

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Education: Controversial report emphasizes return to basics in Texas schools

by ANN ARNOLD
United Press International

AUSTIN — Thousands of Spanish-speaking children and pupils who fail to meet academic expectations for their grade levels will find themselves in summer school if the Governor's Advisory Committee on Education has its way.

The committee's blueprint for improving the quality of education also proposes eliminating non-essentials from school curricula and curtailing public schools' responsibility to handicapped pupils.

The 18-page report — adopted unanimously Tuesday after a year of study — outlines a number of certain-to-be controversial proposals for re-emphasizing basic academic programs in public education.

"Education must focus primarily on intellectual development of students," the committee declared.

Recommendations — which will be reviewed next week by Gov. Bill Clements — call for

providing state funds for local districts to offer summer classes and to pay costs of services to the handicapped mandated by federal regulations and court decisions.

"Students with limited English-speaking ability would be required, mandated to go to summer school," said Dr. Willis S. Tate of Dallas, SMU president and the committee's chairman.

The committee did not spell out how students could be forced to attend summer classes, although some committee members suggested students who refuse could be held back a year along with any others who fail to perform at grade level.

The committee considered but discarded language that, if approved by the Legislature, would have required every school district to offer summer classes. Critics said the expense would be too great in some rural districts.

Bilingual education was endorsed as "appropriate" to help students make the transition from Spanish to English, but the commit-

tee said the emphasis should be on making students proficient in English as soon as possible.

Other recommendations propose:

— Repealing state laws requiring students to take certain subjects such as Texas history and giving the state Board of Education authority to establish and implement a basic curriculum for public schools.

— Requiring 80 percent of the instructional time in kindergarten through third grade and 70 percent of the instruction time in grades four through six to be devoted to essential curriculum elements — English language arts (including reading and comprehension), mathematics and health.

— Changing federal laws requiring public schools to provide an expensive array of services to certain handicapped children under age 5 or above age 18.

— Setting new criteria for "mainstreaming" to preclude placing handicapped children in normal classrooms if their presence will cause "continual disruption or would otherwise negatively affect the teaching-learning setting for nonhandicapped students in the class."

— Setting codes of conduct for students, with contracts for students and parents to sign indicating their knowledge of rules and regulations.

— Giving teachers substantial pay raises to make their salaries competitive with professional positions in business and industry.

— Designating exceptional educators as "Master Teachers" with extra pay and supervision duties over other teachers.

— Competency testing for prospective teachers in general academic skills, knowledge of the subject they plan to teach and proficiency in teaching skills.

— Systematic testing of students to assess their achievement and restricting so-called "social promotions."

— Expanding course offerings to 12th graders to allow any student to participate in a work-study program, vocational technical training and some classes for college credit.

"We're not sure the 12th grade is getting anything done in Texas," Tate said.

The committee said too many high school seniors lack only one or two courses to graduate and can become disruptive without something to challenge them.

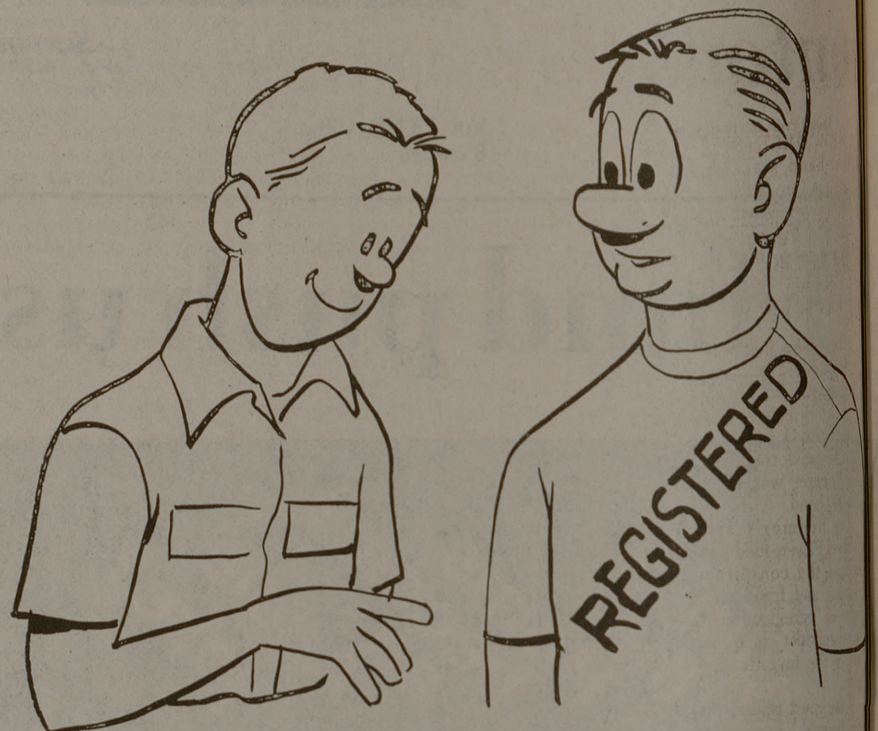
On handicapped students, the committee complained some schools are having to spend \$25,000 a year on a single child under federal regulations that force the local districts to pay costs of non-educational services.

