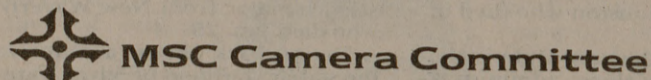


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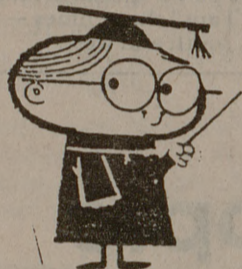
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Foreign professors bring skills to A&M, but accents can hinder some students

By Kelley Bullock
Reporter

During the first week of school, many Texas A&M students anxiously went to class wondering what their courses and teachers would be like, only to find a foreign person with a heavy accent standing behind the lectern.

"They need to learn to speak English fluently before they teach," A&M student Andrew Lester said. "If they come to class before they learn it, the class is hard."

Sometimes professors can write and speak English, but accents from their native language make students go an extra mile.

"I have to concentrate on understanding his English as well as learning the material," Kimberly Lynn Cajacob, a freshman education major, said.

Students may go through the drop-add process if they want to change professors, but frequently other class sections are closed or conflict with students' schedules.

"The add-drop process, as I understand it, is not the best," said John Norris, A&M director of international coordination. "It doesn't fulfill all needs, but it is a mechanism that is in place that can be used."

If all the classes are closed, it

would be very difficult to create a new section for students because it would be hard to find a new professor and a room, Norris said.

"Hopefully, the University will work to improve the situation," he said.

Dean of Faculties Clinton A. Phillips said the department heads or

form at the end of the semester, Phillips said.

Norris said he understands students' problems, but finds advantages in having foreign professors.

"I've got mixed feelings," Norris said. "Thinking myself as a student, if I had a hard time understanding my professor, particularly if it got to

"If you want to become a renowned university of the world, look around the world rather than just one county, state or country," Sauer said. "So there is a good reason to hire foreign quality into a university."

Many times, foreign teachers of no complaints about their work. However, students often are reluctant to complain.

"I have not heard anyone to me and saying, 'I can't understand you,'" Sauer said. "It might well be if you teach a large class right now I'm teaching the program. I have over 300 students and if I talk through a microphone there might be some difficulties."

Norris said many students tend to be more aggressive in trying to deal with professors. "If they don't understand something, they need to tempt to get with them after the class and go over it again, or get it in writing, or something," he said.

Sometimes, Sauer said, students overreact to foreign professors at the beginning of the semester.

"Maybe initially, when the semester starts, all these big changes onto a young student getting onto the campus with a big class, he says, 'Maybe they overreact a bit. Gee, I don't know what's going on.'"

"If you want to become a renowned university of the world, you look around the world rather than in just one county, state or country. So there is a good reason to hire foreign quality into a university."

— Dr. Helmut Sauer

people in charge of recruiting new faculty members must decide if a teacher can communicate effectively.

In certain situations, however, professors are hired despite their inability to communicate.

"You just can't hire — there are more jobs than there are U.S. citizens born in this country relative to the demand in some disciplines," Phillips said.

If students have problems understanding their professors, they could speak to the head of the department, or they could fill out an evaluation

the point where I could not comprehend what he was saying, and it affected what I was learning, then I'd think there would very definitely be a problem.

"On the other hand, in today's local marketplace, I know that when our students graduate and go out into the workplace, they encounter individuals with diverse backgrounds," Norris said. "So it's not going to be a perfect situation, particularly if they live in Texas."

Dr. Helmut Sauer from Germany, professor of biology, has a different view on hiring foreign professors.

Diamond Shamrock announces counter-offer to Pickens move

DALLAS (AP) — On the defensive from a takeover bid led by oilman T. Boone Pickens Jr., Diamond Shamrock made a \$340 million cash counter-offer to its shareholders Monday and announced plans to spin off its refining unit into a separate public company.

In addition, William Bricker, chairman and chief executive officer since 1976, said he would retire once the spinoff is complete, in about 90 days.

But Bricker said his retirement and the company's restructuring plan were unrelated to Pickens' two attempts to gain control of the Dallas-based oil company.

"We have been looking at this restructuring effort for two years," Bricker said at a news conference. "All Mr. Pickens' offer did was cause us to pick a final time to announce this."

Bricker, 55, will be replaced by Charles Blackburn, 59, who spent 34 years with Shell Oil Co. before joining Diamond Shamrock last year as president of Diamond Shamrock Exploration Co. He immediately will assume Bricker's titles of president and chief executive officer.

Asked if his retirement would enhance the company's offer to shareholders, Bricker said, "If you're talking about throwing a lot of mud from a proxy point of view, how can you throw mud at these gentlemen?" He was referring to Blackburn and the head of the refining and marketing company, Roger Hemminghaus.

"Following the spinoff, exploration and production will become the principle business of this corporation," Bricker said. "These actions will create two clearly focused, well-defined entities. Both will be Fortune 500 companies."

The new refining company will pay a dividend of about 40 cents per share annually. The remaining exploration and production company will not pay a dividend, the company said in a statement.

Bricker said shareholders will get about one share of new refining company stock for every four shares of Diamond Shamrock stock.

Diamond Shamrock's offer of \$17 per share for 20 million shares follows a \$300 million cash tender offer, or \$15 a share, by Lucky Partners, a group led by Pickens, of Amarillo, and Birmingham, Ala. in-

dustrialist John Harbert III.

Pickens' offer is good until midnight EST Wednesday. Diamond Shamrock said shareholders who already have tendered stock to Pickens may withdraw those shares before that deadline.

David Batchelder, president of Pickens' Mesa Petroleum and consultant to Lucky Partners, said Lucky Partners would have to review the details of Diamond Shamrock's action before deciding on a strategy.

The Pickens group was rejected by Diamond Shamrock's board in December in an earlier one-for-one stock swap valued at about \$2 billion.

The latest offer is for 20 million shares, and if accepted by shareholders, would give the Pickens group a total of 22.5 percent of Diamond Shamrock.

One analyst said shareholders would have to consider what happens after they sell their stock.

"I don't have much faith in this," said Don Bustos, an analyst with Duff & Phelps in Chicago, who follows Diamond Shamrock. "This offer actually increases the attractiveness of Pickens' offer."

Commission to examine 'money drain'

AUSTIN (AP) — A committee approved Monday to create a commission to examine the state treasury to the Texas-Mexico border region.

The proposed Border Development Commission would coordinate economic efforts along the 1,250-mile border, which has the highest unemployment rates in the United States.

Sen. Hector Uribe's bill sent to the full Senate on a vote of the Economic Development Committee after a 15-minute hearing.

Uribe, D-Brownsville, said the task force that studied the economy "realized that the border is a money drain on the state, that for every dollar we collect on the border we pay two in tax revenues."

Supporters estimate the proposed agency would cost \$800,000 in state funds over the next two years.

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