

State and Local

Gifted students getting aid in dealing with life

By JOHN McCARTER
Reporter

Fred is a National Merit scholar and had a 4.0 grade-point ratio in his first semester at Texas A&M. He shouldn't have a problem in his academic life, right?
Wrong.

According to Dr. Fred Dorn, a counseling psychologist with the Student Counseling Service, students who make exceptional grades have as many problems as students who have trouble just making a passing grade.

That is where the Career Motivation Program comes in. The program is a six-to-nine-hour group experience geared toward gifted students.

"What's positive about this program is that it helps the academically inclined students realize that they don't stand out in a crowd in a negative sense," Dorn said. "As far as I'm aware this is the only program in the country like it; the only program that addresses National Merit scholar-type kids and offers them support."

The program was started five years ago by Dr. Anne Shroer, formerly of the counseling service.

"This is . . . an opportunity for students to learn about themselves, the qualities they have, the skills they have and how those might relate to the world of work," Dorn said.

During the sessions the students describe their hobbies and successes in and out of high school and college.

"Too often we try to get people to accept us on the basis of things we are really not good at."

— Dr. Fred Dorn, a counseling psychologist at the Student Counseling Service.

"During the six-to-nine-hour period, we begin learning about what peoples' strengths are," Dorn said. "We emphasize strengths rather than weaknesses."

Dorn said the program tries to promote a sense of self-acceptance based on skills the students have.

"Too often we try to get people to accept us on the basis of things we

are really not good at," Dorn said. "It's a big deal now to be in business or engineering because that's where the pendulum swings this year."

One of the biggest things people must deal with is choosing a career, which isn't a popular choice, Dorn said.

"We want them to know that it's all right to be interested in art, anthropology or liberal arts and still be an Ag and that you can still survive in the world," Dorn said.

Dorn also pointed out that women who do exceptionally well in school may have an added burden because of their sex.

"We have found that women in the program really struggle with the idea that they have to choose between being involved in a relationship or a career," Dorn said. "We try to help them realize that there are some men who are willing to accept the fact that women can have a career and still have a family."

Dorn gets the names of potential candidates of the honors program and mails them information at the beginning of each semester.

Dorn said the program helps students clarify their values.

It may join founding AIDS hospital

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The University of Texas is considering whether to join the American Medical International in establishing a hospital to treat AIDS patients.

Dr. John Ribble, dean of the Medical School at Houston, and Dr. Charles LeMasistre, president of M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, said Monday the hospital has been proposed by AMI, a California-based hospital chain.

Ribble said a "preliminary letter of intent" approved by the medical school, M.D. Anderson and AMI has been sent to the UT system offices in Austin.

A report will be made to the Regents next month, but Ribble said he does not expect approval of the plan at that time.

Richard D'Antoni, vice president for AMI's office in Houston, said the hospital would be housed at what is now Citizens General hospital, in north Houston.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, destroys the body's immune system and leaves the patient defenseless to disease and can

UT has no insurance on its rare articles

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas has a Gutenberg Bible, the world's first photograph, a Gutenberg Bible and no insurance.

The center has an elaborate security system — including a fire-fighting system that can kill — but no insurance.

Charles Franklin, UT vice president for business affairs, said there is no insurance because the items would be too high.

Also, he said, much of the collection could not be replaced at any price.

"Insurance is expensive," Franklin said. "When you have holdings of such magnitude, it is not economically feasible to insure them."

The seven-story Ransom Center, like all UT holdings, is self-insured by the university, Franklin said.

That means a catastrophic fire would be followed by a meeting at which officials would discuss replacing lost materials, he said.

Decherd Turner, center director, said he could not estimate the value of the collection.

Cheryl Carrabba, assistant conservator, said the first line of defense against fire is a "state of the art" system.

That system, she said, can fill the center with carbon dioxide and remove the oxygen.

The lack of oxygen would kill the fire — and anyone in the center, she said.

"It would take no time at all for somebody to die," Carrabba said.

Security guard Charles Oliver said the system would not be activated until the building is cleared of people.

"Human life has top priority," he said.

The collection includes 800,000 rare books and nine million manuscripts, Turner said.

Among the recent acquisitions is the Carl Pforzheimer library of English literature, purchased by H. Ross Perot of Dallas for \$15 million, he said.

The Gutenberg Bible, one of five complete copies in the nation, was bought in 1978 for \$2.4 million.

The photograph, billed as the world's oldest, is an 1826 view from a window at Gras, France.

It was acquired in 1963 and is displayed in a helium-filled showcase.

Also housed in the center are more recent items, such as Houdini's magic gear and one of the largest collections of baseball cards.

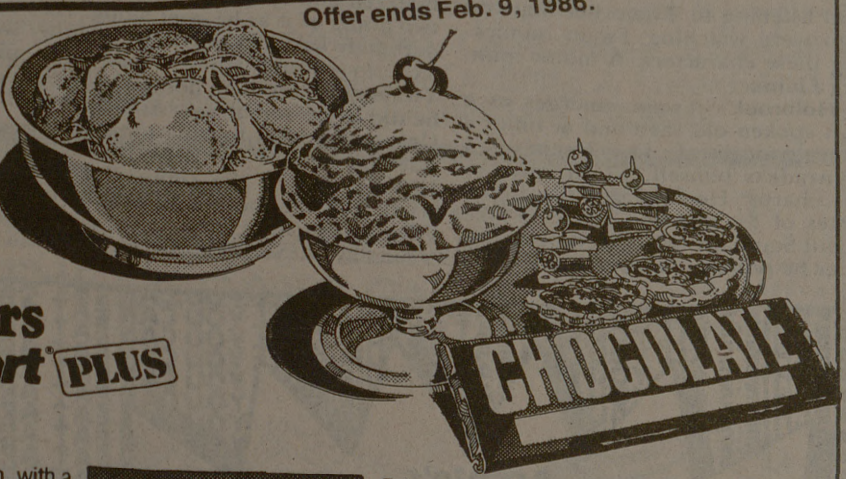
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