"The responsibility of schools for 'education' does not end, in a practical sense cannot, extend around the clock," the committee said.

The committee said local districts should provide special programs for all gifted and talented students.

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I think I liked it better when registration was less personal."

Consultant stresses short-term planning

by LeROY POPE
United Press International

NEW YORK — If a company has a five-year plan in these troubled days the best thing to do with it is lock it up in the safe and start thinking in terms of six months or less, says David Hunsicker, a Woodland Hills, Calif., management consultant.

In three years Hunsicker has built a firm with 110 employees and \$10 million revenues from blue chip clients, largely by pushing this philosophy. But there's another policy plank in his Institute for Management Resources program that he considers equally important: a consulting firm should insist on being allowed to implement its own recommendations.

For that reason you won't find many of Hunsicker's employees around the Woodland Hills office — they're all out working at clients' offices or plants helping to put recommendations in force.

Hunsicker, a native of Kansas, became a Goodyear plant manager at Topeka as a young man — Goodyear is one of his clients now — then joined a national consulting firm. He resigned after several years out of sheer frustration because too often the recommendations his firm made were filed away and forgotten by the client management.

Lately he has added another target for his consultative arrows, an abiding concern with improving productivity or at least arresting the decline of American productivity.

"We are experiencing a rapid and disastrous drop in productivity and it results largely from unjustified complacency and unsound attitudes on the part of management, workers, the politicians and the public," he told UPI.

He is particularly concerned by management's failure to be sufficiently concerned with productivity. He says he has encountered some large companies in serious trouble because, instead of being concerned with genuine productivity and efficiency, management was in-

"... a rapid and disastrous drop in productivity ... results largely from unjustified complacency and unsound attitudes on the part of management, workers, the politicians and public."

terested primarily in producing financial reports that showed impressive bottom-line gains which, on analysis by a qualified consultant, turned out to be absolute delusions.

To get back to reality, Hunsicker said corporate permissiveness must first be eliminated. "Many managers don't seem to realize that when there's no follow-up checking employees naturally assume the boss doesn't care."

Next, he said, it's necessary to stop delegating and responsibility — that what been delegated will be done. "You can't do that, because you hired the people and think your judgment is good, everything will be right."

Hunsicker also had some advice for firms choosing a management consultant:

— "If the fellow gives you double talk or indulges in vagaries, he's a flim-flammer."

— "Insist that the consultant give you a definite proposal based on his having invested own time and money in your problem."

— "Get a firm advance estimate of the cost of the services he is offering in money and time and in terms of what he expects to accomplish for your productivity, efficiency and earnings per share."

— "Insist on knowing what he intends to do for this year, not five years hence."

Battalion solicits letters, opinions

The Battalion solicits guest opinions in letters to the editor for the Viewpoint section. Letters or guest pieces will be may be taken on anything of campus, local, state, national or world concern.

