

Local

Theme parks new addition

Prof compiling park data

**By GLENN KRAMPOTA**  
Battalion Reporter

A Texas A&M University parks and recreation professor is currently compiling information about all local, state and national parks.

Dr. Carlton Van Doren's study, entitled "A Statistical Abstract of Outdoor Recreation," in effect will be a reference book for teachers, researchers, and policy-makers in government all across the country, Van Doren said.

Information included will help park officials better determine visitation trends over the last twenty years and provide park planners with data for figuring future park use, he said.

Van Doren, a native of Illinois, explained that his project is actually an updated revision of a similar study done in 1955 by a non-profit research organization in Washington, D.C., called Resources for the Future.

Van Doren said the earlier study contained information such as attendance levels in parks, sales figures of outboard motors and hunting licenses issued.

"For those of us coming along in academia at that time, it was a gold mine of information, because all of these things were under one cover for the first time," he said.

Van Doren said his document will have the same benefit — compiling diverse information

and having it contained in one source. But, he said, over the last 20 years new categories of information and new types of recreation have sprung up, and these will also be included in his study.

Examples of these new categories are off-road vehicles, recreation vehicles, bicycle sales and theme parks. Van Doren said theme parks are the biggest category and will include parks like Astro-world, Disneyland, and Six Flags Over Texas.

A similar, but scaled-down handbook pertaining only to outdoor recreation in Texas is also being compiled, Van Doren said.

Van Doren said it is important to note that not all information and statistics will actually be included in the two documents. But he said he will try to document where people can write for specific information.

He said his biggest problem will be getting the needed information on municipal parks. National and state park data can be attained easily enough from the National Park Service and the states themselves.

"But about the only thing we're going to be able to use concerning the municipalities is a survey of use by the National Recreation and Parks Association," Van Doren said.

He said this group used to put out such information regularly, but ran into problems when the

cities would not cooperate.

Van Doren, who is being assisted by doctoral student Larry Gustke, said they hope to have the documents ready for the printer a year from now.

Though firm arrangements have not been made, he said, he is currently looking into the possibility of the study being printed by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the Department of the Interior.

"I would imagine that 10,000 copies, once I find a printer, are going to be gone in a year if I can get it all assembled," Van Doren said.

He received his masters degree at the University of Illinois, and his doctorate at Michigan State, both in geography.

Calling himself a "maverick geographer," he said he first became interested in geography at age 11 when his parents left the country for Peru and he began visiting them.

His interest in parks and tourism came about when, as a geographer, he became "interested in movement and what attracts people... What pulls people to the Astrodome or the Renaissance Festival or Palo Duro Canyon," he said.

Van Doren said he is interested in the natural and cultural resources of attractions.

His comprehensive study of outdoor recreation is being funded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

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Speaker says Soviet buyers lose

**By CINDY GEE**  
Battalion Reporter

The Soviet Union is supposedly run for the people, yet the people are the losers, Dr. Svetozar Pejovich said Thursday.

In the last of a series of discussions presented by the MSC Great Issues Committee entitled "The American Economic Crisis," Pejovich compared the U.S. economic system with that of Western and Eastern Europe, and said capitalism is by far the best system.

Pejovich, acting president of the University of Dallas, grew up in the Soviet Union and graduated from the University of Belgrade. He then came to America and received his doctorate degree from Georgetown University.

Pejovich spoke from experience when he criticized the free medical care and lack of unemployment in the Soviet Union.

"I got sick in Moscow and because I had an American passport, the doctor came rather quickly," he said. "Just to make sure he would not be accused of killing an American, he gave me six different pills and two

injections. I asked him, 'What are these for?' He said, 'Everything from your head to your toes.'

After talking to the doctor for a while, Pejovich asked him if he didn't have patients to go see. The doctor said yes, he had a whole line of them, but they weren't really sick, they just wanted to be excused from work.

Pejovich found out differently, he said, when he went to the doctor's clinic and saw many sick people lying in the dirty halls waiting to see a doctor.

The Soviet Union has its own plants to produce medication. Every time the plants produce more pills than they're required to, the manager gets a bonus, he said. As a result, he added, they produce a lot of inferior pills.

Every time the doctor discovers a pill that doesn't have any effect on the patient, he calls it an "over-the-planned-production pill," Pejovich said.

It is true that unemployment does not exist in the Soviet Union, he said, but their employment system is inefficient.

"One time I was riding an escalator and I noticed two young ladies sitting at each end doing nothing," he said. "I asked, 'What are you doing?' She said, 'Working.' Her job was to watch the escalator and make sure it works, and if it didn't, she made a phone call."

**Free adult ed classes to begin Monday**

Adult basic education classes in the Bryan Independent School District will begin Monday at the Neal School, located at West 20th and Congress.

The classes, which will meet each Monday and Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., are free for residents over 16.

One program offered is General Educational Development (GED), which provides a means for adults who have not completed high school to receive a certificate of high school equivalency by taking an examination.

Other programs include pre-general educational development classes, which stress basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics, and classes in English as a second language, designed specifically for people with limited English speaking ability.

For additional information, call Marvin Dixon, director of community education at 779-2337.



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