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Report urges humanities restoration

University News Service

Until the humanities are restored to a place of prominence in the required curricula in higher education, most of the nation's college graduates should be considered trained, rather than educated, says a member of the National Endowment for the Humanities panel which issued a critical report late last year.

"Home economists and field engineers don't necessarily need a broad education to do their jobs," said Dr. David Stewart, head of Texas A&M's English department. "If you're going to follow that route, fine. But don't claim to be educated with only that training."

He said it is important to provide training in specialized fields such as engineering, business and law. However, he said training as well as an understanding of the humanities can be obtained at the same time.

"We can give all students adequate minimum education before they specialize," he said.

Recommendations for basic college requirements in the report authored by NEH director William Bennett include a chronological understanding of Western civilization, an understanding of the most significant ideas and debates in the history of philosophy and demonstrable proficiency in a foreign language, either modern or classical.

Stewart said failure to expose college students to the humanities is the same as "depriving a whole generation of human beings of their cultural legacy. The whole past is our legacy and you are impoverishing yourself."

The foreign language requirement is essential, he said.

"It is impossible to be an educated person unless you have had exposure to a foreign language," Stewart said. "Through study of foreign language we become sensitized to our own language and we also become sensitized to another culture."

But Stewart believes it will be a long, hard-fought battle to restore the humanities to a position of prominence in the required curricula of the nation's colleges and universities.

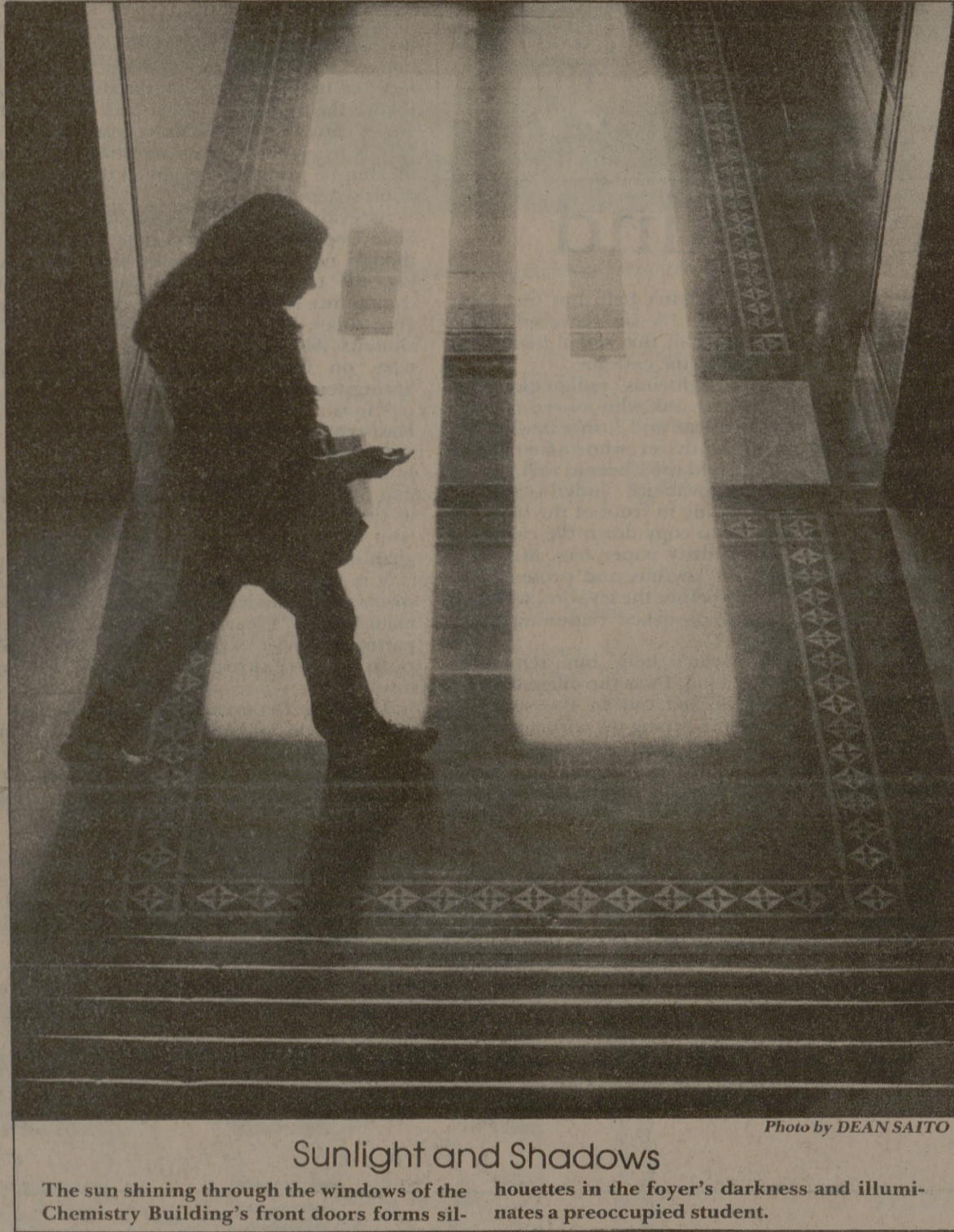
"It will take a long time to convince people to prefer broad-based education to professionally-based training," Stewart said.