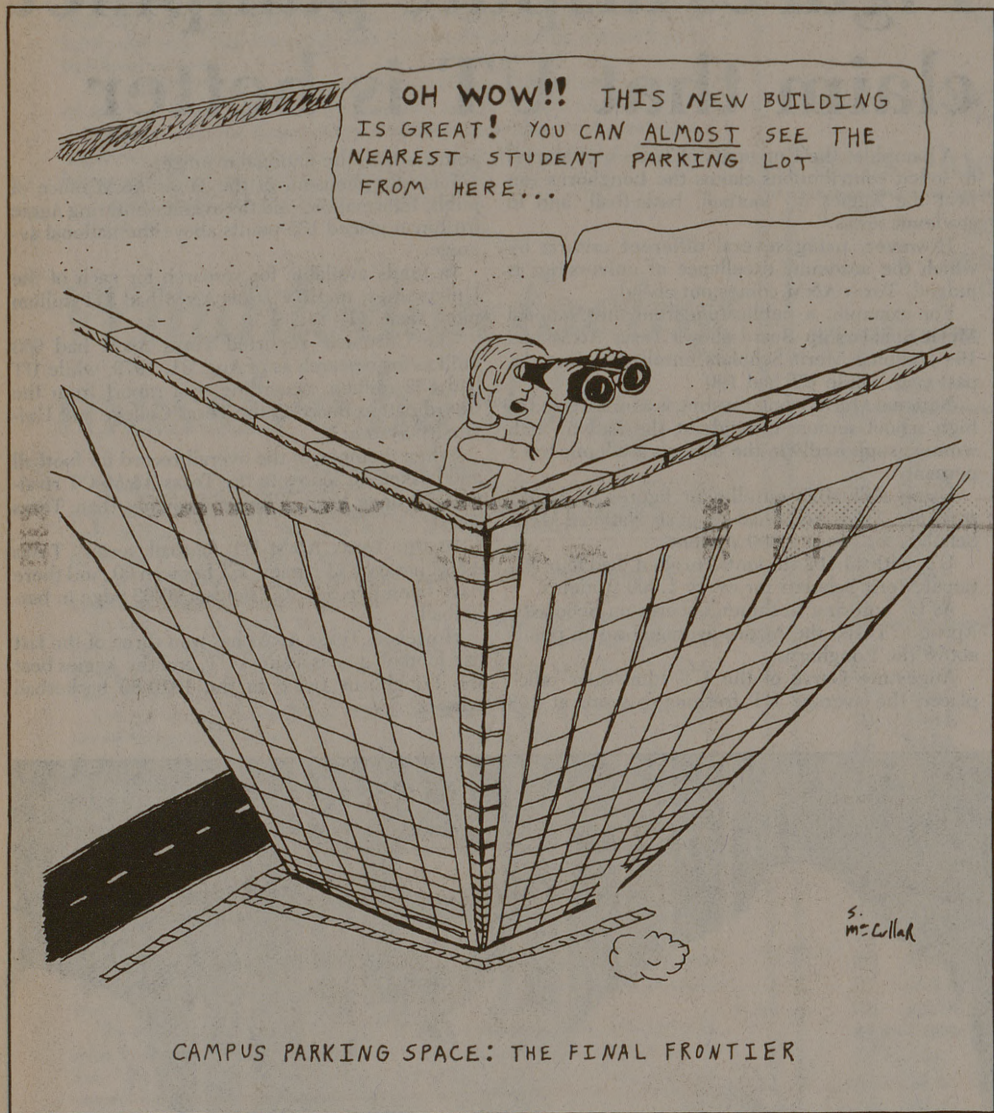
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— They should be typed or printed, double-spaced.

— They should bear the author's name, address and home and/or office phone number.

The Battalion reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Letters will be edited for content.

Letters may be sent through the mail, campus mail system, or they may be delivered in person to The Battalion, Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University.



London conference discusses origins of man

by ROBERT MUSEL
United Press International

LONDON — When did human characteristics first emerge among man's predecessors?

