

EDCI prof active in and out of class

By KARLA K. MARTIN
Reporter

When Jesus Garcia arrived in College Station eight years ago, he was shocked by the huge cockroaches and the unfamiliar Texas accent.

He has never grown used to the roaches, he says, but he has adjusted very well to the life of an associate professor of the educational curriculum and instruction department at Texas A&M.

"I think Aggies are extremely intelligent individuals," Garcia says, "and I think I would be doing them an injustice if I patronize them. So when I walk into a classroom, I make a lot of demands on them."

Garcia is active not only in the classroom, but also at the local, regional and national levels of the National Council for the Social Studies.

The NCSS was founded in 1921 to promote the study of problems in teaching the social studies to the students' best advantage.

Today, with a membership of 17,000, the NCSS is the largest organization of teachers and supervisors of social sciences, history and geography in the United States.

Garcia, a member of the Council's Nominations Committee and a past chairman of the Committee on Racism and Social Justice, recently held two workshops at the NCSS annual convention in San Francisco.

The first workshop was about interest groups that influence the teaching of social studies.

"A lot of us have been quite concerned about the cry of censorship," Garcia said. "A number of groups from the left and the right have decided to set themselves up as gods to decide what should and should not be in textbooks."

He said that "left and right" refer to people like Mr. and Mrs. Mel Gabler of Longview who regularly criticize textbooks up to the Texas State Board of Education, and certain minority groups who also want to dictate textbook content.

He said that interest groups have a strong influence in the curriculum of teachers throughout the nation.

"The Gablers are well and alive and do live in Longview and have tentacles that stretch from California to Boston," he said.

The second workshop centered on a discussion of the treatment of blacks in past and present United States history textbooks.

"I became interested in what is in textbooks while doing my master's work at Berkeley," said Garcia, who received his master's and doctoral degrees in education from the University of California at Berkeley.

"Since then," Garcia said,

"I've done numerous studies looking at the treatment of women and minorities -- specifically blacks -- in secondary U.S. history books."

Garcia became interested in the treatment of minorities because, he said, there is enough evidence suggesting that accurate portrayals of groups can lead to reduction in prejudice.

"I've looked at these textbooks for the last 10 years," Garcia said.

He compared five secondary textbooks published between 1956 and 1975 to 11 published between 1981 and 1984.

"My gut reaction was that the treatment of blacks in the '80s would be less than what it was in the '70s," Garcia said, "but that was not the case."

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Garcia said that with the publication in 1968 of *A Land of the Free: a History of the United States*, things turned around.

That book is considered by Garcia to be a landmark textbook because, he says, one of the major authors was a black historian.

"There are many illustrations in textbooks today," Garcia said. "I found some textbooks had as many as 40 pictures that had a figure that was black in it."

He compared this with one of the 1950's textbooks that had only two illustrations of blacks in it.

"I think the textbooks need to deal with the question of institutional racism, why groups continue to find themselves at the lower ends of society," Garcia said. "I think textbooks don't portray that because society, in

general, isn't interested in hearing that. Also, it would portray America from a negative prospective and publishers are hesitant to suggest that Americans, in general, have done some things to other Americans that had some rather negative effects on them."

Garcia said he feels that an entirely positive view of America with respect to blacks also provides youngsters with an inaccurate perception of the status of blacks in the American experience.

The key, he said, is balance.

In his attempt to combat inaccurate and stereotypic portrayals of blacks and other groups in textbooks, Garcia has written a new social studies textbook series.

The series, which took three years to complete, will be nationally marketed in 1984. It is written for the elementary grades (kindergarten through grade 8).

"It will be out in July and we will begin marketing the textbook during the 1984 annual convention in Washington D.C.," Garcia said.

Garcia, a nationally known figure in multiethnic education, is working with a graduate student to examine the treatment of minorities and women in the science textbooks in secondary classes.

Garcia says, even though he is involved in so much, his most important activity is with his family.

"Little did I know that when I arrived here eight years ago that my wife would be an Aggie," Garcia said. His wife, Diane, is a December graduate of Texas A&M.

His children include Francisco, 6, and Victoria, 10.

"But, to me," said Garcia, returning to his professional views, "the bottom line is that the kids do learn something in the classroom. I want to make sure that they begin now, at this part of their career, formulating their educational philosophy. This is so that when they go out to teach, they'll have something which all teachers should have -- a sense of purpose, a sense of direction."

Glenn recruits Hispanic voters

United Press International

EL PASO — Sen. John Glenn of Ohio — former astronaut and Democratic presidential hopeful — brought his campaign to the border Monday to woo Hispanic voters.

"I'm in favor of the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration reform bill if it can be amended to eliminate parts which may be discriminatory," Glenn told approximately 300 sup-

porters at El Paso International Airport.

Glenn accused Reagan of creating a \$200 billion military deficit and sending Marines and other military forces to Lebanon and Central America.

"We are certainly not drifting toward peace," he said. The candidate praised Mexican Americans for their patriotism and loyalty to the United States.

"Mexican Americans have

the greatest number of servicemen who are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor — 37," he said. Glenn, 62, said he would negotiate for peace in the world.

"I have been through two wars and I have written more than my share of 'next-of-kin' letters," he said. "I don't want to see war ever again."

The presidential hopeful said he would like to set a national goal of eliminating

illiteracy in the United States.

In the international educational assessment scores, he said, the United States ranked 10th. "We ought to be ashamed of ourselves."

He said Reagan has no one to blame for the nation's deficits but himself.

The economic recovery is a false recovery, Glenn said. "Our children will be paying for it."

