



Crafts With Class

Photo by Brian Oakley

Trey Shaffer, a senior environmental design student, works on a jewelry display case in the craft center, located in the MSC. Students can use equipment in the craft center for a fee.

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Ethnic awareness program aims to defuse prejudices

DALLAS (AP) — On a ski trip to New Mexico, 17-year-old Scott Seo overheard a family making fun of his Asian features. Although his feelings were hurt, he could control his anger because of lessons he learned from an ethnic awareness program at Thomas Jefferson High School in Dallas.

"Before the program, I would have picked a fight with the son," says Seo, a junior honors student of Korean descent. "But I ignored it. I realized it was the mother who was to blame, not the boy."

This kind of awareness is something that has come from students sharing their life experiences with one another in the course of a five-month project. The students who were selected to participate in the pilot program discussed how it feels to grow up black, Hispanic, Anglo or Asian.

The program was funded by a \$25,000 grant from the American Jewish Committee.

Its goals were to promote cultural awareness and leadership among students.

The students heard how Seo's family came to the United States from Korea and endured hardships in order to send his older brothers to the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

They learned about Vanessa Duarte, a 16-year-old junior whose family came to the United States from Nicaragua. Although sensitive

about her Spanish accent, she hopes to use her bilingual ability to launch an international career in public relations.

The students met seven times with project leaders, Dallas City Manager Richard Knight and Billie Frauman, a Dallas leadership consultant.

At first, many of the students were skeptical about what the project would accomplish.

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— School Superintendent Linus Wright

"I was thinking this was one of those showoff programs for the DISD," Seo recalls. "A rich man gives money and it becomes the perfect time for the school district to show that everything is working."

Now that the formal portion of the project is over, however, he sees things a little differently.

"We can influence our peers," Seo says of the group. "That is how to exemplify the program. It has to come from us. We are supposed to be leaders."

In this sense, the program has just begun.

A virtual rainbow of ethnicities, Jefferson boasts of an enrollment that is 40 percent Anglo, 30 percent Hispanic, 20 percent black and 8 percent Asian.

For some of the students who participated, the experience has enhanced feelings or attitudes they say they already have put into practice.

Shelley Hallman, a 15-year-old freshman, says, "I have been friends with kids of other races, but now I have learned more about their cultural backgrounds and to appreciate them."

Shelley's mother, Cindy Bird, says they have discussed what Shelley has learned.

"I feel like she is really open to every culture," Bird says. "She can handle situations much better than I could at her age."

Frauman says creativity was stressed in the program.

"We did not tell them the truth with a capital T," she says. "We wanted them to plumb their own resources."

Dallas school officials are hoping that the knowledge the students have gained will eventually spread throughout the school district and the city.

School superintendent Linus Wright says, "The greatest challenge in the DISD is learning how to live with each other. This project is a dream come true. We picked TJ High School because it is representative of the city of Dallas. We hope we can replicate it."

TWU reverses 86-year ban on alcohol

DENTON (AP) — An 86-year era of prohibition has ended at Texas Woman's University.

The TWU Board of Regents voted Wednesday to allow alcohol on campus for the first time in the school's history, said Dr. Glenda Simmons, vice president for student life.

Under the new policy, alcoholic drinks will be available at the clubhouse of the TWU golf course and allowed in dormitory rooms of students who are at least 21, Simmons said.

Organizers of student functions can apply to have alcohol served at their gatherings and members of the community may serve alcohol at campus events, such as wedding receptions.

The new policy also allows faculty groups to serve alcohol in a "private club environment" on campus, Simmons said.

The full board approved the measure 6-1, with Regent Fran Chiles dissenting.

Gay candidate to get time to refute attack

DALLAS (AP) — A homosexual candidate for City Council will get some free television time before Saturday's election to respond to broadcast comments by Eulless-based evangelist James Robison.

In a Tuesday broadcast of his "Daily Restoration" program, Robison questioned how candidate Bill Nelson could "honorably" take an oath of office to uphold city and state laws, including the sodomy law, said William Waybourn, Nelson's campaign manager.

Robison didn't mention Nelson by name but said he was disturbed that "right now we have a confessed gay activist running for City Council."

Nelson, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance and candidate for the District 9 at-large council race, said he asked for time to respond.

"Robison . . . attacked me as one of the immoral elements attempting to take control of the city by running for the City Council and gave me the right to ask for equal time on the airwaves," Nelson said.

Robison's nationally broadcast program was shown on at least three Dallas-area UHF stations — KDFI, KLTJ and KDTX.

Waybourn said similar comments about the political influence of homosexuals were made on Robison's program by Dallas developer Jim Williams Jr., who serves as president of Citizens for Dallas, a group promoting traditional values.

Williams, who supports a candidate opposing Nelson, said he discussed a broad range of issues, "including crime and public decency and public health."

Williams said he thought "it would be real interesting" to see a gay viewpoint "on a Christian TV station."

Amy Zoslov, staff attorney with the Federal Communications Commission, said agreements to grant Nelson equal time were reached Wednesday by telephone because the formal complaint process would make it impossible to provide time before Saturday's election.

In February 1979, station WFAA suspended Robison's show for four weeks after he repeatedly quoted publications attacking homosexuals.

WFAA officials said the fairness doctrine required the station give the Dallas Gay Political Caucus free air time to respond.

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Trip Leader: Steve Long

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