Reforms also will be difficult because the university is somewhat insulated from pressures of the outside world, he said.

Stewart faults professors in the humanities for the slip of literature, philosophy, foreign language and history to a secondary position in college requirements.

"It is partly the responsibility of people in the humanities that there has been a decline in requirements and standards," he said in reference to a period in the 1960s and 1970s when colleges and universities dropped many requirements, often at the urging of humanities professors as well as students.

"It was one of the biggest mistakes colleges and universities ever made," he said. "Curriculum means hurdle in Latin — like an obstacle course. The hurdles are not established by the people running the course. It's like someone saying 'take the net down, and then I'll learn to play tennis.'"



Sunlight and Shadows

The sun shining through the windows of the Chemistry Building's front doors forms silhouettes in the foyer's darkness and illuminates a preoccupied student.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Reagan talks 'release' from federal ties

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's call in his second inaugural address for "a new American Emancipation" reflects the unshakeability of his conviction that Americans are held in bondage not by race or discrimination but by big government.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater called it "an old word with new meaning."

But the word "emancipation" has a special meaning in American history, and in using it to press home his war against big government, the president risks angering civil rights leaders, who are already estranged from this administration.

For more than a century they have equated the word emancipation with a single event: President Abraham Lincoln's proclamation in 1862 freeing all slaves in the states still at war with the Union.

But in his address on Monday, Reagan proposed "a new American Emancipation" — a great national drive to tear down economic barriers and liberate the spirit of enterprise in the most distressed areas of our country.

Although he mentioned elsewhere in the speech the federal government has a role to play in defending civil rights, the Reagan emancipation would grant another kind of freedom.

"At the heart of our efforts," Reagan said, "is one idea vindicated by 25 straight months of economic growth: Freedom and incentives unleash the drive and entrepreneurial genius that are the core of human progress."

It was classic Reagan rhetoric. It coupled his vision of future prosperity for all with a view that government should give people incentives and get out of their way, rather than stepping in to assist where it can.

"We must act now to protect fu-

ture generations from government's desire to spend its citizens' money and tax them into servitude when the bills come due," he said.

Rather than government social programs for the needy, Reagan said "a growing economy and support from family and community offer our best chance for a society where compassion is the way of life."

It is the concept at the core of the "fairness issue" that Reagan's critics have tried to use against him, arguing that private aid programs and family assistance efforts are inherently inadequate and unequally distributed.

Although promising there would be "no turning back or hesitation on the road to an America rich in dignity and abundant with opportunity for all our citizens," Reagan offered no specifics to allay the concerns of civil rights advocates who claim he is trying to reverse the gains of recent years.

But the president said last week he rejects the charge, accusing his opponents in the civil rights movement of acting in their own self-interest.

"I know there are a number of leaders of various organizations that are coming forth all the time with reports that build this idea, that somehow we've relegated the black community to a second-class status," he said. "Well, that's not our intent, and that's not our practice."

Blacks who voted overwhelmingly against him last November, Reagan said, were misled by their leaders.

"I have to come to the conclusion, that maybe some of those leaders are protecting some rather good positions that they have, and they can protect them better if they can keep their constituency aggrieved and believing that they have a legitimate complaint," the president said.

Worst disaster since Pan Am accident in '79

64 dead in Reno charter plane crash

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — A chartered turboprop carrying 67 people home from a gambling junket crashed and burned just after takeoff Monday as the pilot tried to return to the airport because of vibrations. Authorities said all but three people on the plane were killed.

Galaxy Airlines Flight 203, a four-engine Lockheed Electra 188, crashed in a field and slid onto a four-lane highway after narrowly missing motels and apartment buildings. The plane had taken off at 1:05 a.m. bound for Minneapolis on a charter by Caesars Tahoe Resort-Hotel of Stateline, a subsidiary of Caesars World Inc.

