

State and Local

Advisers: Good outweighs bad for phone registration system

By Bob Grube
Staff Writer

After four weeks of endless busy signals and smashed phone receivers, the preregistration period is almost over. The seniors are relieved after getting the courses they need. The freshman are upset because all of their classes were closed. But is the new phone registration system really all it's cracked up to be?

Dr. Claude Gibson, chairman of the undergraduate advisers in the Department of English, says the system has advantages for both students and faculty advisers.

"The new system allows registration to extend past the normal operating hours, and that is a definite advantage for the students," Gibson says. "The system also allows the students to take more responsibility for what they are signing up for. It makes them read their degree plans a little more carefully than when an adviser was doing it for them."

"Advisers benefit from the system, too. We no longer have to spend time performing the mechanical aspects of registration, like verifying schedules and class rosters on the computer. That took a lot of time to do. Now, we can spend that time more efficiently, answering specific registration-type questions."

"I think the new system is more efficient and business-like."

While Gibson thinks the system has many advantages, he says it also has a few disadvantages that students need to be aware of.

"When students came to see the adviser, many mistakes were caught by the adviser," Gibson says. "Now it's up to the student to catch those mistakes. It's more of a coincidence if the adviser catches a mistake now."

"Another disadvantage of the new system is the decrease of one-to-one communication between the student and the adviser. Many departments offer special topics courses — 489 courses — that are many times announced by a flyer on the department bulletin board. Without the adviser-student contact, students are on their own to find out about the course."

Gibson says the advising load at the Department of English has lightened a little, but he doesn't know yet whether the system is a success.

"I think the system is saving everybody time, but I'm reserving judgment on it until January when it shuts down," Gibson says. "I have this great fear that 300 students are going to be lined up outside my door during the first week of school because they tried to register on their own and something went wrong."

Willard P. Worley, associate professor and faculty adviser in the Department of Electrical Engineering, isn't waiting to pass judgment on the new system. He's been at Texas A&M since 1939,

either as a student or a professor, and has seen many forms of undergraduate registration. He thinks this form is by far the best.

"When I was a student, we had to go to each department to register," Worley says. "This new system is just a dream. It's great. After the first couple of days when all the students tried to register and found out only graduate students and seniors were allowed to, it has been great."

Worley also thinks the system has its advantages and disadvantages, but he says there are many more advantages for both faculty and students.

"Today, students can register at the speed of light from almost anywhere they can get to a phone," Worley says. "I just talked to a student in Dallas who asked me when he could come down to register. I told him, 'As soon as we hang up the phone.'"

"The main disadvantage I see is that once students register for the first time, they never have to talk to another human being again regarding registration. All they have to do is talk to a mechanical voice on the other end of the phone."

Worley says the system has different advantages and disadvantages for each college and department.

In Advance

Brazos symphony to salute Beethoven

By Karl Pallmeyer
Staff Writer

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra will present "Bask in Our Beethoven," a concert featuring the music of Ludwig van Beethoven, at 8 p.m. Thursday in Rudder Auditorium.

Violinist Zina Schiff will be performing with the BVSO under the direction of conductor Franz Anton Krager.

Schiff has studied violin at the Curtis Institute of Music under Ivan Galamian and at Jascha Heifetz's Masterclass. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Museum in New York. In addition, she has been named "Outstanding Young Artist" by *Musical America* and has received several other awards.

Krager said Tuesday that Schiff will be playing a violin commissioned and assembled by Dr. Joseph Nagyvary, a professor of biophysics and biochemistry at Texas A&M. Krager said that Nagyvary has come close to producing a violin that matches the sound quality of the violins produced in the 18th century by An-

tonio Stradivari. Nagyvary's violins have been used by several great violinists including Itzhak Perlman.

Schiff will be using one of Nagyvary's violins for Beethoven's only concerto for violin, the Violin Concerto in D Major. Krager said Beethoven's 45-minute long concerto was one of the most influential pieces of its type.

The Seventh Symphony, which Krager describes as Beethoven's second most popular symphony, will make up the second half of the program. Krager said that the second movement of the symphony was so popular that conductors would substitute it for the second movements of other symphonies their orchestras were performing.

Tickets for "Bask in Our Beethoven" are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and senior citizens, and \$8 for children under 13. The tickets are available at the Rudder box office and at any Ticketron outlet.

For more information call the Rudder box office at 845-1234 or the BVSO office at 846-7659.

