

Medical ethics taught here by Virginia prof

by Anne M. Hedgcoxe
Battalion Reporter

Because of better nutrition, better general health care, improved medical techniques and rapid population growth, probably half the people ever living on earth are alive today, says Dr. Don Self, Texas A&M associate professor of humanities and medicine.

"Before the turn of the century, nature took its course whether a physician intervened or not," Self says. "Nowadays, physicians have much more at their disposal to keep nature from taking its course."

But where should a doctor draw the line on keeping a person alive?

"Each case has different nuances to it and I think basically that the line ought to be drawn where the patient wishes it to be drawn," Self says.

"Sometimes it is appropriate not to do what the patient wishes. But for the most part, as a general rule of thumb, physicians should, and for the most part do, carry out the patient's

wishes."

This will be Self's first semester at Texas A&M. For the past nine years he taught a similar course in medical ethics at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va. He also has taught at Virginia Commonwealth in Richmond and at Old Dominion also in Norfolk.

However, he says he had much less time with the course he taught at Virginia. Here, he says, the students will get much better exposure to many of the same plus more issues.

This fall, Self and Dr. John McDermott, distinguished professor of philosophy and head of the Department of Humanities in Medicine, will jointly teach Medicine and Human Values: Introduction to Medical Ethics.

The two-hour credit course will cover issues on death and dying, euthanasia, abortion, allocation of limited resources, genetic engineering and social and ethical problems caused by genetic disease.

Self and McDermott plan to show both the pros and cons of a given situation and then let the

student decide what is best. They also plan to bring in guest lecturers.

"For the most part, I think it would be inappropriate for us as instructors to take a hard line position and try to tell the students to believe the way we believe," Self says. "I think that would be unfortunate and inappropriate."

He says the course was established to help students decide what they will be comfortable with as medical technology advances.

"If you think about it, in spite of the fact that many problems are raised by the development of technology, a lot of good things happen as a result also," he says.


"I think trying to control or end the advances in scientific and medical technology would be a big step backwards. It would be unfortunate. It's kind of like claiming ignorance is bliss. I don't foresee any end to the development of the technology other than the likely possible end to civilization."

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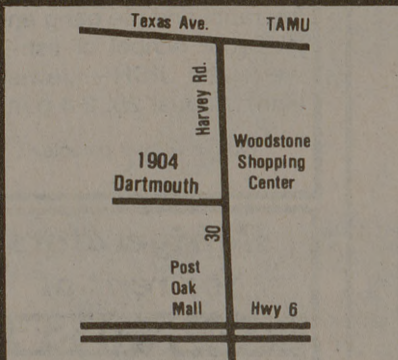
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Proposed degrees OK'd by council

by Kelley Smith
Battalion Staff

Two new degree programs, a department name change and an option name change, approved by the Academic Council now must receive approval by Chancellor Arthur Hansen, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents and the state Coordinating Board.

The Academic Council last Wednesday approved the establishment of two new degree programs — a Ph.D. in anthropology with an option in archaeology and a Ph.D. in political science.

The proposal submitted requesting the anthropology doctorate program states: "The demand for competent archaeologists, particularly trained in nautical archaeology and the other scientific specializations within archaeology is constantly increasing. The existing master's level graduate program in anthropology at Texas A&M University has been structured to provide training in this new direction."

"Considering the strengths of our present master's program, and our past experience, we feel we can offer a strong doctoral program within archaeology."

Courses to be included in the doctorate program were selected from graduate and upper-level undergraduate courses in related disciplines. Five new

courses will be proposed as part of the doctoral program.

The proposal also outlined the facilities needed and degree requirements of the program.

The proposal for the Ph.D. in political science outlined course requirements, library holdings in relation to the program, facilities necessary and the financial aspects of the program.

The council approved changing the name of the Department of Accounting to the School of Professional Accounting and the name of the commercial option in the in the Department of Animal Science.

Also approved were changes in the College of Science's curricula. English 103 was dropped as the entry-level English course and was replaced with English 104; a three-hour English literature elective was added to the curricula that did not specify one and English 301 — Technical Writing — was added to all curricula.

Several changes also were approved for the curricula in the College of Agriculture Animal Science program.

Other business included:

- Approval of 19 new upper-level courses and one new sophomore level course.
- Approval of title changes for five courses.
- Approval of two changes in Bioengineering 435.

'Dallas' plot spawns real-life scholarship

United Press International

DALLAS — The fictitious "Jock Ewing Memorial Scholarship" granted to Southern Methodist University in an episode of the television series "Dallas" prompted so many inquiries to the school that the producers of the program decided to establish a genuine scholarship.

The scholarship was intended as a plot device last season on "Dallas" to help the Ewing widow, Miss Ellie, come to

grips with her husband's death.


After SMU received a number of letters inquiring about the grant, SMU President Donald Shields invited Lorimar Productions, the producers of "Dallas," to follow through.

Lee Rich, president of Lorimar, responded with a letter and a check for \$2,500 to establish the Lorimar Scholarship, to be given each fall to a student in television, film or communications.

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Starring Maria Muldaur, October 23, 1983

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"If you go to the theatre only once this year, this is the show!" — **Newsweek.**

CRIMES OF THE HEART
February 2, 1984

This Pulitzer Prize winning tragi-comedy takes us to an evening with the McGrath sisters: Babe, out on bail from shooting her husband; Meg, the struggling singer on leave from a psycho ward; and Lenny, coming to grips with life as an old maid. A wonder of Southern Gothic humor.

"A crime for anyone interested in the theatre not to see this play." — **New York Post.**

BLUES IN THE NIGHT
Starring Della Reese, March 27, 1984

A sultry, sizzling show about three women in 1938 hotel rooms crying the blues. Defiant, nostalgic memories of women who can neither live with men nor without them. Great blues and jazz.

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