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Stress drives teachers away

United Press International
LAS — Stress resulting from classroom problems, fear of violence and occupational frustration is driving teachers from the profession, the president of the National Education Association

Ryor, president of the 1.8 million member organization, said Wednesday that schools are now expected to serve a family have abdicated, forcing teachers to take on more responsibility. This leads to tension. Stress has become so widespread in the profession that increasing numbers of teachers, especially in urban areas in the last few years, are either dropping out or early retirement," Ryor said on the opening day of the NEA's national convention.

Teachers are driven to the brink by transfer denials, the added frustration of no escape from an intolerable situation, and a lack of treatment for their casualties and

number of teachers with 20 years of experience has dropped by half since 1961, with most of the decline in the last few years.

Teachers also face more threats from students and parents. He

quoted a Los Angeles psychiatrist who said many instructors show symptoms similar to combat neurosis.

The extent of violence, vandalism and discipline problems is greater than reported, Ryor said, because of coverups by administrators who do not want to mar their records.

"What 10 years ago were scattered schoolhouse pranks and disturbances today have evolved into serious violent crimes of crisis proportions," he said.

Ryor cited a recent government study that indicated more than 6,700 schools have serious crime problems, more than 5,000 teachers are attacked monthly and 25 percent of all schools are subject to vandalism each month.

"School vandalism diverts some \$600 million annually from education budgets — or enough to buy a year's worth of textbooks or hire 50,000 more teachers without increasing taxes a nickel," Ryor said.

"Teachers can not teach when they must police," he said. "The job of a teacher is much tougher today."

"The same parents who cry over lack of discipline in the schools are the first to complain or slap a lawsuit on the schools if it is their child who deserves the discipline. But many schools can not carry out their primary function: education."

Teachers like their snakes rare in Bend

United Press International
LINGUA — Country singer Charley Crockett told all about it: "Oh, the snakes tonight, that's what they say. When the sun goes down, then the snakes will

song is true, at least in Texas' rearing Bend, and the serpents' propeness to crawl at night is presenting a problem for the two game wardens who manage more than 6,000 square miles of the largest county.

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that's when most of the snakes crawl. They'll cross the highways and the hunters just drive back and forth until they spot one."

Cook said most of the snake poaching takes place from north of tiny Study Butte to the Big Bend National Park and along the narrow highway which runs from the ghost town of Terlingua along the U.S.-Mexico border to Presidio.

"It's a pretty new thing," the warden said. "The snakes haven't been protected very long so it's pretty new to us, as well as everybody else. We just file a charge on them just like anybody else who has game he isn't supposed to have."

Because the highways around Terlingua, located 100 miles south of Alpine, are lightly traveled, Cook said the reptile poachers so far have not presented a traffic hazard, although every so often wardens will find a drunk snake hunter.

"We've checked them from as far away as Washington state, Minnesota, Florida, Louisiana, California," he said. "They just come from all over the country — the ones that want a certain kind of snake and can't find them anywhere but right here. And around Langtry, there's a lot going on."

He said a minimum \$100 fine accompanied the first snake poaching conviction, a second offense could result in a maximum \$500 fine and 180 days in jail, and a third offense was punishable by up to a \$2,000 fine and one year in jail.

"It's hard to spend all our time on that. We have other things to do. We catch one or two (snake poachers) now and then. It's just like anything else, you miss most of them, I'm sure," Cook said. "In fact a lot of people who are poaching are the same ones who've succeeded in getting them on the endangered list. But they have to live with it just like everybody else."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Ride a crooked line

Newly painted bike lanes near West Gate seem to wiggle and swerve along the street. Bicyclers may get dizzy, but they will be safer inside the crooked lines than in automobile traffic.

Program for low-income youths opens workshop on job opportunities

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

Disadvantaged youths are visiting Texas A&M University today to learn about job, education, and financial aid opportunities.

The 115 youths, aged 14 to 21, are participating in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program administered by the Brazos Valley Development Council.

CETA is designed to help young people from low income backgrounds find a job or receive further education or training. Although minority youths predominately benefit from CETA, the program is open to any applicant from a low income background.

Representatives from the offices of admissions, financial aid, personnel and the ROTC delivered lectures on the services available to the high school students through those campus offices.

After the lectures the youths toured various areas on campus ranging from the floriculture greenhouses to the automotive maintenance shops.

The campus tours are meant to familiarize the high school students with educational and related job opportunities available at Texas A&M. The University provides disadvantaged youths with a variety of jobs and apprenticeships on campus in cooperation with the CETA program.

Each year a number of young people with no training are accepted as apprentices in sheet metal work and other trades. They are paid while they learn.

The CETA program aims to reach mainly high school students who are ready to work or receive training. Applicants for the program are screened according to the low income background requirement.

