

Challenging the gifted

Class provides education without separation from peers

By Mary McClenny
Reporter

Basic reading, writing and math are not enough to challenge the minds of some of today's school-age children, a Texas A&M education researcher and local teacher says.

The challenge teachers face is to give these students a curriculum that will keep them interested without separating them from their peers, says Margaret Bryant, who teaches at South Knoll elementary school in the College Station Independent School District.

Bryant says her idea is to keep all the children together in the classroom but differentiate their

curricula through separate classroom groups.

Through her work at A&M, Bryant has developed instructional materials designed to stimulate students who are working above the typical first-grade level but have been placed in a classroom with children of mixed academic levels.

"In my 10 years of teaching at South Knoll, I have always taught this way," she says. "I am just formalizing now. I think this program increases students' creative thinking, productivity, problem-solving and enthusiasm to learn."

Bryant says working in groups instead of individually is better

for the students and for the teachers.

The students enjoy working together, Bryant says, and they get social benefits from working together.

"I see them helping each other sometimes," she says. "Sometimes it's easier for one child to explain to another because they are on the same level about things that I might go over their heads with."

The program's emphasis is on reading, math and music skills, and Bryant recently has added an anatomy section.

"The children are learning to recognize the different bones and muscles in the body," she says. "I also give them activity sheets and booklets pertaining to the subject

so they can learn what bones and muscles are used for different physical activities."

Students are moved into whichever group Bryant feels is best for them. This approach benefits the students whose strengths aren't evident at the beginning of the year but begin to surface after several weeks of school, she says.

All the students get a chance to listen to what other groups are doing when they are in one classroom, which is a good learning tool, she says.

"I don't expect the students to really absorb everything I show them," Bryant says. "I just want to give them something to build on."

Nutrition expert: Diet, not pills, must provide vitamins

By Tracy Hinton
Reporter

Vitamin and mineral supplements probably won't solve most Americans' nutritional problems, a nutrition specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, says.

"For most people it is unnecessary to take a vitamin or mineral pill on the side," Dr. Alice Hunt says.

Food labels list the nutrient content of food in terms of Recommended Dietary Allowance, or RDA. But Hunt says few people understand what RDA measures — it doesn't measure the minimum requirements, as many people believe.

"The RDA is two to six times above the average requirement of a specific nutrient," Hunt says.

She says the RDA was established not for the individual but to allow large groups to plan nutritionally adequate food purchases over long periods of time.

The RDA is established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council, a board of research nutritionists that reviews all literature and research concerning nutrition.

There are RDAs for 17 nutrients, Hunt says, but the list of RDAs isn't

complete because about 40 nutrients are required for good health.

"A lot of the nutritional problems Americans are faced with today aren't related to a deficiency of vitamins and minerals," she says, "but instead with problems of overconsumption of total calories, too much fat and sodium and not enough fiber."

"A single vitamin won't solve this nutrition problem. It won't provide all the nutrients that are essential for good health. You can't get them all in one supplement."

A balanced diet from a variety of foods provides all the nutrients necessary for good health, she says, and so-called health foods are just a marketing tactic. There is no legal definition of health food, just as there's no definition of junk food, she says.

People also should concern themselves with maintaining a healthy weight, she says. Obesity increases the risk of high blood pressure, which is related to heart disease and diabetes.

Besides controlling one's weight, she suggests limiting the intake of fat and sodium. Too much fat in the diet also can increase the risk of heart disease and cancer.

Group fights ballot proposal for prison bonds

AUSTIN (AP) — The state should not sell bonds to build more prisons but should look at punishment alternatives instead, a criminal justice reform group said Monday.

CURE, the Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, is working against a proposal on the Nov. 3 ballot to sell up to \$500 million in general obligation bonds for prisons, youth corrections and mental health-retardation projects.

Although supporters have said more prisons are needed to address a federal court order

against crowding, CURE executive director Charles Sullivan told a news conference that constructing more prisons is by far the least effective method of reducing prison overcrowding.

The state instead should make a commitment to probation and parole, Sullivan said. Lawmakers also should consider setting sentencing guidelines based on prison capacity, he said.

If Amendment No. 8 authorizing general obligation bonds fails, the state can sell revenue bonds, which were authorized by the 1987 Legis-

lature and do not require voter approval.

But Sullivan said the defeat of Amendment No. 8 would send a message to state leaders that bonds should not be used for prisons at all.

It is estimated that the state would pay \$940 million in bond obligations by the year 2008 for \$500 million in projects, said Sullivan. Bond proceeds could be used to pay for newly authorized private prisons, as well as state-run facilities. The group supports the bonds for youth corrections or mental health-retardation projects.

BUSINESS EDGE

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High School Career Day '87

Recruiting future Aggies

By Becky Black

Career Day '87 will give thousands of high school students from across Texas the opportunity to visit A&M on Oct. 31, and investigate the many career choices available to them.

Business Student Council is in charge of introducing high school students and their parents to the College of Business. Annette Birdwell and Randy Johnson, Career Day chairmen, said they have many activities planned.

