

local

Scientific lingo Greek, prof says

by Craig Harris
Battalion Reporter

The classical Greeks were just as smart as man is today, says Dr. Lee Percy, a classics professor from the University of Texas.

Percy spoke to a small crowd Wednesday night in the Sterling C. Evans Library on the origins of scientific language in ancient Greece. The speech was sponsored by the Texas A&M English department, modern languages department and the philosophy department.

Percy said that while Greeks were just as smart as us, their concerns and problems were different. He said they did not have as much to work with, such as a scientific language.

Language is important, Percy said, because it created a model of the world and a way to define to models with which the Greeks tested their scientific theories.

He said the early Greeks invented personal poetry, philosophy and science in the eighth, seventh and sixth centuries B.C. They then developed a vocabulary to use their scientific concepts; the Greeks believed that

without language there is no knowledge.

Percy also said the meaning of the word "science" was different then than today. He said it meant to investigate the natural world then, while today it means testing theories by mathematical and observable means.

The first Greek scientists also called the world a cosmos — or an orderly, geometrical body. Percy said this is important because the Greeks recognized that there was order in the world and recognized that it didn't matter that some of their theories were wrong.

He said the Milesians, from Miletus in Greece, were the first to map the orderly world as they knew it then, using symbols to give understanding to their world — a significant start in modern scientific language.

Percy said the early Greeks believed that the eyes were more accurate than the ears and reading was associated with the ears until the second century A.D., because all reading was done aloud until then. Because of this many early Greeks were skeptical of the written word.

Zachry: U.S. society not industrial now

by Leigh-Ellen Clark
Battalion Reporter

Economists often look at industrialism and predict a sad state for America, says H.B. Zachry, chairman of the board of the H.B. Zachry Construction Company. But, he adds, that's like looking at grandparents to predict the state of a family.

"We're changing from an industrial society to an information society with computers and computer graphics on the rise," Zachry told the Construction Management Society Wednesday night in Rudder Forum.

Zachry, a 1922 Texas A&M graduate, encouraged a plunge into an informative society — one that works with construction management and brain power.

"Release the death grip on

the past and look to the future," he said.

Zachry referred to John Neasbitt's book, "Megatrends," saying that in 1956 the white collar workers outnumbered blue collar workers for the first time. The nation was dealing with information rather than just industrial goods, he said.

But to deal with the informational society, Zachry said, there is a demand for brain power, education, a will to excel and work.

"The U.S. must produce the best students from the first grade to the doctorate (level)," he said.

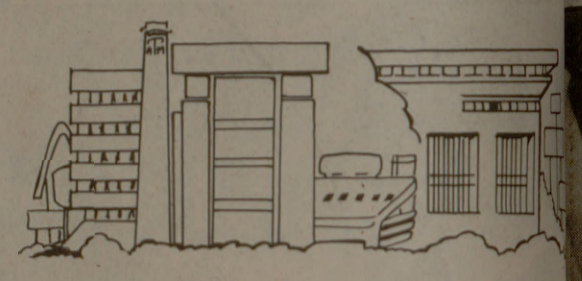
It is vital that the United States gear toward information because it already has lost control of the auto and steel indus-

tries, Zachry said. In 1980, Japan held 40 percent of the auto industry and has increased that percentage yearly. The Japanese pay \$10 an hour for labor to build a car in nine hours.

"Compare that to the United States that pays \$22 an hour for labor for 31 hours of work to produce one car," Zachry said.

But Japan is not the only country with cheaper labor than the United States. Zachry said that Korea is able to produce steel gates for a dam job contracted by Zachry Construction Company for 40 percent less than in the United States, he said.

"How are you going to beat that kind of competition?" he asked.



Around town

Alcohol abuse topic of discussion

Prevention of alcohol abuse will be discussed at the Brazos Valley Development Council Board of Directors meeting 7 tonight at the Brazos Center.

Letters about alcohol abuse programs from Texas A&M University and local independent school districts will be reviewed at the meeting.

The board also will review the Texas Developmental Disabilities Program presented by Brenham State and Farmers Home Administration loan guarantees presented by Cross-line Manufacturing.

Students build park area

by Karen Schrimsher
Battalion Reporter

A Texas A&M parks and recreation class has installed \$12,000 worth of maintenance-free playground equipment at Anderson Park as a community service project for the city of College Station.

The class, directed by Dr. John Blackburn, finished the project March 1 after spending four days working at the park, located at Anderson Parkway and Holleman Drive.

"This will be a one-of-a-kind playground in the city, possibly in the state," College Station

park planner Carlos Mendez said.

One of the things that will make the completed park so unique is the playground equipment itself, he said.

"The equipment is made of steel posts covered in plastic," Mendez said. "There is a slide made of rollers, swings, climbing decks and fireman poles."

Mendez said the special plastic coating helps cut down on equipment maintenance. The equipment was installed over a cushion of gravel.

"This is one of several playgrounds the class has put up for us," Mendez said. "We're very pleased with the work they've put into it. They do great work."

The city will pay the class for the work and for the use of the department's construction equipment, said Brett Wright, a recreation and parks teaching

assistant. The money earned will go into the student fund and probably will be used to pay for the students' trip to the Texas Recreation and Parks Society convention, which will take place near Kerrville in April.

Mendez said the city has not decided on a definite figure yet, but students usually are given 10 percent of the total cost of the playground equipment.

