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TWO RENT BUCKS

Conference aims to help education with business link

By Mary Kay Mulvaney
Reporter

Enhancement of science and mathematics at the high school level by means of a business-education partnership was the theme for the annual conference of the Texas Alliance for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education.

TASTM, only 18 months old, is a statewide organization committed to the improvement of education in mathematics, science and technology, by developing partnerships between schools and the private sectors in their communities, said TASTM Director Dr. Bob James.

"We're looking for a fast-paced group that gets things done," said Conroe Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Richard Griffin. Griffin is responsible for initiating a partnership between Conroe ISD and scientists from Rice University, who assess the high school science and mathematics programs in the district.

Griffin's interest in the partnership idea began when he became the CISD superintendent and the school board began demanding improvement of the mathematics and science departments, he said.

He said his first alternative was to go to counterparts from neighboring districts and ask them to evaluate the CISD, but since it was just as high if not higher than the surrounding districts in terms of achievement, he turned to the mathematics and science people in the business sector for help. With this in mind, he formed a group of scientists and mathematicians to assist teachers in developing curricula emphasizing "real-world" problems and application skills, he said.

He furnished them with a 10-point plan, which included such things as evaluating the library and interviewing teachers and parents, then they provided him with a blueprint of the revised system.

The scientists concluded after a six-month period that improvement of the science laboratories was needed, Griffin said. To upgrade

the labs he asked the business sector to help, and together they formed high school and elementary labs that gained nationwide recognition.

Griffin said he was surprised at the strength and emphasis based on the quality of science programs.

Local incentive and a continuous relationship with major businesses in your district is crucial, Griffin told the conference.

One of the major discoveries of the program was that the emphasis is no longer on the money from businesses, but rather on the increased need for their expertise at the instructional level, he said. He wanted to bring their scientists and mathematicians into the school's program where they can do things such as make computer programs more applicable.

Griffin went on to develop an academy for science and technology in the schools. He said the students and parents must have an overall B average to attend the academy. The academy requires dedication on the part of the student. Not only do they attend school 75 minutes longer than the average student each day, they must also go to school 14 Saturdays per semester. They also are required to learn keyboard skills on their own as well as take Algebra I and Algebra II simultaneously. During the summer they are required to work in different departments and laboratories around town, he said.

Linda Woods, Director of Field Services for the National School Volunteer Program Inc., introduced the planning and implementation phases that must be undertaken when forming a partnership. She described a series of steps for creating and managing school volunteer programs.

Woods said awareness, the first step, is a continuous process.

She said although industry and education have different goals, they can work well together if objectives will meet both goals.

"Education is everyone's business," she said.

In Advance

Faculty Senate to discuss tenure plan

The Faculty Senate will meet Monday in 601 Rudder at 3:15 p.m. to discuss and finalize revisions in the faculty tenure and promotion plan.

The Report on Academic Freedom, Responsibility, Tenure and Promotion was debated upon for more than an hour during the Senate's September meeting.

Dr. Gary E. Hart, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure and Promotion, said several editorial suggestions for the report made in the past month will be discussed at the meeting.

An "ad hoc" committee is a temporary committee created for a special purpose.

The document, he said, is a combination of work by the ad-

ministration and the ad hoc committee, which puts together all past information on academic freedom, responsibility, tenure and promotion.

"This document is very important to the faculty, and it's not really possible to predict what will happen in the meeting," said Hart, a professor of soil and crop sciences. "We're trying to clear up any inconsistency that is in the document."

"This is democracy in action," Hart added.

Also on the agenda are an item concerning the curriculum and the extension of Q-drops for graduate students, which was on the agenda last month but was not discussed because of shortage of time.

New documents offer information to identify Spindletop inheritors

LONDON (AP) — Documents found in Tennessee and Texas have unlocked a "missing link" that may identify 100 or more heirs to billions of dollars from the Spindletop oil fortune in Texas, British genealogists said Thursday.

Harold Brooks-Baker, publisher of Burke's Peerage, a bible of British bluebloods, said the documents prove that Pelham Humphries, who died in a Texas barroom shootout long before his Spindletop land became a bonanza, had a brother, William Humphries, and thus William's descendants would have a claim to the oil fortune.

Roger Powell, senior genealogist at Burke's Peerage, believes the documentation would be good enough to convince the British College of Arms, an authority on matters of aristocratic inheritances, Brooks-Baker said.

He said the fraternal relationship between Pelham Humphries, a bachelor who died in 1835, and William

Humphries — both of whom documented and known to have lived — was obscured for years.

"Until recently the only information on Pelham was a document the Mexican government in Spain giving him a large tract of land, which Spindletop came in," he said. "For years people tried to prove he was, but couldn't prove he was related to anyone."

"We've been able to prove several descents because of documents we found in Tennessee and Texas that proved he existed. The missing link was to prove that William whom we had documented, was brother. Until then it wasn't known that Pelham was related to a body."

Brooks-Baker said he believed new evidence gave the process heirs "good chances" to receive money through court action, but up to the high end of the estate of unpaid oil royalties from Spindletop.

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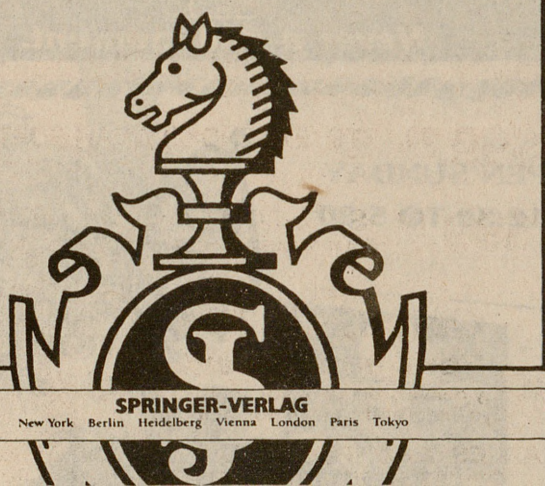
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Interviews (by appointment): October 14 and 15 in Room 601.



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