



Mother, nurse, policeman, confessor. A teacher often has to be many things to students. Beverly Brown, a seventh grade teacher at Anson Jones High School in Bryan, lectures her class.

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Battalion photo by Frank Vasovski

Redford and Leary possible A&M speakers next spring

By DONNA SCHLABACH

Robert Redford and Timothy Leary are being considered by the Great Issues Committee as possible guest speakers at Texas A&M University next semester.

Larry Briggs, chairman of Great Issues, said last week that next semester's topic of discussion will concern man's expanding of the environment, with emphasis on space and the seas.

Redford, a member of the board of directors of the Environmental Defense Fund, is a noted environmentalist as well as an actor. If he comes to A&M, Redford will speak on environmental issues, Briggs said.

"We invited him (Redford) to speak last year, but he declined," Briggs said. "He sent us a letter explaining that he didn't have time due to movie commitments."

Leary, probably remembered best for his LSD experiments in the 1960s, is being considered on the basis of his recent involvement with the L-5 project. L-5, a scientific project concerns the colonization and industrialization of space.

"The names being mentioned now are only possibilities," Briggs said. "It doesn't mean they will or won't come to A&M. It doesn't even mean they will be invited to speak here."

The Great Issues Committee chooses speakers on the basis of proposals made by their research committee. Briggs said the committee also considers results of student polls, adding that a poll was taken earlier this semester.

Dr. Jane Goodall and William Colby were among those presented by Great Issues last year, Briggs said.

The committee operates mainly on student services fees, but admission fees are collected at some speaking engagements.

"Some speakers come to A&M at their own expense," Briggs said. "Others require that we pay their travel expenses, and sometimes an honorary speaker's fee is also required."

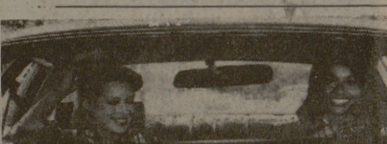
Briggs, a senior nuclear engineering major, estimated that Great Issues has about 50 members. Anyone who wants to join is welcome, he said. "We're basically a student committee," he said. "We have one MSC advisor and three faculty advisors."

No radiation leak from nuclear test in Nevada desert

YUCCA FLATS, Nev. — The United States exploded an underground nuclear device Wednesday — the eighth announced test of the year — but shock waves were not strong enough to be felt about 80 miles away in Las Vegas.

The device, dubbed "Bobstay" and packing a punch of nearly 20 kilotons — the equivalent of 20,000 tons of TNT — was detonated in a shaft 1,250 feet below the desert floor. No radiation was leaked into the atmosphere, according to a spokesman for the Energy Research and Development Administration.

It was the 480th nuclear device exploded in Nevada since testing began in the desert area in 1951.



Two can ride cheaper than one.

Parents, pay attention

By FRANK K. VASOVSKI

Webster's dictionary defines a teacher as a "person who imparts information or skill so that others may learn, one who teaches."

"It would be nice if this was true. In reality, however, an average teacher is much more than that," said Beverly Brown, a 1977 graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in educational curriculum and instruction.

Brown, a Bryan resident, is assigned as a reading instructor to Anson Jones School, a seventh grade school on Palasota Drive, Bryan, with an enrollment of about 700 students.

Before her graduation, Brown participated in student-teaching at Bryan High School (BHS) for four months under the supervision of a regular BHS teacher and an observer from Texas A&M.

"I like teaching and I am eager to be fully involved in it," Brown said, "but there are many instances when I have to be a mother, a nurse, a policeman or a confessor to the pupils first and a teacher second."

She is one of the 79 new teachers assigned to Bryan Independent School District (BISD) in 1977, one of 13 Bryan residents. The remainder includes 12 out-of-state candidates and 54 new teachers from other towns in Texas.

C.B. McGown Jr., personnel director with BISD, who supplied these figures, said that no statistics were available on how many of the new teachers were Texas A&M graduates.

"Nobody can prepare you for the actual experience," Brown said. "Each day brings new problems calling for prompt response and a total, personal involvement on the part of the teacher."

Brown blames the lack of parents' interest for the failure of many pupils to reach the required level of knowledge.

"Only when the student becomes delinquent or fails to successfully pass the qualifying test is the parental interest sufficiently aroused," Brown said.

She feels that a short discussion of school activities between parents and the pupil, each day upon return from school, would improve students' attitudes toward the learning process.

"There is an urgent need to improve the reading ability of many students and most of the remedial reading should be accomplished under parental control," Brown said.