Participants in the federally-funded program receive group and individual counseling that helps them identify their goals and interests. The counseling also attempts to familiarize them with various aspects of getting and holding a job, covering such things as how to behave during an interview and why some jobs are lost.

The Brazos Valley Development Council administers the CETA program in Brazos County and six surrounding counties. The council is a regional planning commission concerned with the long-range physical, human, and economic resource development in the area.

Special tours and briefings for groups of minority students through programs like CETA are only one way in which Texas A&M tries to attract minority students to the University.

The Office of Admissions and Records

works with other federal programs such as Project Stay, Talent Search and LULAC in an attempt to recruit minority students and promotional literature routinely is sent to Black National Achievement Students and outstanding two-year college graduates.

The Office of Admissions and Records also conducts seminars to aid the Black Awareness Committee and the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture in their recruitment efforts.

Black and Mexican-American Texas A&M graduates cooperate with the Admissions and Records office to work with prospective minority students.

Despite these efforts minority enrollment at Texas A&M remains low with minority students making up about two percent of the student population, according to figures released by the Registrar's Office.

City of Houston must pay

Court upholds couple's suit

United Press International
AUSTIN — A Houston couple injured in an auto accident caused by the negligence of a city police officer can collect \$101,307.46 in damages from the city of Houston, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

Arnold and Mary LeBlanc also were

paid \$9,992.54 by the insurance company of officer Ronald G. Hickman.

A trial jury originally awarded the couple a total of \$124,864, but the Court of Civil Appeals ruled that judgment exceeded a Texas Tort Claims Law provision limiting awards to \$100,000 per person.

The city appealed, contending the jury

failed to consider the payments already made by Hickman's insurance company to the LeBlancs, and that the city was released from liability at the time the LeBlancs signed a statement releasing Hickman.

The Supreme Court rejected those arguments and upheld the \$101,307.46 judgment against the city.

Records in the case show the police car driven by Hickman hit the rear of a pickup truck on Interstate 10 on Sept. 2, 1972, triggering a multi-car accident. The pickup was spun around, and hit by a van driven by LeBlanc.

Witnesses said Hickman was driving 70 to 80 miles an hour when he hit the pickup. The investigating officer estimated Hickman's speed at 65 to 70, but did not give him a ticket.

The trial jury ruled Hickman was negligent in his speed and in failing to keep a proper lookout.

In other cases Wednesday, the court: —Ruled the city of Mesquite improperly denied Aladdin's Castle Inc. a license to operate a coin-operated amusement business, and ordered the license issued. The Supreme Court declined to rule, however, on the constitutionality of a city ordinance permitting licenses to be rejected if applicants have "connections with criminal elements." A lower court had declared that provision unconstitutionally vague.

—Ruled three passengers injured in a North Texas auto accident are entitled to collect damages from the insurance company of the driver's father.

—Ruled the Public Utility Commission has authority to set interim rates pending appeal of rate cases it considers. The city of Corpus Christi had challenged an interim rate set by the commission before the PUC granted a \$23 million permanent rate increase to Central Power and Light Co.

—Rejected the appeal of Webb County in a suit by 97 taxpayers seeking to block relocation of the county courthouse.

Oldest man boozes to 136 years July 4

United Press International
BARTOW, Fla. — Charlie Smith celebrated his 136th birthday Tuesday and said he still drinks as much booze as he can get and likes to smoke cigarettes, too.

And on special occasions a piece of cake is a nice change of pace for Charlie, who may well be the oldest man in the world as well as the United States.

Getting booze at the Bartow Convalescent Center, Charlie's home since 1972, can be a problem, of course. He solved it by refusing to take his vitamins until the staff agreed to provide a shot of rum to wash them down.

However, Charlie prefers to celebrate with rye.

"I like to drink rye whiskey," said Smith, perched in his wheelchair. "I drink it neat and I smoke cigarettes. Nothing wrong with that."

At the Fourth of July party marking Charlie's record birthday, other residents of the nursing home sang and presented him with a birthday cake without candles.

Mission Stephens, the center's activities director, said America's oldest man, who nods off frequently and whose memory fades in and out, "was really sharp" for his birthday.

"I'm still growing" was Charlie's only comment — an apparent prediction that he expects to be around for the next Fourth of July.

Dr. Frederick Charatan, a geriatric psychiatrist who interviewed the bald, wizened man every day for a week, said he was astonished by Charlie's condition.

Charatan, of the Long Island Jewish-Hillside Medical Center, in New Hyde Park, N.Y., said "It can be demonstrated that he is definitely 120 and, in all probability, it appears that he is close to 136."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Now just a minute...

The train crossing's protective arms are a safety feature well appreciated and respected when they drop, except when there is no train coming. Wednesday afternoon the arms were dropping every few

minutes, raising up, then dropping back down again all with no train in sight. A few persons were delayed on their way to classes or work perhaps, but the episode lasted only ten minutes.