

# Survey

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vidual teaching methods and not be compared to other professors.

"I don't think it's possible to measure a Rod O'Connor in an introductory chemistry course against a John McDermott in an advanced humanities class," he said.

Many variables should be considered during the preparation of student questionnaires, he said. These include type of course, student level, class size, classroom location, facilities, course objectives, whether it's a required or an elective course, difficulty of subject matter and time of day of the course.

Johnson said that in the Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction two questionnaires are used: The first one, given mid-semester, is a formative evaluation. The advantage of this questionnaire is that it is given in time for student feedback to lead to changes and improvements before the end of the semester.

"If you ask me, the formative evaluation is 10 times more important than the summative because there's time to turn the course around," Johnson said.

The summative evaluation is given at the end of the semester, and is a mandatory evaluation of the course and the professor's teaching.

Concerning the issue of publishing the evaluations, Johnson said professors often seem threatened by the results being released. He suggests moving away from negative phrasing and putting professors in a negative role.

Johnson also said that to be worthwhile, the published results must contain information that students want to use. The wording must be carefully chosen, he added.

Davenport said some professors have argued that the professor alone should be told of his evaluation so he can work on improvement and not face condemnation or competition.

He also said the legality of publishing the evaluations has not been confirmed, but will be a consideration of the subcommittee.

Royal the Student Government once attempted publishing the results, but the project was disastrous. The main reason it didn't work, he said, was that it wasn't feasible for Student Government to handle such a large project alone.



Spring Training

Photo by KIMBERLY TRANT

These children show their Aggie Spirit at an early age. Mark Hix (left) and Jared Trant already own official Aggie garb, even though their Aggie yells are still garbled.

# Isolation

Life still possible without electricity, phones

Associated Press

**KERMIT** — Rancher John Haley stopped phoning home and quit paying electric bills 16 years ago when he moved his family to the remote, 10,880-acre cattle spread where his parents lived as newlyweds in 1924.

Dressed in faded blue jeans, western work shirt, boots and a cowboy hat, Haley said last week that his decision to do without electricity and telephone service was "a matter of principle."

"I had an estimate done when we first moved here on running an electric line and phone line to my home," he said. "I thought they could have given me a better deal than that. I thought, I could burn a lot of kerosene for that amount of money."

He did just that. Instead of paying \$30,000 to \$40,000 to have phone lines installed, he drives 20 miles to Kermit and makes his business calls in an office that he rents for \$325 a month.

And rather than pay \$700 for an electrical line and then monthly elec-

tricity bills, Haley burns \$1,000 of butane and kerosene a year.

"I had very little reason to use a phone until I became involved in some investments," Haley said as he walked to his 30-year-old gas refrigerator to get a beer.

"My office phone bill runs about \$200 to \$400 a month," he noted. "I still have phone bills, but I have no need for one on my ranch. If someone wants me bad enough, they can send after me."

Haley, 58, spends his mornings scanning The Wall Street Journal for the metal market prices.

"I have my breakfast," he said. "Cigarettes and coffee each morning. And I look at what's happening in the metals — gold and silver market."

"You have to start out with what you have. If you're lucky, you can increase your capital. I've made some good investments, and I've made some bad ones."

He said the ranch, which is about 65 miles west of Odessa in sparsely populated Loving County near New

Mexico border, has been one of his better investments.

At least, said Haley, "I don't get interrupted in the middle of a good steak by the ringing of a phone."

Evenings at the Haley ranch are often spent reading.

Haley, who once made a living trading in the stock market, is particularly fond of the works of author Joseph Conrad.

"I like his way with words and his philosophy," he said. "Conrad believed a man should earn everything he got."

Haley and his Stefanie, 47, believe their five children are reaping the advantages of ranch life.

"It's a good place to rear kids because ranch life breeds independence and creativity," Mrs. Haley said.

"Our 16-year-old son is now being entertained by the television set in Tucson, Ariz., where he goes to a private high school," she said. "But when he comes home for the summer... he reads."

# Free Fridays give schools a boost

Associated Press

**COLDSPRING** — While many Texas schoolchildren spend Fridays daydreaming in class about their weekend plans, students in this small East Texas community go on field trips and take part in other extracurricular activities.

Children in San Jacinto County's Coldspring-Oakhurst school district have enjoyed a four-day school week since 1983. Texas Education Agency spokesman Tom Patton said the district's four-day week is unique among Texas schools.

School officials began giving students Fridays off after they realized children were missing more and more class time because of extracurricular activities.

Now, the district's 1,600 students start school a few weeks early in August and take Fridays off from March through May. District officials try to restrict most extracurricular activities to Fridays.

"We just felt it was a logical thing to do," said school district Superintendent Fred Arneson. "You don't have to make drastic limitations on the outside activities which kids enjoy to keep them in class."

Some teachers have said the four-day week creates a holiday atmo-

sphere. Others, however, think it has made students more serious about their schoolwork.

Most students seem to favor the program.

"It used to make me mad to be robbed of school time when I participated in extracurricular things," said Tracey Trantham, 14. "Now I have even more time for studying."

One student, however, had some complaints about the shorter school week.

"I hate having a shorter summer," said Jennifer Turner, 13. "It cuts down on the time my family can travel and go camping."

The shortened school week saves the district about \$2,900 a year because it doesn't have to hire substitutes for teachers who are on field trips during regular school days, Arneson said. Teachers are not paid overtime for extracurricular events.

Arneson liked the experiment so much he testified to a legislative committee, urging state lawmakers to consider a four-day school week as an alternative to cutting back extracurricular activities. But the idea was never adopted.

The state's Education Reform Act passed last year limits students to 10 absences a year for extracurricular activities.

# Criminal charges filed in paddling

Associated Press

**GARLAND** — A Garland couple has filed criminal assault charges against a school principal who allegedly paddled their 11-year-old son.

The parents said they had signed official school district documents saying they did not want corporal punishment given to their son.

They say that Herman Salter, principal of Northlake Elementary School, paddled their son March 29 for disrupting class.

The couple told the Daily News they want Salter reprimanded by the Garland Independent School District board and brought to trial.

Dr. Eli Douglas, superintendent of Garland schools, verified that the

parents had asked to address the board about the incident at trustees' April 18 meeting.

The boy was involved in a similar incident before in which he was paddled "until he bled" in front of other students, and the boy needed counseling as a result, his father said.

The family filed a lawsuit which is still pending against the school district involved in the earlier paddling, she said.

"My husband had promised him he would never be paddled like that again, but he was," she said. "We're going through with all this because we want to let our son see that my husband's word can be trusted."

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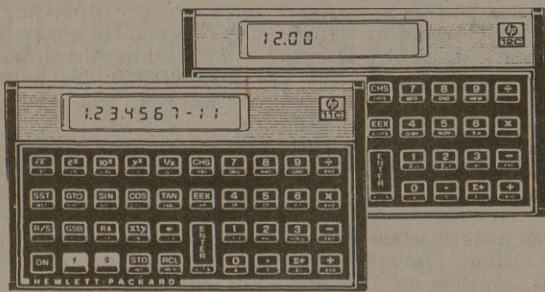
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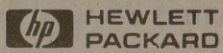
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