Anthropologist Mary Leakey believes the early hominids learned to walk erect between 3 and 4 million years ago. She discovered a trail of footprints in Tanzania which is believed to date from that time. Whoever or whatever made the footprints was walking in bipedal locomotion without the use of its arms.

Leakey described her find at a meeting here, sponsored by the Royal Society and the British Academy, to discuss the timing of the changes that led to humans and to speculate on the pressures that forced their development.

Russel Tuttle of the University of Chicago said the earliest known hominid remains, from Afar in Ethiopia, show that 3 million-3½ million years ago there already was evidence among the ape-like characteristics that the hands could have made tools — a shift in the human direction.

The origin of verbal communication was another subject of discussion. Glyn Isaac of the University of California at Berkeley, who reported on the meeting for the scientific magazine, Nature, differed from the expressed view that speech had become part of the cultural evolution some 2 million years ago.

Isaac said that in his opinion the early pri-

mates who inhabited the oldest known archaeological sites in Tanzania and elsewhere between 1½ million-2 million years ago were nonalking, non-human hominids.

He said, however, that artifacts and broken up bones found at these sites encouraged the hypothesis that they had a system of food sharing which in turn could have created pressures towards the development of language.

On diet, Alan Walker of Johns Hopkins University said electron microscope study of the teeth of early hominids showed wear and polish similar to that found on eaters of fruit and soft leaves. There was no indication they lived on grass or cracked bones in their teeth.

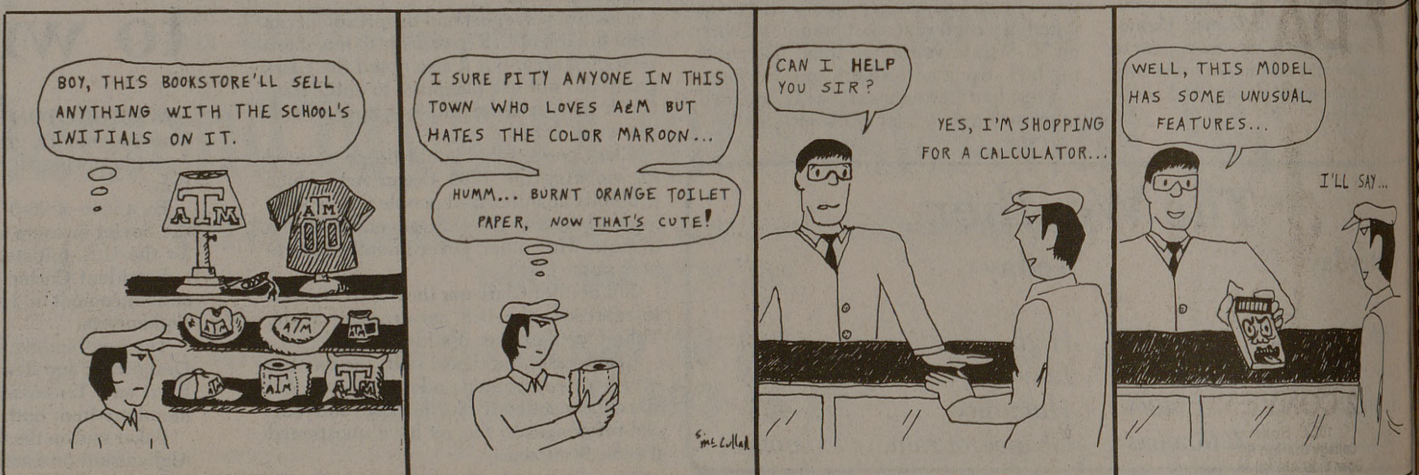
Peter Jones of Oxford told the conference he

made stone tools similar to those found at various ancient sites, in each case using the correct local material. He said he found the raw material had a strong influence on the finished form of the tool, a finding which may affect current theories on the progress of tool making.

Another potentially important development came from J. Loewenstein of the University of California at San Francisco who has succeeded in measuring the immunological differences between fossil proteins and living organisms. Use of his process, said Isaac, could help settle the long standing controversy over the date apes and hominids went their separate ways up the evolutionary tree.

Warped

by Scott McCullar



THE BATTALION

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