Survey shows 'Three R's are dead'

ey conducted by two Texas A&M Iniversity researchers.

Texas school leaders what subjects should be included in a basic educa-

and personal hygiene," The poll, conducted by Dr. Lester S. Richardson and Research Associate Bob Carruthers, asked 209

Richardson, educational administration professor at Texas A&M. "The only 'R' all the educators could

Educators were asked what they would do if their budgets had been "If Texas educators reflect the drastically reduced and they could

County agents attend refresher courses here

larger organization with important

goals. The conference allows them to talk to each other and exchange

ideas. "A&M is their home office,"

As a land-grant college, A & M administers the Extension Service,

though apart from the teaching

The conference started Tuesday

morning with a general meeting in Rudder Auditorium. Dr. Jack

Williams, chancellor of the Texas A

& M University System, welcomed

the conferees in a general speech about the lessons of history and the

importance of economic freedom.
Other speakers this week include

Dr. Lorne Parker, director of instructional communications at the

University of Wisconsin; Dorothee Polson, food editor of The Arizona Republic; and Dr. W. Neill Schaller, acting deputy director for Extension, USDA Science and Educa-

The closing session Friday will

feature presentation of the Knapp-Porter Award. The award, the high-

est given by the Extension Service recognizes outstanding contribu-

tions to agriculture and family living

tion Administration.

Tedrick said.

Over 1,000 staff members of the Texas Agricultural Extension Servce are on campus for a week of speeches, tours, and refresher

The staff members are county agents of the Extension Service Their job is to demonstrate the latest innovations to farmers in their

During the week-long conference, the agents will attend one of I refresher courses on topics such s "sheep and goat production" and weed identification and control.' Courses on photography, creative writing, and visual arts will also be offered to help the agents communicate more effectively with farmers in

The tours are intended to familiarize the agents with Texas A&M. For many, the biennial conference is their only opportunity to isit the campus.

"The conference also helps generate an esprit de corps," said Dr. William Tedrick, head of Agricultural Communications. The county agents can see that they are part of a in Texas

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The "Three R's" are dead.
At least that's what 149 Texas school administrators said in a surwritin', and 'rithmetic—will have to to move the course which be changed to readin', 'rithmetic

"We figure with all this talk about 'going back to the basics' we could find out what the basics were," Richardson added. "We couldn't." agree on was reading.

foreign language.

The response from the survey showed that the basics in education have yet to be defined," Carruthers siad. "Until the definitions are made, school boards in Texas are wasting their time trying to go back to the basics. It';s obvious they can't agree on what they are.

ranged from arithmetic to sex edu-

cation and with 11 major headings such as as science, social science and

"One of the things this shows is school boards have to define what the basics are on a local level," he added. "You can't make one set of basics fit everyone. It's obvious a basic education in Houston wouldn't be what's considered a basic educa-

tion in Bug Tussel."
Both Richardson and Carruthers point out that there is some danger in school districts throwing their

curricula into reverse and heading for the 'basic education'.

'The danger with the back-tobasics idea is that in some cases you wind up throwing the baby out with the bath-water," Carruthers mused. "In other words, we wind up losing some of the good things we've gotten, along with the bad. What we

need is the best of both. "People tend to look at a basic education as a cure-all," added Richardson. "There is no cure-all in education. The basics will change as the times change.

The top ten selections the educators made are: 1) reading; 2) arithmetic; 3) personal hygiene; 4) writing-cursive; 5) biology; 6) lifetime sports; 7) life science; 8) state biotory; 9) giving and 10) corth soi history; 9) civies and 10) earth sci-

Sports fans will be interested to note that football was ranked 21st out of 50, just below geometry. Economics, which is a required curriculum subject in grades 1-12 in Texas, was ranked below auto mechanics, in the number 30 posi-

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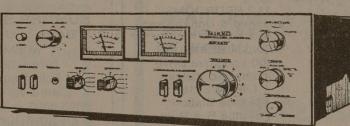
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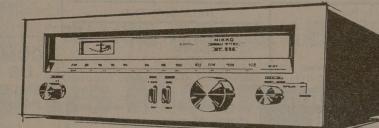
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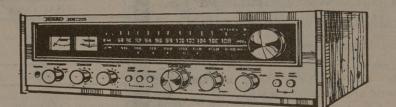
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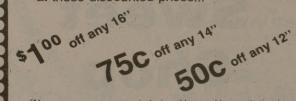
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