

Speech communications: A new liberal arts degree?

Warped

by Scott McCullo

By PAULA ODOM
Reporter

Good speech communication skills have become an increasingly important tool in the business world. That's why faculty members of the liberal arts department have made a proposal to offer a bachelor of arts degree in speech communications at Texas A&M.

"What is being proposed is a normal liberal art curriculum in other large state universities, and since Texas A&M has a liberal arts program, I see no reason why it wouldn't be approved," Dr. Kurt Ritter, Coordinator of the Speech Communications Program, said.

Career interests for speech communication majors range

from communication-oriented positions in marketing and sales to public relations and mass media. Students may go on to pursue advanced degrees in law, business, or the ministry.

Since there are 10 speech communication courses already offered at Texas A&M, only six new courses will need to be added if the proposal is approved.

Because the course loads of the present staff will stay the same, one new faculty member will need to be hired to teach the six new classes (three per semester).

The number of students expected to enroll in the degree program has been based upon national trends at other large state universities. By this expectation, if the proposal is approved, it eventually should attract 1 percent of the undergraduate students here, Ritter said.

"We hope it will be approved in time for the Fall Semester of 1984," Ritter says.

Since the proposal already has been approved by the Faculty Senate, it will be submitted to the Board of Regents in March.



Brown's
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CS school board decides to forego new staff member

By CHRISTINE MALLON
Staff Writer

Under pressure from an audience of about 200 parents, teachers and concerned citizens, the College Station School Board decided to drop the idea of hiring a new staff member to act as a go-between for the board and the superintendent's office.

During last month's meeting, Board President Bruce Robeck introduced a proposal to hire a

staff assistant whose most important job would be "communication with the public whenever a board member wasn't able to personally answer questions."

Robeck and Board Trustee Charles Giammona agreed the situation had gotten way out of hand by Monday's meeting. Both said rumors had been circulating the community saying the new staff assistant would be paid about \$30,000 and take over most duties of the superin-

tendent's office.

Most of the participating audience held their ground on the notion that such a position would take away the executive responsibilities of Superintendent H.R. Burnett. They argued that the ideal position Robeck was looking for could be filled by "a few extra secretaries."

Robeck said his intentions were to fill the position with a graduate student, pay him about \$800 a month and give

him a trial period to see how he handled the job. But members of the audience argued that the board had failed to provide a job description and most comments accused the board of changing their objectives at the last meeting.

Nearly 25 people voiced opinions on the matter and after more applause and standing ovations than at the Academic Awards, Giammona motioned to permanently close the subject.

Speech extols education for blacks

By ERIN PYLE
Reporter

"In 1984, the cost of freedom for black women is academic excellence," Patricia Russell McCloud told a small audience last night at Rudder Theater. McCloud, president of Patricia A. Russell Consultants of San Antonio, emphasized the importance to black women of winning the "battle of the minds."

McCloud said that college students are faced with problems such as unemployment, grant and scholarship cutbacks, and stiff academic competition.

She said that one out of every four college students are taking jobs which previously did not require a college degree; "The welcome mat has been pulled away and a neon light blinking 'No Vacancy' has been left in its place."

Using analogies, McCloud emphasized the importance of individual effort in order to achieve success. She likened life to a baseball game with the bases loaded and a student at bat; "those who stay in the game" she said, "will have to avoid life's carefree days or they

will hear an umpire say 'you're out' and 'you must not only learn to play the game, you must learn the games people play and remember that someone will always be there to move the bases.'"

Some qualities McCloud stressed that the black female graduate will need are: academic excellence, participation in the political process, a good mind, and clear, articulate speech. In order to get ahead in 1984 she said, students must know when to compromise and when to stand firm.

"The cost of freedom relates to where we're going as well as where we are," said McCloud. "We must have more than material wealth to win the battle." McCloud said the answer to the cost of freedom for the black woman lies in her own hands.

McCloud, the youngest awardee of an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the Thurgood Marshall College of Law in 1983, told the audience that a black woman must never give up her desire for knowledge.

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Oil well operators allegedly selling gas at illegal prices

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The government believes 37 operators of about 200 oil wells in Texas' Panhandle Field are draining inexpensive natural gas reserves and selling the gas at higher prices than permitted by law.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued an order requiring the 37 operators to prove why they should not be found to be violating provisions of the Natural Gas Act and the Natural Gas Policy Act on certain sales of gas pro-

duced from the wells.

In a show cause order, FERC alleged the oil well operators were draining the inexpensive reserves and selling gas produced from the reserves at prices in excess of those permitted under federal law.

The commission's order alleges that approximately 8.6 billion cubic feet of Dorchester's dedicated gas reserves already have been drained by the operators and such practices are continuing in the Panhandle Field.

In its order issued late last week, the commission said it wants an administrative judge to decide whether the well operators have violated federal pricing laws by selling within the state the gas that was committed to interstate commerce — without permission from FERC.

The hearing, which has not yet been scheduled but will be held on an "expedited schedule," also will deal with whether the operators violated the NGPA by charging more than allowed.

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