to the survey is better now than it has been in the past.

The survey does not affect the instructor's job in any way, David said. The purpose is mainly to serve as student-to-student communication.

Weather

Overcast with 80 per cent chance of showers and thundershowers today and tonight. High today in the upper 70s. Low tonight in the low 60s. Continued mostly cloudy tomorrow with a 40 per cent chance of thundershowers. Expected high for tomorrow is 80.