Arraignment set in Chagra case

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — Convicted drug smuggler Jimmy Chagra was scheduled Tuesday for arraignment on federal charges that he conspired to kill assistant U.S. Attorney James Kerr.

Chagra, 38, and Richard Kearns, 44, were indicted by a federal grand jury last November for the Nov. 21, 1978 attack on Kerr, who was only slightly injured.

Both men were indicted for conspiracy to murder, while a second count charged Kearns with assaulting a federal prosecutor.

Chagra was scheduled to appear Tuesday morning for arraignment before U.S. Magistrate Robert B. O'Conner. Kearns' arraignment hearing was scheduled for later Tuesday.

Chagra is currently serving a 30-year sentence, without parole, for conducting a continuing criminal narcotics enterprise. He was also sentenced to 15 years for conspiring to obstruct the investigation of the May 29, 1979 shooting death of U.S. District Judge John Wood Jr.

Kearns is currently serving an 18-month sentence in Concord, N.H., for theft from an interstate shipment.

The indictments alleged that Chagra arranged through an associate, Robert Piccolo, to pay Kearns to kill Kerr, who was investigating Chagra's drug dealing activities.

Kerr, an administrative law judge whose whereabouts have not been disclosed, was slightly injured by flying glass in the 1978 attack near his home in the Alamo Heights district of San Antonio.

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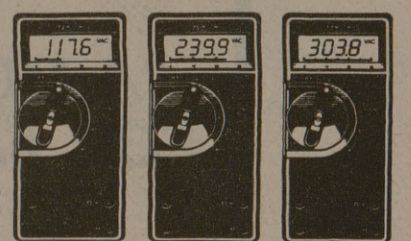
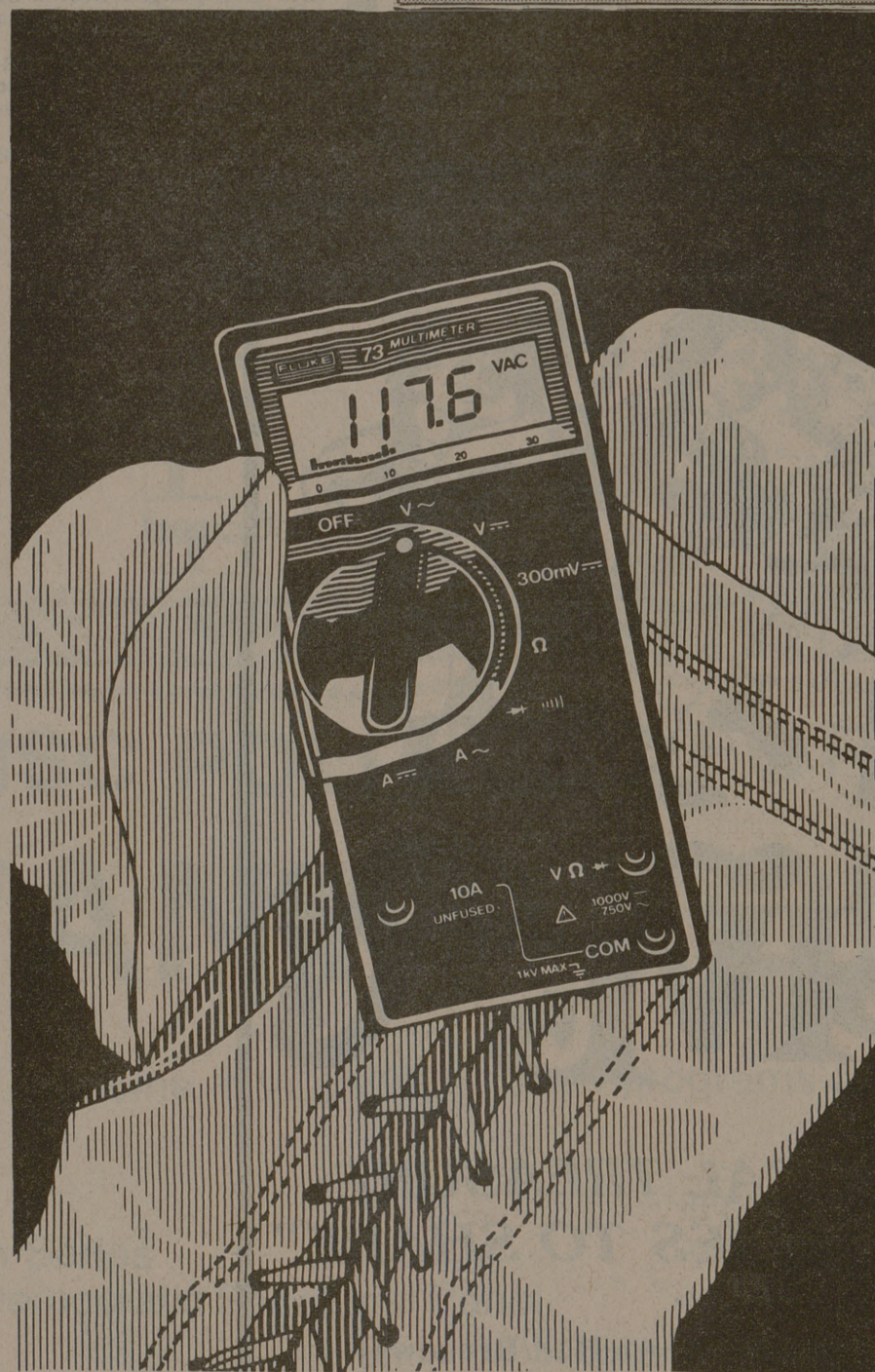
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