Officials: Houston not out of battle for 1988 GOP site

HOUSTON (AP) — Officials with the GOP site-selection committee say Houston is not out of the running to host the 1988 Republican National Convention even though the city is a leading candidate to host the Democratic convention.

But Republican officials say

they won't go to the same city as the Democrats.

GOP officials said last week that several of the 10 bidding cities would be allowed to update their bids for the convention in oral presentations before the nine-member committee meeting in Washington Thursday.

Stores hiring holiday help despite economy

DALLAS (AP) — Despite the downturn in the Texas economy and generally sluggish sales this year, many of the state's retailers are using traditionally large holiday workforces designed to handle an overflow of Christmas shoppers.

Many stores around the state appear to have added nearly the same number of temporary workers as in better economic times, even though industry executives are uncertain

whether they'll ring up as many sales.

"In a good month like December, extra help will usually make you money," said Tom Hoskins, vice president of the Fort Worth-based Dunlap Co., which again this year boosted the payroll at each of its 34 stores by an average of 25 percent.

Maury Aresty, president of the Retail Merchants Association in Houston, said a big holiday sales

payoff would help many stores recover from a slow year.

"If you're going to take a real gamble, you're going to take it in December," Aresty said.

"Retailers are making sure they have enough help on hand to realize any improvement there might be (in sales)," he said.

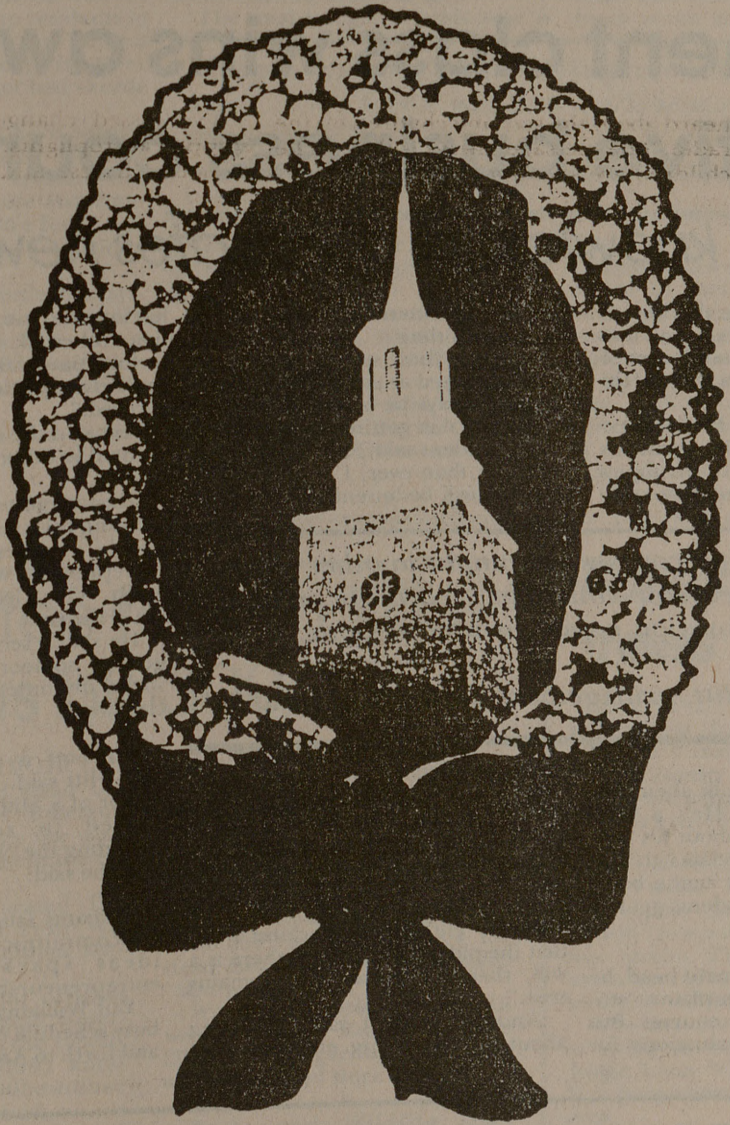
A recent survey conducted for the Texas Retailers Association estimated sales in the first 10 months of

this year were 3.76 percent below the same period of 1985.

Spokesman Dan Hagan said Houston-based Foley's added about 1,000 temporary workers for the holiday season, a figure that is comparable to past Christmases.

Hagan doesn't believe the heavy hiring in an economic downturn is a gamble for Foley's.

Stores have to be ready when customers are in a buying mood, Hagan said.



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