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The Rev. Jesse Jackson

John Makely, Battalion staff

Core curriculum changes possible

by Stephanie M. Ross

Battalion Staff

Some students might not be getting a well-rounded education at Texas A&M, English Professor Dr. Paul Parrish says.

Parrish will reintroduce a motion at the December Faculty Senate meeting to establish a committee within the academic affairs committee to study the feasibility of a core curriculum.

A core curriculum is a set of required courses for all students, regardless of their major. The curriculum would include courses from the liberal arts and sciences.

Currently curriculum requirements are set by the individual colleges or departments. As a result, the course requirements in different colleges can vary drastically.

The committee will address the question "What do colleges want their students to know beyond their major?" Parrish says, not what courses they think all students should take.

"That's the question that needs to be answered, not the appropriateness of their (the colleges') curriculum," he says.

Parrish says the University does have experience in the core curriculum concept, referring to the fact that all students must take English 103 or 104 depending on their college's requirements, American history and political science courses.

With a core curriculum, students would take a variety of courses before they begin taking courses in their major. This has some advantages, Parrish says, because it would allow the student to experience a variety of courses. They also would have time to decide on a major before taking several courses in one area.

Currently the general studies program allows many freshmen to go through a program similar to a core curriculum one.

Parrish says he does not propose that the committee study restructuring any of the colleges, but increasing the breadth of the students' education.

Parrish says he does not expect any opposition to the proposal of a study, but further along, he does expect some extended discussion.

If the motion is passed, the committee would include representatives from different colleges that may be most affected by a core curriculum because courses within their colleges are concentrated, Parrish says. Among others, these colleges include engineering and business.

In the long run, Parrish says discussion of a core curriculum and the reason for it will cause administrators, faculty and students to redefine the goals of Texas A&M. Years ago, the goal of the University was to be a technical college, and then the additional goal of being a liberal arts college as well came into the picture, Parrish says.

If the committee is set up after the December meeting, it will study the core curriculum concept and report back to the Senate in February.

Prof to be sworn in next Monday

Former Texas A&M professor Helmut Merklein will be informally, but officially, sworn in as assistant secretary of energy for international affairs Nov. 28 in Washington.

The scheduled swearing-in follows the final confirmation of Merklein's nomination by the U.S. Senate Nov. 15.

Merklein currently works for the Department of Energy as a consultant. He has been there since he left Texas A&M last month.

In a telephone interview Monday, Merklein said after next week's swearing-in, "it (his job) will be an entirely

different ballgame." After the swearing-in, he officially will become part of DOE Secretary Don Hodel's staff. That will give Merklein access to new and different types of energy-related data. He also will become part of the decision-making process for the department.

He said he will no longer be an "outsider."

A formal swearing-in ceremony will follow Monday's informal ceremony either later that week or early the following week, he said.

Merklein had taught in the petroleum engineering department at Texas A&M since 1982.

Jackson: Youth must exercise voting power

by Michelle Powe

Battalion Staff

Jesse Jackson's campaign trail stop at Texas A&M Monday and the 70-year-old reverend told a receptive audience that it is time for America's young people and minorities to exercise their voting power.

"We can now use our vote," he said. "The democracy has made room for us. We have power and must exercise it."

Jackson, a renowned speaker, prompted several outbreaks of applause during his one-hour speech with his powerful voice and charisma.

This generation, he said, along with new rights, faces some new problems that it must solve.

One problem Jackson cited is that more people are living in poverty now than have been since 1965—3 million

more on welfare and 4 million more unemployed.

"Reaganomics" also was confronted by the only black presidential candidate for the 1984 campaign. Jackson said the sacrifice for economic recovery in the United States has not been shared equally among the American people.

"The people who are making more money are paying less taxes and the people who are making the least money are paying the most taxes," he said. "Who is recovering and who is sinking? The aristocracy has undercut the democracy."

Jackson said the United States cannot be a great nation unless it takes care of its poor, elderly and children. "We cannot be great at the expense of those who are helpless."

Most poor people are poor not because they are lazy, Jackson said, but because they are not given the opportunity to work.

"Let us (minorities) be trained to help America... and be competitive in the world market," he urged.

Another challenge confronting this generation, Jackson said, is the threat of nuclear disaster.

He said the nuclear arms race has become too expensive and too dangerous. But he said he doesn't support unilateral disarmament. In the face of the "Soviet threat," he said, "that's almost naive."

Instead there must be an open line of communication between the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union, Jackson said.

Kennedy

A&M profs discuss former president, administration

by Wanda Winkler

Battalion Staff

Memories of John F. Kennedy, 20 years after his assassination, still remain among Americans across the nation and at Texas A&M.

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FK and his attractive personality always had the support of the American public, says Dr. George C. Edwards II, professor of political science.

"Any of his (Kennedy's) successors would be delighted to have the level of support that Kennedy had," Edwards said. "Everyone loved him."

Edwards was one of three Texas A&M faculty members interviewed Monday by The Battalion about Ken-

neddy and his administration.

Kennedy successfully cut taxes and was responsible for what was probably the longest period of sustained economic growth in America, he said. Economic growth helped fund the social programs of the 60s that dealt with health, education and welfare, Edwards said.

"Cutting taxes to stimulate the economy was innovative" for the time, he said.

