

Students 1st with school association

United Press International

They come from the ranks of doctors, bankers, lawyers, teachers, businessmen, local business persons and homemakers.

It were possible to be killed by a traffic accident, they would have a long ago. But they are dedicated and survive.

They don't get paid for the work they do during these meetings after a regular day's work.

There are the 95,000 members of the National School Boards Association's 16,000 school boards.

Will O. Davis, the Austin, Texas, superintendent who heads the National School Boards Association, in an interview said: "All across this country school board members like myself have just one basic thing in mind—that is, to do our dead level to meet our responsibility to youngsters."

It's the same basic thing teachers and administrators have in mind. "Public schools have more troubles than private schools, not because they're inferior to private schools, but for another reason, according to Davis."

"We take the children sent to school—and straight out of the environment of today's America," Davis said.

Problem children bring with them problems from their environment. The schools must try and help trying to help them. There's a chance to send the "problems" elsewhere.

The job of American public education, Davis said, "is to understand these kids that come to us and deal with them and to make them productive citizens."

"We have different youngsters and we need many different answers. All the families aren't the same. All the lifestyles aren't the same. Education must reflect this diversity."

Declining scores on achievement tests do not mean the nation's 10,000 grade and high schools are failing youngsters.

"I think to put this in focus you have to understand the tests and how what they are designed to indicate," Davis said.

"Tests are helpful if you understand their purpose."

Take the Scholastic Aptitude Test—SAT. Falling scores have led to probes and suspicions that teachers aren't teaching as hard and students aren't studying the way they did a generation ago.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test is designed to predict how well a high school graduate will do in college.

"I think," Davis said, "this continuing decline in scores has an impact on us, however." "It is causing educators, school boards and administrators to see what we have done over the last ten years."

There is a trend. We are going back to teaching skills that were successful for generations. But we will continue to apply new methods."

School boards all over are having troubles keeping up with the requirements required by the federal government, according to Davis, who is president of the Austin School Board.

It takes an enormous amount of money to fill out these reports. We know there is no way Washington can review or make effective use of a mass of paper we must send in."

Davis, on behalf of school boards across the nation, also complained about Congress—putting mandatory requirements out and not sending money to help us start up these programs.

All of these things, as he sees it, are taking dollars from school districts, dollars that should be directed to improving instruction and opportunities for the youngsters.

America is the leading country in the world and the public schools are a great deal to do with that," Davis said.

"No other nation has dared to try a public school system like ours and been successful." "It would have been otherwise if all across this country you didn't have school board members, teachers and administrators doing their dead-level best to meet their responsibilities to the youngsters."

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DENVER — Miss America of 1974 is starting her career as an attorney and says she is happy to be making a living with her brains instead of her beauty.

"I'm pretty tired of using my physical attributes," said Rebecca King, one of 416 persons who competed this past weekend they passed the Colorado bar exam.

The ex-beauty queen is considering offers from several law firms and she probably will stay in Colorado where a political career may be in the offing.

Campus activities

Wednesday
Omega Phi Alpha, 6:30 p.m., 401 Rudder
Pre-Law, 7:30 p.m., Rudder
Student Senate, 7:30 p.m., 204 Harrington Center
Aggie Players, "House of Bernarda Alba, 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Bob Hope Talent Show, 8 p.m., Rudder Theater
Abilene Area Hometown Club, 8 p.m., 607 Rudder
Texas A&M Polo Club, 8 p.m., 215 Animal Industries Building

Thursday
Richardson Hometown Club, 7 p.m., 504 Rudder
Resident Hall Association, 7 p.m., 204

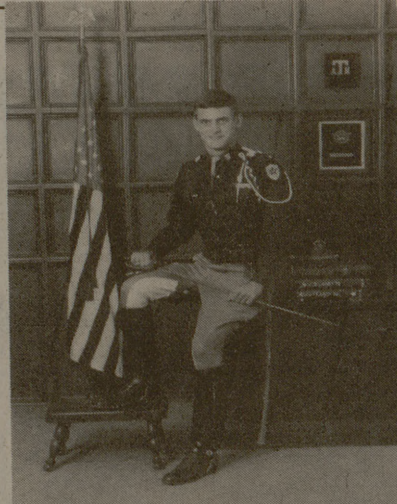
Harrington
Water Ski Club, 7 p.m., 301 Rudder
Aggie Players, House of Bernarda Alba, 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Cepheid Variable, "Zombies on Broadway, 8 & 10 p.m., 701 Rudder
Town Hall Special, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, 8-15 p.m., Rudder Auditorium

Friday
Aggie Players, House of Bernarda Alba, 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Aggie Cinema, Blazing Saddles, 8 p.m., Rudder Theater

Saturday
Aggie Players, House of Bernarda Alba, 8 p.m., Rudder Forum
Aggie Cinema, Blazing Saddles, 8 p.m., Rudder Theater

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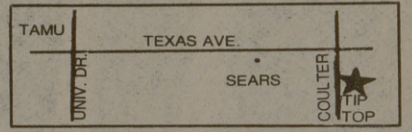


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