

State and Local

Professor says pari-mutuel vote to benefit A&M

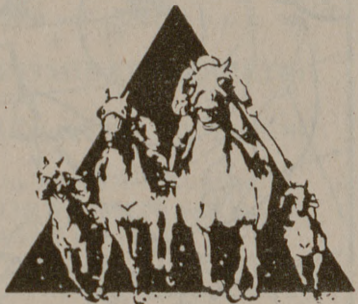
By Leslie Guy  
Reporter

In addition to keeping more Texas money in the state and putting more money into the Texas horse industry, pari-mutuel wagering will open new career alternatives to Texas A&M animal science majors, said animal science professor Dr. Gary Potter.

"Students are now aware of another area in the horse industry where they might find opportunity when they get out of here," Potter said. "I think that has changed dramatically since the pari-mutuel bill passed."

The overall effects of pari-mutuel wagering on the horse industry and agriculture in Texas will be positive and will cause more demand for breeding farms, training facilities, farriers, veterinarians and other areas associated with the industry, Potter said.

"The fact that there will be racing is going to demand more horses," Potter said. "Crop production, hay



production and grain production are going to be affected by virtue of the fact that there's going to be expansion in the number of horses that are racing and being produced to be raced in the state."

Potter also believes new money will come into Texas for the development of training and breeding facilities.

"Because of our climate, we can train year round," Potter said. "We can train in the winter for spring races in the East."

Senior James Sherwood, an agricultural economics major, agrees that he has many more opportunities as a horse trainer now that were previously not open to him. He now spends four to five months a year out of the state racing the horses he has trained at pari-mutuel tracks.

"This puts new hope into what I do," Sherwood said. "I would have had to move out of the state (to a state that allows pari-mutuel wagering) or else do something else if pari-mutuel had not passed."

Pari-mutuel in Texas will lower his travel expenses and increase his earnings. He expects to make about \$10,000 more per year.

Potter believes that pari-mutuel betting will help keep Texans' money in the state and provide a boost for the economy.

"Pari-mutuel is an economic issue in that people are going to the race tracks now, and they are spending money at the race tracks now," Potter said. "Unfortunately, all that money is leaving our state because they are going to Louisiana, Arkan-

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— Dr. Gary Potter, animal science professor

sas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and other places that have pari-mutuel wagering."

In addition to the money wagered at the track, people spend money for motels, food and gasoline. And when they travel to another state, the money stays in that state's economy, Potter said.

"Some have argued that pari-mutuel horse racing does not create new money and that is true," he said. "It does not generate new money but it keeps money in the state that's now going out, so in effect it does create new money."

Dr. Donald Deere, an assistant professor of economics, also says the

money Texans spend out of state now will be spent in the state. However, he believes the economic boom may not be as large as it appears.

Deere's key point is that the source of the revenues raised for horse racing must be examined. Money to be spent on horse racing may come from money that would have been spent on taxable items otherwise, he said. If that is the case, tax money in the state treasury will decrease while revenues raised through pari-mutuel betting will increase, he said.

In effect, the money in the treasury would originate somewhere else, Deere said.

"The main thing is to be aware that the net effects, not the gross effects, are what matter," Deere said. "We won't benefit if it is just a shift of dollars from one area to another."

Both Potter and Deere agree it is too early to make predictions as to the amount that will be generated for the treasury. But Potter said the direct taxes from pari-mutuel betting will be more than \$100 million per year.

He also said that, other than a few small changes in the curriculum, the effects of the bill on the animal science department will be minimal. The labs will have to re-adjust to devote more time to the study of race horses.

Sherwood believes pari-mutuel is a good thing for Texas and thinks the positive effects outweigh the negative ones.

"If pari-mutuel was bad, all those other states wouldn't have it," Sherwood said. "Texas was missing out and now we're not. It will help me personally because I don't want to leave Texas and the horse business."

Student Senate OKs setting minimum on number of days between elections

By Drew Leder  
Staff Writer

After lengthy debate Wednesday, the Student Senate unanimously approved setting a minimum of three days between the time results of Student Government primary elections are posted and the day of the runoff election.