Kennedy proposed two important social programs, Medicare and federal aid to education, but they failed to pass Congress. His administration often is criticized unfairly for its failures in Congress, Edwards said.

Kennedy's successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, enjoyed more success in this area, because he dealt with a more

responsive Congress, Edwards said. JFK paved the way for the Johnson Administration, which carried out the Kennedy social programs, he said.

Charles W. Wiggins, professor of political science, said Kennedy, who "epitomized youth and vigor," was devoted to making public service and politics respectable.

"He (Kennedy) encouraged young people to devote a portion of their life to public service such as the Peace Corps," Wiggins said.

JFK issued an executive order creating the Peace Corps in March 1961. The Peace Corps has sent more than 100,000 volunteers in 20 years to aid people in underdeveloped countries.

Vernon E. Schneider, distinguished professor of agricultural economics, said the Kennedy years mark a turning point in history because economists assumed a more significant role in government.

"From an economist's point of view, I liked what I saw" in the Kennedy administration, Schneider said. Kennedy brought a new appreciation of economics to congress and to governmental agencies, he said.

Edwards said major events during the Kennedy administration include the Civil Rights Movement, Bay of Pigs in April 1961, Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, and the nuclear Test Ban Treaty in October 1963.

Kennedy strongly believed in mili-

ary defense but favored a "a lesser response than massive retaliation," total nuclear warfare, Edwards said.

JFK was successful in "cementing good relationships with leaders of other countries," Edwards said.

He met with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in Vienna, Austria in June 1961 and with Konrad Adenauer, West German chancellor, in June 1963.

Another major event involved JFK committing the United States in May 1961 to landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade.

Reflecting on the Kennedy assassination, Schneider said, "Events like that sort the important things from the lesser things in life."

Assassination occurred 20 years ago today

by Karen Wallace

Battalion Staff

Twenty years ago today, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, the country remembers.

The Dallas climate was one of cool, crisp autumn. That morning, the president commented to his wife how it would be to assassinate a president. All anyone would need, he said, was a rifle with a telescope and a perch on a high building.

Dallas was anxiously preparing for the visit from the 35th president of the United States.

The dense crowd made it difficult for police to keep the motorcade path clear. People wanted to get as close as they could to the president and his wife Jacqueline.

It was 12:30 p.m.

Gov. John Connally and his wife Nellie were in the president's car.

The motorcade turned toward the triple underpass entrance to the Stemmons Freeway. It was there, between the Texas School Book Depository and Dealy Plaza, that the fatal shots rang out from a sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository.

After the first shot, Kennedy, in the back seat next to Jackie, clutched his throat.

"My God, I'm hit!" Kennedy said. Gov. John Connally slumped against the door with bullet wounds in his chest, wrist and thigh.

Connally said he was conscious and his eyes were open when the bullet hit Kennedy.

The motorcade sped at 70 mph to

Parkland Hospital. Efforts to revive the president lasted 25 minutes. But the head wound was fatal. The president was pronounced dead at 1 p.m.

Shock and despair swept the country as bulletins spread the first word of the shooting.

BULLETIN
DALLAS, NOV. 22 (AP)—PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT TODAY JUST AS HIS MOTORCADE LEFT DOWNTOWN DALLAS. MRS. KENNEDY JUMPED UP AND GRABBED MR. KENNEDY. SHE CRIED, "OH! NO!" THE MOTORCADE SPED ON.

Police found three shell casings on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. They found a rifle with a telescopic sight behind another stack of book boxes.

A witness gave police a description of a man seen leaning out of a sixth floor window.

Patrolman J.D. Tippit stopped a man who fit the description. The man shot Tippit four times, killing him instantly.

Texas School Book Depository manager Ralph Truly reported one of his employees missing—Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald had been seen inside the building immediately after the shooting but was dismissed by police when Truly told them Oswald worked there.

Police, looking for Tippit's suspected killer, followed tips from witnesses and found Oswald in the Texas Theater. After punching a policeman and pulling a pistol, he was subdued

and disarmed.

At 7:10 p.m., he was charged with the murder of Tippit. At 1:35 a.m., he was charged with the murder of Kennedy.

During a televised transfer from the city to the county jail, Sunday, Nov. 24, millions of horrified Americans watched as Oswald was shot in the stomach by Jack Ruby. Oswald died 48 hours and seven minutes after Kennedy.

Rumors of conspiracy plots quickly spread across the country. Were Oswald and Ruby working together as part of a conspiracy?

The new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, formed a committee headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren to inves-

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Elephant Walk

The dying elephants will gather at noon today in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Statue to prepare for their meander across campus while the junior hunters ready for the kill.

This is elephant walk. Real elephants will be on the drill field from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for anyone to ride.

The Corps Standard states: "Before the bonfire each year the seniors gather in front of the flagpole on military walk and wander aimlessly about the campus like old elephants about to die. This symbolizes the fact the seniors will graduate the following spring and will be of no further use to the Twelfth Man."

Classes held despite win or loss

Although President Frank Vandiver was not available for comment, an official in Dr. Gordon Eaton's office confirmed that classes will be held Monday regardless of whether the Aggies win or lose the Texas A&M-University of Texas football game this weekend.

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forecast

Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of afternoon thunder-showers.