Two sessions (9:30 and 10:30 a.m.) will be held in which Dean Cocanougher and Dr. Sam Gillespie will welcome the students and their parents and tell about the business program here at A&M. Nathan McClellan coordinated a slide show on what the CBA has to offer which will be followed by students from each major who will give more specific information on each field of study. The student speakers are: Kirby Johnson, ac-

counting; Michelle Rambo, business analysis; Mike Brennan, finance; Rusty Schaefer, management; and Greg L. Leissner, marketing. In addition, Pat Sullivan from economics will speak.

High school students may then take part in continuous tours of Blocker Building, led by students in Halloween costumes and talk to faculty, advisors, and students from each major. A picnic lunch will close the sessions and enable the students and their parents to talk with business students in an informal setting.

Birdwell said, "A&M is expecting around 4,000 students, so we're expecting a great turnout in the CBA. It should be exciting. If you have a brother or sister coming up, bring them to Blocker Building." The students can then get into the Aggie spirit by attending the Corp of Cadets march-in and the Texas A&M v. Louisiana Tech football game.



Coming February 8-10... Business Career Fair 1988

Career fair week '88 plans are under way. If you are interested in serving on a committee and have not signed up, stop by the BSC office (101 Blocker) and see what committees are still open. Invitations to companies have gone out, and BSC is expecting more than 80 companies to recruit at this year's career fair. Career fair week is scheduled for Feb. 8-12.

Double major--Double the work?

By Becky Black

Earning a double major or double degree brings visions of being a fifth or even sixth year senior to many student's minds. However, the set up of course requirements in the College of Business Administration makes earning one of these, especially a double major, fairly easy. The key is to plan ahead.

"As soon as a student knows he wants to double major, he should come in (to the CBA office) and work out a degree plan," said Lynn Zimmermann, CBA advisor. Students in the CBA are not normally required to file a degree plan because the catalog a student enters A&M under is considered the degree plan. However, those students who want to earn a double degree or a double major must file a special degree plan in the CBA Undergraduate Advising office.

"The first four semesters of all five business major fields are identical and the remaining four semesters include several common courses, which makes them all

very compatible," Zimmermann continued.

The process of planning a double major is quite simple. The advisor first needs to know what catalog the student is under and which major (accounting, business analysis, finance, management, or marketing) is his primary choice. In the second step, the two major's plans are compared to see what courses they have in common and how the courses of the second major can be fit into the first. A degree check is then done to see what courses the student has already taken and what is needed to finish.

"You want to save the free electives that are planned into the sophomore and junior years for required courses in the second major that are not required by the first major," Zimmermann said.

Accounting and finance are the most compatible of the five business majors. It takes about nine additional hours (past the 133 required for one major) to get a double major of accounting/finance — depending on the catalog the student is under. Management and marketing double major takes around 15 additional hours, and business analysis with a second major takes a bit more.

The required course content is essentially the same for a double major or a double degree. The primary difference is that to receive a double degree, the student must have 30 hours above and beyond the total required for a single degree.

"As a general rule, you can double major in one extra semester or a semester and a summer," Zimmermann also noted, "If you change fields and bring in extra hours that don't count toward either business major, then a double degree might be preferred because those extra hours can count toward the thirty required to get a second degree."

In today's competitive job market, a double major or degree can open more career opportunities and make a student more flexible.

Cathy Frederick, a recruiter with Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells, agrees that earning a double major or a double degree is valuable.

"It (a double major) shows me that you went above and beyond the call of duty," Frederick said. "A double major also shows you have an interest in a wider field and opens up new areas to you."

NABA: A welcomed addition

The TAMU Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants has been officially recognized this fall. The purpose of NABA is to encourage black minority students to enter the accounting profession. There are professional chapters in thirty major cities and over seventy student chapters including chapters at Texas Southern, University of Texas, Prairie View A&M University, North Texas State University, and University of Houston. However, the organization is open to all business and economics majors.

The advisors for NABA are Dr. Joyce Holley and Professor James Flagg of the accounting department.

1987-1988 TAMU Chapter of NABA officers:

Denise Buffins-President (Co-founding member)

Marie Perry-Vice President (Co-founding)

Theresa Wilkerson-Treasurer (Co-founding)

Ellecia Robinson-Secretary (Co-founding)

Pamela Evans-Historian

CBA current events

Alpha Kappa Psi:
Nov. 3 - Speaker-Dean Whitter
Nov. 6 - Austin Field trip: tour Xerox, IBM, and First Republic Bank
Nov. 10 - Alumnus speaker
Nov. 22 - Initiation
Dec. 4 - Christmas formal

Accounting Society:
Oct. 27 - Office visit meeting
Field trips: Dallas Nov. 2-3, Houston Nov. 9-10, San Antonio Nov. 12-13

Advertising Association:
Oct. 29 - Houston field trip
Nov. 3 - general meeting:
7 p.m. Blocker 153

CBA Honors:
Nov. 6 - San Antonio field trip

IBA:
Oct. 27 - general meeting:
6:30 p.m. Blocker 153

Marketing Society:
Oct. 30 - Halloween party
Nov. 14 - speaker: Coca Cola Brand Manager (check board for more details)

Speech Communications:
Nov. 3 - general meeting:
7 p.m. Blocker 158
Nov. 5-7 - San Antonio field trip

Retailing Society:
Nov. 17 - general meeting:
7 p.m. Blocker 153
Jan. 2-6 - San Francisco: contact Jerry King 845-0325

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Business Career Week '88

Hospitality committee meeting - Nov. 18
6-8 p.m. Blocker

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