

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 15-21
TAMU LIBRARY**

presents

DR. CHARLES SCHULTZ

UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST
ON

**"MAKING SOMETHING HAPPEN: A CENTURY
OF LIBRARY SERVICE AT TEXAS A&M"**

followed by

"THAT CERTAIN SPIRIT"

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

**APRIL 16 NOON RUDDER 701
ADMISSION FREE — PUBLIC IS INVITED**

Prof says work costs to be cut

Leisure travel won't decline

As petroleum prices climb, Texans will make concessions in their work expenses to protect their leisure travel, predicts a Texas A&M University tourism expert.

Dr. Clare Gunn, who has conducted tourism research for 30 years, said Americans simply value their leisure travel so highly that they will adjust their work travel to budget for personal trips.

Some economists predict skyrocketing gasoline prices will put a significant dent into the American people's willingness to travel. Gunn countered that there is no evidence of less travel last year or so far this year, despite leaping energy costs and inflation.

It is personal priority preference, Gunn said. Most people view personal travel as independence, and will go to great lengths to protect it, he said.

There are also the economic aspects: Tourism is big business in Texas.

According to the latest figures from the U.S. Travel Data Center, tourism in Texas is a \$6 billion industry, generating a \$1.3 billion payroll, 227,000 jobs and more than \$241 million in state taxes and \$58 million in local taxes.

Gunn considers the latest rounds of proposed energy conservation measures, part of which call for weekend closing of gas stations, as discriminatory and economically unsound.

Any legislation that affects personal travel and travel-related industries has an economic multiplier effect, he said. That is when governments begin to manipulate the tourism industry, there are tremendous repercussions outside that industry.

The effect can be devastating locally, Gunn said. He said many Texas counties don't even realize how dependent they are on the tourist dollars.

In Harris County, tourism expenditures total more than \$1.2 billion, with a payroll of \$265 million, 46,000 jobs, some \$47 million in state taxes and \$12 million in local taxes, according to the U.S. Travel Data Center.

In Bexar County, home of San Antonio and the Alamo, tourism pumps in more than \$479 million, with a payroll of \$119 million and 19,000 workers. It generates \$19 million in state taxes and \$4.5 million in local tax revenues.

On economics alone, Texas needs the tourism industry, Gunn said. But there are the personal benefits to consider also, he said. "It's certainly not simple," Gunn said. "There are no easy answers. I think it will be a long time before we see any depression in the travel industry, no matter what the fuel situation is for the moment."

"I don't know what the economic limit is because so many people are, at heart, willing to make great concessions to protect their personal travel," he said.

Gunn said a downturn in the travel industry might cause people to use more local recreational facilities.

However, he said this is unlikely, considering the increased participation of today's travelers. Air travel was up markedly in the year alone, but the increase has not been at the expense of bus and industries.



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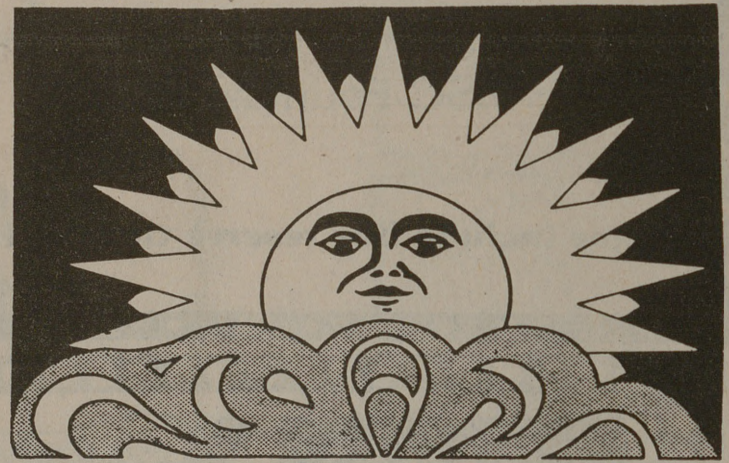
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**Free market
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Two Houston foundations committed \$250,000 to Texas A&M University's Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise.

The Brown Foundation, Inc. pledged \$150,000 and the Abercrombie Foundation \$100,000.

Robert M. Rutledge III, director of development, said the first installment of \$50,000 has been received from each company. Abercrombie Foundation will receive its second installment this year, he said.

The initial grant from the Brown Foundation is unrestricted, which means it can be used for current operations. The remaining \$100,000 will be designated for specific purposes by the grantor, Rutledge reported.

The Free Enterprise Center established two years ago by the Association of Former Students to provide education and research in free enterprise, the economic doctrine of permitting industry to operate under free competitive conditions with a minimum of governmental control.

More than \$1.5 million has contributed to the center by individuals, corporations and foundations.

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