The plane was the same one that had been used by both the Rev. Jesse

Jackson and Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, during their unsuccessful campaign for the presidency. Jackson said the plane had once been ordered grounded at Dallas after flying through a storm.

The Galaxy crash was the worst in the United States since a Pan American World Airways jet crashed in Kenner, La., on July 9, 1982, killing 153 people, including eight people on the ground.

Bruce Laxalt, an attorney representing the airline said there were 67 people aboard the plane, five of them crew members. In all, 64 people died, including the entire crew, and three passengers survived, he said.

"Galaxy Airlines is cooperating fully with the NTSB and believes it

would be inappropriate to make any statement concerning the accident until the investigation is completed," he said.

Earlier, officials had said up to 74 people may have been aboard.

"It was really shocking," said Mark Brenner of Reno, who was driving by the scene when the plane went down. "The plane never seemed to get off the ground."

Brenner said one person, burned beyond recognition, ran from the airplane crying, "Help me, Help me," and was rolled in the dirt by passers-by. It was not immediately known whether he was among the survivors.

"All I remember is the explosions," said another witness, Elisa Pagni. "I saw flames flying up in the

air. It was so loud. I was terrified."

Survivor George Lamson Jr., 17 — whose father also survived — said the crash "happened so fast he couldn't remember anything," according to his mother Adrienne in St. Paul, Minn.

"It's a miracle," said Jerry Calvanes, a medical triage officer at the scene. "This boy essentially walked away from a crash where everyone else died."

Young Lamson was "emotionally shaken but doing reasonably well," said Dr. Stephen Grace, who performed surgery on his father.

Grace said the boy told him an explosion threw him from the plane and he found himself on the ground in his seat, then "pulled the (seatbelt) buckle and unstrapped himself."

Glacial cold abates slightly under sunny skies

Associated Press

The glacial blasts that kept Texas shivering over the weekend began to abate slightly on Monday, but not before contributing to the deaths of at least eight people, officials said.

Under mostly sunny skies, Texas temperatures warmed into the 30s and 40s Monday afternoon and at 4 p.m. hit 46 degrees in El Paso, the National Weather Service reported.

The polar high pressure system that pushed wind chill factors as low as 55 below zero and drove the wind up to 77 mph had begun to drift slowly eastward and was expected to

break its hold on the state by week's end, said weather service forecaster Buddy McIntyre.

But the damage left behind by that arctic air mass was extensive.

The bodies of two teen-agers were recovered from Granger Lake, near Taylor in Williamson County, after their boat capsized in freezing temperatures Saturday, authorities said.

A 29-year-old man died Sunday at Dallas' Parkland Memorial Hospital after he apparently spent Saturday night outside, officials said. The cause of death was believed to have been hypothermia — subnormal

body temperature.

A 58-year-old E-Systems Inc. engineer from Dallas, Lloyd Lauderdale, was presumed drowned after his boat was blown over by the wind on Proctor Lake in Comanche County. Two companions made it to shore.

An 86-year-old Austin woman died when a space heater ignited her mobile home Sunday, and three children died in a weekend mobile home fire in Houston. Authorities were investigating the possibility that the fire was started by a space heater.

The front swooped in late Saturday, plunging temperatures more than 30 degrees in five hours.

"We'll be going through a gradual warm-up throughout the week," McIntyre said from his Fort Worth office. "It should be into the 40s by Thursday and stay that way through at least Saturday."

The front tried to hold on to the state Monday, however, and did manage to keep temperatures cool in the Panhandle, where Dalhart reported a 4 p.m. high temperature of 27 degrees.

Winds had subsided to light and

variable across much of the state except for South Texas, where a northerly wind at 15 mph to 20 mph drove wind chill factors to 5 degrees below zero.

In Abilene, a man, 45, and his daughter, 19, survived nearly 16 hours in the cold after their single-engine plane crashed about 10 miles from the airport.

Wind gusts of more than 50 mph and temperatures well below freezing left more than 30,000 homes in the Texas Golden Triangle and west of Austin without electricity parts of Sunday and Monday.

Gulf States Utilities reported system-wide power outages in the Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange area and as far away as Baton Rouge and Lake Charles, La.

The national death toll blamed on arctic weather reached 76 as subzero temperatures and icy winds gripped the eastern half of the nation from Texas to New England again Monday, making it the coldest day on the books in more than 20 cities.

More than 80 records were set in the Southeast and East for the coldest temperature for the date.

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