The installation of the new playground equipment is part of the city's plan to improve the park at a cost of \$210,000. Soccer fields, irrigated ball fields, regulation-size basketball courts and a new parking lot will be added. The project is to be completed within a few weeks.

The entire playground will be surrounded by a promenade walkway, Mendez said, and eventually will be shaded by a canopy of trees.

GRE class to be offered to grads

Applicants for graduate school may be interested in Preparation for the Graduate Record Exam class currently being offered by the College Station Community Education Department. Emphasis is placed on the math section as a test-taking tips and techniques.

Class begins March 21 and continues every Monday and Thursday for five weeks from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The tuition for the class is \$14.75. For more information call 696-3820.

A&M grad named to Tower's staff

U.S. Senator John Tower has appointed Frederick McClure as his Legislative Director.

McClure, 29, was graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M in 1976. Here at Texas A&M, he was student body president and received the University's Brown-Randolph Outstanding Student Award. McClure also served as national secretary and Texas state president of the Future Farmers of America. He is a native of San Augustine.

Prior to attending law school, McClure was on Tower's staff, first as legislative assistant for agriculture and then as director of Tower's state offices.

McClure came to Tower's staff from the Houston law firm of Reynolds, Allen and Cook. He received a Juris Doctor degree from Baylor University School of Law in 1981. While there, he was president of the Student Bar Association and was elected to the National Order of Barristers.

McClure replaces Linden Kettlewell, who left the staff to become counsel to the chairman of the Republican National Committee.

If you have an announcement or item to submit for a column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed Mall or call Tracey Taylor at 845-2665.

Police beat

The following incidents were listed in University Police Department records for March 8.

THEFTS:

- A Takara 10-speed bicycle was taken from Walton Hall.
- A vehicle in parking lot 48 was reported to be displaying a stolen blue day student parking sticker.
- Two knotted ropes were taken from the ROTC course near Easterwood port.
- A Mamiya-Sekor M camera and a Bell and Howell flash attachment were taken from the concession stand horse center.
- A Sony pocket calculator was taken from Rudder 10.

Now you know

United Press International
Albatrosses can glide for six days at a time, often sleeping in flight.

United Press International
NORTH LAS VEGAS — High-wire daredevil McPeak and his bride of 10 days, married atop a 750-foot high cable spanning the Colorado River, spent their first moon weekend in jail.

McPeak, 38, and the 22-year-old Carley Bliss, married by a minister who used a way radio to administer the rite vows, descended their high perch Saturday night.

They were arrested by federal agents on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct taken to the federal facility North Las Vegas jail.

McPeak was ordered without bail. His bride remained in custody Sunday night on a \$1,000 bond.

The high-wire walker charged with violating an order issued last December forbidding him from returning to the cables spanning the Colorado River near Hoover Dam court order was issued.

McPeak staged a three-day protest last year atop the dam opposing U.S. loans to Brazil at a time of high unemployment in the United States.

The newlyweds spent the night in a double sleeping bag dangling from the wires of the Colorado River. Their honeymoon was cut short by winds.

United Press International
BEDFORD, Va. — A 51-year-old woman is free after spending almost two months in jail for digging up a church graveyard in search of buried treasure.

A prosecutor said Monday Marilyn Parsons of Reading, Pa., had spent enough time in jail and decided not to prosecute her further.

She said the first thing she wanted to do was free her terrier, Muffin, impounded since her arrest 45 days ago.

Parsons told a jury last week she is convinced she has deciphered directions to the legendary Beale treasure, a \$22 million hoard of gold and silver believed buried in Bedford County before the Civil War.

She admitted hiring a backhoe and digging up a piece of coffin and a human bone in a cemetery beside Mountain View Baptist Church Jan. 7.

The jury upheld a lower court conviction on a charge of trespassing, but deadlocked on a charge of grave-tampering. Bedford Circuit Judge William Sweeney declared a mistrial.

Sweeney fined Parsons \$500 for trespassing and dismissed the grave-tampering charge.

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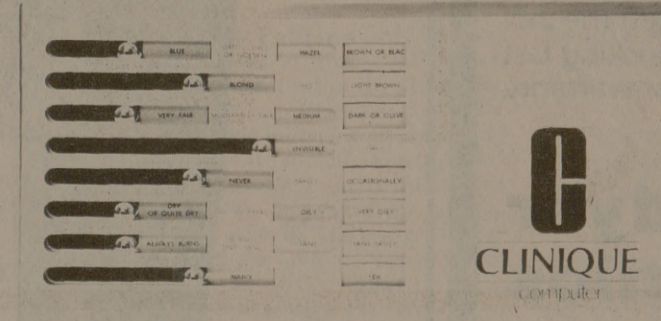
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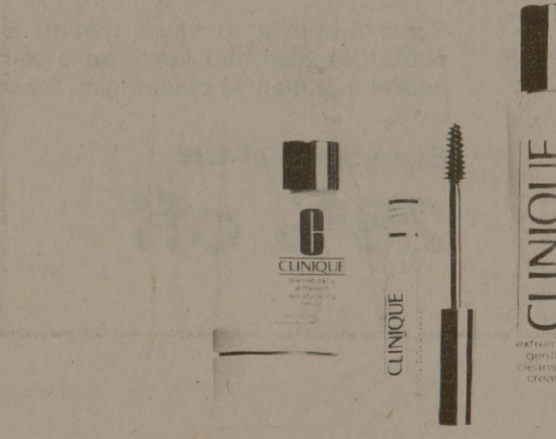
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