Students, in most cases, behave properly. But once during the student-teaching period at BHS, Brown was confronted with a threatening gesture on the part of a student, who immediately apologized for his behavior.

Brown offered the following suggestions for consideration by the students and faculty of the educational curriculum and instruction at Texas A&M.

Increasing the frequency and duration of student's participation in classroom experience with the local school system.

Giving more authority and responsibility to the students involved in the student-teaching at BHS. Under the present setup, the BHS students do not respond in the same way to student-teachers as they respond to the regular BHS teachers, knowing that student-teachers cannot enforce their orders.

Decreasing the amount of training in disciplines not directly re-

lated to teaching proper and replace such a training with additional classroom practice.

Brown also said she feels that the appropriate state agency should seriously consider an early pay raise to prevent loss of dedicated but underpaid teachers.

"Last but not least, I believe that the parents should do their fair share in the upbringing of their children, especially in regard to the behavior, appearance and study habits, so that the teachers would have more time to instruct and impart information and skill instead of being a surrogate mother or father," Brown said.



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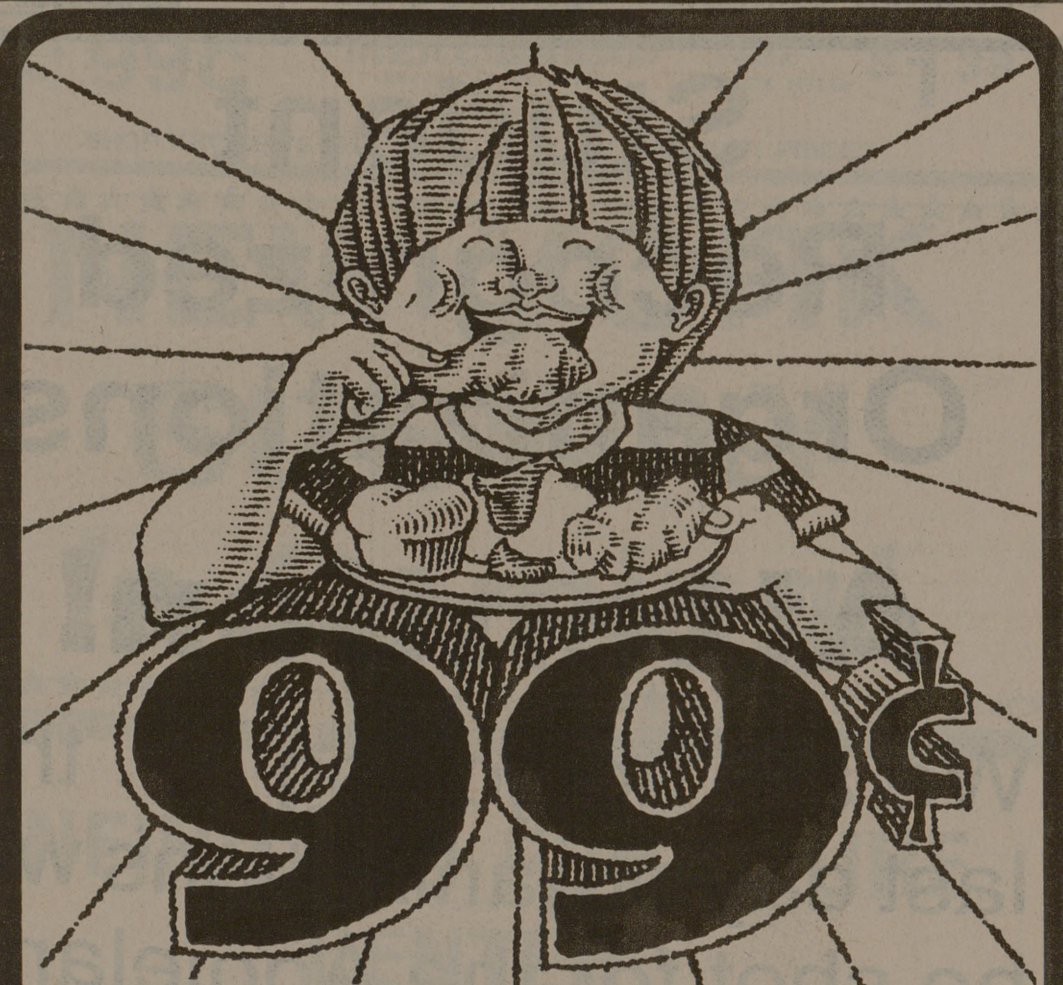
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