A bill calling for seven days between the two elections was originally presented to the Senate but after about 20 minutes of debate, it was amended to set the minimum time between elections at three days. Several senators said a seven-day spread wouldn't increase voter turnout as intended, but would have an opposite effect because student interest would decrease over time. Another argument against the seven-

day period, as presented by Student Body President Mason Hogan and some senators, was that it would increase the stress placed on candidates who would be campaigning over the extended time period.

Hogan called down Jason Wilcox, freshman class vice president, to support his position. Wilcox was voted into office in a runoff election this semester.

"We were ready to get this thing over with," Wilcox said, referring to the elections. "It (campaigning) takes a lot of time and it interferes with grades. Don't extend it too long."

Ronnie Gipson, chairman of the external affairs committee and one of the authors of the bill, accepted

the amendment to decrease the period after telling the Senate that by not allowing adequate time for student awareness of runoffs, the Senate would be promoting student apathy. Gipson said that if the bill was left in original form it would have died.

The Senate also unanimously approved a reapportionment bill that reduces graduate seats in the Senate from eight to three and add a seat for both a medical or veterinary student and another freshman.

The bill, which maintains 88 total seats, was accepted in the original form presented by the Rules and Regulations committee Chairman Pat O'Neal. It also allots a seat to both science and geosciences, which formerly were grouped together.

O'Neal also introduced a bill that would create a committee to investigate possible changes in University rules and regulations. The committee would recommend policy changes that the Senate could make to the University Rules and Regulations Committee when annual revisions are made. The bill is scheduled for a vote at the next Senate meeting in two weeks.

The Senate also was informed of a proposition made by Jackie Sherrill Wednesday morning to allow an "Ol' Sarge" character to entertain fans at A&M football games from the track around Kyle Field. Several senators said they disapproved of including a proposed seven-foot character with Texas A&M's traditional game entertainment.

Mattox, O'Hair say courses in religion should be taught

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Jim Mattox told lawmakers on Wednesday that state colleges should teach religion courses, although he has ruled that it is now done is unconstitutional.

Atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair of Austin also testified that students should learn about religion, but from professors picked by a university, not religious groups.

The House Public Education Committee convened Wednesday to hear about efforts to get the courses in line with recent opinions in which Mattox has held that it is improper for state universities to offer Bible courses taught by instructors picked and paid for by church groups.

The University of Texas at Austin has used instructors se-

lected and paid by the Biblical Studies Association for 80 years. The school now is looking for a new way to offer the courses.

"I believe the religious studies are important to the curriculum at the University of Texas at Austin," UT President William Cunningham told the committee.

Mattox agreed, saying an educated person "needs to know the difference in what people believe around this world."

But he said it is difficult, though not impossible, to craft religion courses that would not violate the constitutional ban on church-state entanglement.

O'Hair said she has long challenged the UT system.

"I think that it's impossible for persons who are teaching these courses now to teach them in an unbiased way," O'Hair said.

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.80	\$1025	1.80	\$3495
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.78	\$995	1.14	\$2375
.75	\$1095	1.04	\$2085
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.72	\$1145	.55	\$795
.71	\$1175	.52	\$665
.71	\$1145	.51	\$695
.71	\$1055	.45	\$325
.70	\$1175	.37	\$350
.69	\$895	.31	\$245
.67	\$775		
.65	\$760		
.63	\$815		
.62	\$975		
.61	\$715	3.15	\$6300
.60	\$715	1.52	\$5275
.59	\$895	.83	\$1350
.59	\$695	.71	\$1495
.57	\$930	.46	\$375
.55	\$930		
.55	\$695		
.54	\$865		
.54	\$695	2.16	\$8295
.53	\$875	1.83	\$6300
.53	\$695	1.36	\$4900
.52	\$795	.74	\$1350
.51	\$495	.42	\$695
.50	\$845	.38	\$595
.50	\$795		
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