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Communicating without words

Touch enhances perception

By JUDY DUNN

For a few minutes Tuesday night, eight nervous couples in the Memorial Student Center sat across from their partners, touching hands and looking into each other's eyes.

They were participating in touching and eye contact exercises conducted by Dr. Josh Crane, associate professor in the speech and communication section of the English department. The purpose of the exercises was to show American Humantics students the importance

of non-verbal communication.

"Non-verbal communication is a very important part of our everyday lives," Crane said.

For American Humantics students it is especially important. They plan a career in administering

youth agencies.

He said touching and eye contact are very important in working with people.
"You must be aware of how other" he said.

people perceive you," he said. Crane conducted exercises covertion such as person perception, name perception, color coding and

proxemic space. In the person perception exercise, Crane showed that most people form assumptions about others when meeting for the first time. He asked two strangers he had brought to the workshop to answer a few questions about themselves. After students heard their re-

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answers were then compared to the strangers' responses about them-selves. Many assumptions of the students were correct, but some were not.

Crane showed that people also tend to make assumptions about names. He said that people assume someone has certain qualities after only hearing the person's name. This, he said, is also a type of non-

verbal communication. In the color coding exercise, Crane called out moods and types of ing areas in non-verbal communica- emotions to the group. Participants were asked to respond by writing down a color they associated with the mood or emotion. A mood such

as "exciting" made many people think of the color red, while "se-cure" made them think of blue. This exercise showed that colors, a type of non-verbal communication, evoke certain emotions from people.

Proxemics is the study of nonverbal communication in distances, Crane said. The proxemic space exercise showed how people consider a close distance between people to be friendly and casual, and consider great distances to be impersonal. Students felt that distances up to 18 inches were

Allen to speak Monday

Dr. John Allen will speak on Allen is acting director of the centexas A&M University's new Center, which was authorized by the ter for Education and Research in Board of Regents last spring. The sponses, they were told to describe Free Enterprise at a Monday meetthe strangers as friendly, confident, ing of the Brazos County A&M or liberal in written responses. The Club.

846-9808

center's mission is to improve economic understanding among Americans. Texas A&M's establishment of the center was recognized with the American Eagle Award of the Invest-in-America Council.

A question-answer session is planned as part of the program, according to Brazos Aggies President Ed Davis.

The dinner meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria will start at 7:15 p.m., Davis said. A social period is planned at 6:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 845-7514.

> For Battalion Classified Call 845-2611



English constable here

Keith Shattlock, police constable of Briston, England, College Station publicizing daily non-stop flights from le to London. His visit included a stop at Texas A&M University of the Condon. sity, where he chatted with students in the Mill by Memorial Student Center.

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If you want to help Bob Krueger or want more information, write P.O. Box 911, New Braunfels, Texas 78130. We need your help.

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