

State and Local

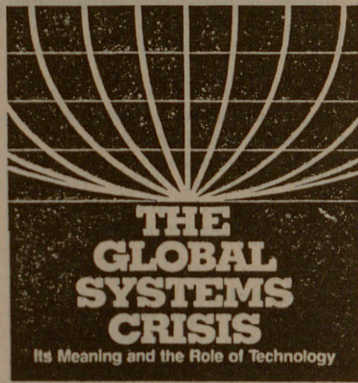
Stanford prof says current changes will result in a vastly different future

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

The early 21st century may differ from the present as much as the present does from the 17th century, a Stanford University professor told an audience at Texas A&M Tuesday night.

Dr. Willis Harman, professor of engineering and economic systems at Stanford and president of the Institute of Noetic Sciences in Sausalito, Calif., spoke to a group of about 70 in the Memorial Student Center. His presentation, co-sponsored by the College of Engineering and the University Lectures Committee, was on "The Global Systems Crisis: Its Meaning and the Role of Technology."

He based his prediction on the current promulgation of "a new heresy," which he said is analogous to the revolutionary "old heresy" that brought Europe out of the Middle Ages.



"Whereas the old heresy was that reality is not the way the church authorities told us, the new heresy is that reality is not the way the secular authorities told us, either," he said.

In assessing where humans currently stand in history, Harman pointed out that society is in

the midst of changing its basic philosophical assumptions.

He said those changes include "giving more reality to values, more reality to meaning, more reality to consciousness, more reality to spirit," and will alter all aspects of how humans do things.

The human knowledge system, he said, is reassessing its most important questions — questions about the nature of reality, who we are, how we relate to one another, and what is meaningful.

And that reassessment lines the pathway for significant change, he said.

"If there's anything to that picture at all, it means that the early part of the 21st century is going to be as different from what we call modern times as modern times are from the Middle Ages," Harman said. "Different in institutions, in belief systems, in value systems, in every way. And that's

worth thinking about if we're doing anything that has any implications at all for the future."

Throughout his presentation, Harman emphasized that the reality of one culture is different from the reality of another.

In addition to changes in values and underlying beliefs, Harman also pointed to two other forces that, spurred by recent technological developments, have changed the world.

Those forces, he said, are the world's evolution into an information society and the move toward a global perspective.

"What information society really means is that we have a new way now of keeping the economy going full-blast, and that way involves a product called information," he said.

The globalization of society, he said, means humans have to revise their concepts, such as their ideas on national security.

Survey: Students support proposed intramural facility

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

Eighty-five percent of Texas A&M students randomly surveyed see a need and are willing to financially support new and more available recreational facilities, says Dennis Corrington, director of intramural-recreational sports.

"The obvious support we are talking about is money — we ask the question, 'How much are you willing to support in terms of dollars?'" Corrington says.

Responses to the section of the survey asking how much a student would be willing to pay per semester to cover building and maintenance costs of a proposed facility have ranged from nothing to \$100, he says.

The Texas Legislature and the Board of Regents have to approve the facility and, most importantly, the students have to be willing to pay for it and will have the chance to vote on the issue, he says.

Corrington says the University of Texas passed a similar referendum last year with a 70-percent positive vote, and many universities around the country are supporting facilities of this nature in a similar manner.

"The concept is to have a recreational facility available for students whenever they want to recreate," Corrington says.

"If you include state moneys in there and build facilities for physical education classes, they'll have number one priority and you really want to stay away from that to some degree," he says.

A&M has this situation now, he says.

There is really no recreational time or space available in the mornings or afternoons.

"We are looking at providing free recreation time for people in the mornings, afternoons and, of course, in the evenings," he says.

A possible trade-off would be to

have physical education classes in the new facility from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., with the rest of the time devoted to intramurals and recreation.

"Most of these facilities other people have built more represent the atmosphere you would see in a club, as

"From what we've been able to observe . . . we are overbooked. We have more people wanting to use the facilities than we have the facilities to use."

— Dennis Corrington, director of intramural-recreational sports

opposed to what you see when you come over to our place — a gymnasium," Corrington said.

An atmosphere and a place for socialization — neither of which A&M presently has, he says — are the keys for attracting people.

Corrington says there are less than 90,000 square feet of activity space in the present facilities, used by approximately 500,000 people each year.

"From what we've been able to observe in the last few years and from our participation statistics, we are overbooked," he says. "We have more people wanting to use the facilities than we have the facilities to use."

The weight room is a good example — there were 110 people in it one time the other day, Corrington says.

And one out of every five students at A&M plays intramural softball, he says.

A senior-level architecture class is drawing up plans for the proposed center, but its details will depend on student preference, Corrington says.

Clements scolds lawmakers, urges tax ban

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements urged lawmakers Tuesday to ban state income taxes and scolded them for failing to give the governor and legislative leaders more power over state spending.

In a wide-ranging news conference, Clements endorsed a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit either a personal or corporate income tax in Texas.

Such a ban has been proposed in the Senate by Sen. Buster Brown, R-Lake Jackson, and in the House by Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen.

"I certainly stand behind these bills," Clements said, adding that either type of tax would damage the Texas economy.

Clements said Texans can believe that his opposition to an income tax remains firm, although some critics say he flip-flopped on a campaign promise against renewing the current temporary state sales tax increase. Clements this week voiced support for keeping the sales tax levy at 5.25 percent for two more years.

"The best course of action would be to con-

tinue the so-called temporary taxes," Clements said. "That has nothing whatsoever to do with my stand with regard to either a corporate or personal income tax."

"I am not only opposed to such taxes, I would immediately veto any such tax that came to my desk."

The governor also sharply criticized the Legislature for failing to enact legislation that would give him so-called "budget execution authority." That power would allow a governor and legislative leaders to make spending adjustments when the Legislature isn't in session by transferring money between state agencies.

Voters have approved a constitutional amendment that would permit such new powers, and Clements said they should be heeded by lawmakers even though the Senate last week voted down efforts to bring the proposal up for debate.

"I am amazed that the Legislature is being obstinate about this and taking an adverse view," Clements said.

"Contrary to some views, that is not a dead is-

sue," he said. "The people of Texas have spoken in this regard. They have overwhelmingly said that they want budget execution authority. I do not think that this Legislature will thwart the will of the people."

On other issues, Clements said:

- He remains a supporter of capital punishment. "The death penalty will go forward. I'm in favor of the death penalty. I always have been."

- Texas has a good chance of luring the \$6 billion, high-energy physics research project called a superconducting supercollider.

"There is no question that we will be a serious contender for this project," Clements said, adding that Texas' chief competition appears to be California and Illinois.

- He hopes a conference can be scheduled soon so that border governors of U.S. and Mexican states can discuss the twin-plant concept of having companies locating factories on each side of the border. "The twin-plant concept is terribly important to Texas and also to Mexico," he said.

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