

Local

Too many required hours makes Jack and Jill dull

McCandless believes in varied course curriculum

By KATHY O'CONNELL
Battalion Staff

With the "explosion of knowledge" in the past years, students are finding it increasingly difficult to take the number of required courses to get a baccalaureate degree, as well as gain some semblance of a broad education.

Dr. Charles E. McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs, said the greatest difficulty students have at Texas A&M University is that many professional curriculums have condensed programs with an irreducible number of minimum degree requirements.

For instance, he said, the petroleum engineering department and the architecture department have five-year degree programs.

"My background is my bias," he said, "and that is primarily an education in liberal arts. So I'm very sympathetic to a general education core curricula concept."

He said he doesn't foresee a

move to increase all degree programs to five-year plans. The difficulty, particularly in highly technical disciplines, is that the job market is extremely good.

"If you can start out making \$28,000 in four years, then why defer steps and spend another year of outgo and forego the income?" he said.

"I think there are a lot of us who teach and believe that it would be good to know a lot more about a lot of things." However, he said, students "seem to want to graduate and go to work and make money."

McCandless said the real dilemma comes when educators try to draw a line between requiring general education courses and training the students for their planned profession (learning the ever-increasing technological courses).

The more technological the field becomes, the less flexibility the student has.

"In liberal arts," he said, "you

have more flexibility. So it really depends on the discipline as to how much flexibility you have."

McCandless doesn't foresee a move towards establishing a core curriculum at Texas A&M that would require all students to take more hours in English, foreign languages and math.

"Basically we have a kind of core curriculum," he said. "Everyone takes English, history and political science. Almost everyone takes math and some science."

He said students have a "very professional orientation and their question is—'How is this going to make me a better fill-in-the-blank?'"

"Again it's one of my beliefs that a college education should prepare you for a good life, as well as a good living. I think it is important we learn to communicate in writing and that we have some understanding and appreciation for literature."

"There are a lot of things," he said, "that may not contribute directly to making you a better fill-in-the-blank, but it will make you a better educated person."

He said that if he had to establish a "McCandless Tech" he would require English, math, science, history, social and behavioral sciences and some computing sciences.

"I think it would be reasonable to have some understanding of our economic system."

"Basically I would increase the number of hours, but then I would recognize the person in the highly technical areas. They are going to have to scale these down."

McCandless said he realizes many students don't want to take extra courses, especially if they're already swamped with a large number of required courses.

"I think we need to recognize we have people in our classes who are not there because that's their burning desire to be in that class,"

he said.

If there isn't an emphasis on some general education courses, Texas A&M would essentially be a technical institution as opposed to a University.

He said the University should take the blame for a student's reluctance to take more general courses.

"I think we ought to do a better job of explaining why we have

general education courses. It's obvious to us (administrators), but it's not obvious to students."

"We need to show them (stu-

dents) how it can help them professionally, how it can help them personally and how it can help them emotionally."

UT prof says Cold War clash is dangerous but different

By LAURA YOUNG
Battalion Reporter

Even though the Cold War of today is not as intense as the Cold War of the 1940s, there is still a possibility of a clash between the Soviet Union and the United States, said Dr. Robert A. Divine, professor of diplomatic history at the University of Texas.

"There is still considerable danger to the future," Divine said, speaking to about 100 faculty members and students at Harrington Classroom Center Tuesday night. "There is still the danger of a runaway nuclear arms race."

The speech by Divine, author of "The Reluctant Belligerent: American Entry into World War II," was sponsored by the Department of History and Phi Alpha Theta.

"The other great danger is that we will overreact to Soviet moves," Divine, a professor of

20 years, said.

Divine explained that with new Soviet aggressions, the United States has already increased defense spending and reinstated the draft.

"In the 1940s the primary component was fear of Soviet expansion," Divine said. "And in the 1940s, we overreacted to the Soviet danger."

United States foreign policy, Divine said, varies from relaxation to extreme tension.

"In the 1960s the Cold War began to evade," Divine said.

He explained that the Vietnam War was one of the reasons for the action. Lack of support from other nations for that war compounded the problem, he said.

Another reason Divine attributes to the decline of the Cold War in the 1960s is the rise of the third world nations and the formation of

OPEC.

"They diffused power from Washington and Moscow to other areas of the world," Divine said.

However, even with the apparent Soviet aggression, the Cold War of today is different from what it was in the 1940s.

In the 1940s there were two main powers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

"Today we live in a multi-polar world," Divine said. "We have to worry about our allies. We can't rely on them to go along with what we do."

"We need a coalition to convince our allies of our actions."

The other main difference between the Cold War of the 1940s and today is the idea of communism.

"We have more understanding of communism today as an ideology," Divine said.

Coffeehouse to open this summer

By LAURA HATCH
Battalion Reporter

After much delay the MSC Basement Coffeehouse is expected to open on a trial basis this summer. The grand opening, however, is scheduled for the fall semester.

The Basement Coffeehouse has been under renovation since September. The opening this summer will be to smooth out any problems the new facilities might have, said Dwight Smith, staff adviser for MSC Basement.

Work on the mezzanine is expected to begin in a couple of weeks, said Edward Kozlowski, associate director of the physical plant. Bids for the flooring area

have been received and the electricity and plumbing should be done within six weeks.

The Basement Committee is planning to expand programming next fall, Smith said, and will try to have programs in the Coffeehouse every night. In the past the coffeehouse was open only on weekends. "Open-mike" nights, comedy nights and video tapes are just a few of the programs committee members say they hope to offer.

The coffeehouse will be open this fall from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and will serve hot and cold sandwiches, pizza and nachos.

A wide-screen television set for students to watch while eating is

another addition to the coffeehouse.

Smith said the television's addition is the result of the committee's efforts to draw crowds for Monday night football as well as crowds on local football

weekends. The committee would also like to be available for use by other MSC Aggie Cinema or MSC Cepheid Variable, Smith said.

Publisher to speak on books, budgets

Frederick A. Praeger, founder of the Westview Press, will speak on "The Impact of Technological Advances and Budget Crunches on Scholarly Book Publishing" today at 2 p.m. in 204C Sterling C. Evans Library.

Praeger is also president and chief executive officer of the company and vice chairman of the board. He founded the company in 1975.

The Westview Press specializes in international relations and economics, energy, agriculture, geography, natural resources, public policy, military affairs, the health sciences, minority problems and linguistics.

Westview Press is also the official publisher of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Symposia Series. It also cooperates with about 100 other foundations, research institutions, universities and government and private research organizations.

TAMU AGGIES!

Douglas Jewelry

10% AGGIE DISCOUNT
ON ALL MERCHANDISE
WITH STUDENT ID
(Cash Only Please)


We reserve the right to limit use of this privilege.

Downtown Bryan (212 N. Main)
and
Culpepper Plaza

Take the \$25.00 Challenge at Bud Ward's!


You just can't lose!

So
Sez
Fiddlin'
Faron



WANTED!

OLD CLASS RINGS



**CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN.
WE NEED GOLD & SILVER
TO FILL OUR JEWELRY ORDERS.**

GOLD	SILVER	COINS
SCRAP GOLD GOLD INGOTS DENTAL GOLD WEDDING BANDS MOTHERS RINGS CLASS RINGS	INDUST. SILVER STERLING SILVER SCRAP SILVER PLATINUM	GOLD COINS SILVER COINS 1964 & BEFORE DIMES, HALFS QUARTERS, SILVER \$ FOREIGN COINS

BRYAN GOLD & SILVER EXCHANGE
808 VILLA MARIA
ACROSS FROM MANOR EAST MALL
PH 779-GOLD OPEN MON.-SAT. 10-6

PART-TIME PIZZA HUT.

is looking for a "PEOPLE PERSON" for a PART TIME position as **COOK HOST/HOESS** for our restaurants in **NAVASOTA**

As one of America's leaders in the restaurant industry, we've always considered people to be among our most important assets. The people who work with us, and the people we serve.

So, if you've been looking for a Part Time position with **FLEXIBLE HOURS** where your attitude, ability and personality are more important than your experience.

Apply directly to the Manager of **APPLY AT 501 S. LASALLE NAVASOTA**
An equal opportunity employer



COME BY ON SATURDAY MAY 2ND FROM 10 AM TO 6 PM FOR OUR ANNUAL SIDEWALK SALE. MOST ITEMS PRICED 50% OFF AND MORE!

East 29th St. Warehouse
5715 east 29th bryan, texas 77801
713 846 6771

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity Announces Their FIFTH ANNUAL

FIGHT NIGHT



Admission: \$2.00 Pre-Sale \$3.00 Gate

Tickets available:
Shellenberger's
Courts in Culpepper
Texas Aggie Bookstore
Hastings in Culpepper

May 1 & 2
Brazos County Pavillion
Fighting Starts 6:00 p.m.
Boxing Between TAMU Organizations