

Speech department adds master's degree program

By John C. Curry
Reporter

If all goes as planned, Texas A&M's Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts, which is only three years old, will begin teaching graduate classes in speech communication in Fall 1990.

Dr. Robert L. Ivie, author of the master's program proposal for the department, said the University's faculty senate has approved the proposal.

"The proposal currently has a couple of steps left within the University," Ivie said.

The proposal has been submitted to the Board of Regents for consideration and will be discussed in a Sunday meeting at 2:15 p.m.

From there, the proposal must still be approved by the State Coordinating Board.

According to the proposal, the program's objectives are to:

- Provide advanced education in speech communication within a research community.
- Support Texas public schools and community colleges by providing graduate instruction for teachers

of speech communication.

- Enable adults in the community to further their education in communication arts and sciences.

- Offer courses that will enrich the options available to graduate students in related disciplines.

"Each student will construct a program that will suit his or her interest," Ivie said. "Graduates of the program will most likely go on to doctoral work or teach in a community college or a smaller liberal arts college."

"Otherwise, the graduate will probably work as a communication specialist within an organization in private industry or the government."

Ivie said the research-oriented program would allow the students to study and learn from the professors' personal research interest.

"A research-oriented program develops the depth and sophistication of the communication process," Ivie said.

Some of the research interests of the professors in the department include political rhetoric, communication

in a technological society, and health communication.

"The department's faculty has already achieved a high degree of recognition in only three years," Ivie said. "The faculty produces publications and research results that far exceed many other schools."

Students enrolled in the master's program would be required to take three courses covering foundations, human and rhetorical perspective communication. Depending upon the optional thesis route, a student would subsequently take either six (for those students choosing the thesis route) or eighteen electives covering other topics such as interpersonal communication and rhetorical criticism.

Although in its infancy, the master's program would not lower the standards of admission to increase enrollment.

"We would be very selective," Ivie said. "After the first two years, we would have 25-35 students enrolled in any given year."

Voters decide fate of polls on gambling in Galveston

GALVESTON (AP) — Voters of this island community will decide Saturday if they want to ban straw votes on the legalization of casino gambling as long as state law forbids casinos.

But even if the proposed amendment to the city's charter is adopted, pro-gambling forces say they will challenge it in court on grounds it would violate their right to free speech.

"We object to Proposition 6 on the grounds that a restraint of the citizen's rights to petition for election on any subject is a blatant violation of our First Amendment constitutional rights of free speech, which clearly includes political speech and opinion," Juliet Staudt, a leader of Galvestonians for Economic Development, told the Galveston City Council.

Staudt said litigation on the issue is inevitable if the proposed ban on non-binding casino gambling referendums is adopted.

By comfortable majorities, local voters have turned thumbs down on legalized gambling in three non-binding referendums in the past five years. Backers of the proposed amendment say they are tired of fighting over something that is not even legal under state law.

"We're tired of being guinea pigs for the rest of the state," said H.L. "Shrub" Kempner Jr., a leader of Gal-

vestonians Against Casino Gambling. "We've done our duty on this issue, and it's time to put it behind us."

It was Kempner's group that gathered enough signatures to place the charter amendment on Saturday's ballot. The anti-casino folks resorted to the charter amendment after winning a costly battle over Staudt's group in a non-binding referendum in August.

"If the Legislature ever passes casino gambling, we would be delighted to vote it down again," Kempner said. "But for now, (Galvestonians for Economic Development) need to turn their attention to the Legislature and quit using us as some kind of stalking horse or guinea pig."

He said he believes the proposed amendment will withstand constitutional tests.

The non-binding referendums were held only after pro-gambling forces gathered enough signatures to force City Council to call the elections.

Area legislators said they would ask the state Legislature to legalize gambling in Galveston only if a majority of voters said they supported the idea.

The charter amendment to ban non-binding referendums on casino gambling issues until the Legislature makes gambling legal is one of 32 proposed amendments on Saturday's ballot.

Bentsen Sr. lived a life full of adventure and hard work

EDITOR'S NOTE — The following is excerpted from a profile of Lloyd Bentsen Sr. that was written in 1985. Bentsen, the colorful father of Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, died Tuesday in a car wreck at the age of 95.

MISSION (AP) — He grew up thrashing wheat and busting wild horses in the South Dakota Badlands. He raced motorcycles and broke bones and yearned to become a World War I pilot.

He liked drinking and fighting and discovered early on that the two often traveled hand in hand along his turbulent walk on the wild side.

His was not a death wish, although it came camouflaged as such. In business, he preferred oranges

to oil and cotton to cattle. But in time, Lloyd Millard Bentsen Sr. would build a financial dynasty that embraced them all.

His mustangs and motorcycles led him in and out of hospitals while his dream of becoming a pilot took him in 1917 on a wartime assignment to San Antonio and a weekend of revelry in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

His first trip to Mission was with an Army buddy named Ray Landry, neither knowing they eventually would father sons famous on the football field, Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry, and in the U.S. Senate, Lloyd Bentsen Jr.

There would be wealth, measured in the millions, for the elder Bentsen. There would be a ranching,

farming, oil and banking empire personifying the land he chose to make home.

First, however, there would be in this drowsy Valley town in 1917 a shy, beautiful young woman with whom he fell instantly and irreversibly in love.

She ignored him, but not for long. In 1920, Bentsen returned from the war and persuaded Edna Ruth Colbath — his "Dolly" — to marry him. He had \$1.50 in his pocket.

Influenced by the missed opportunities of his Danish parents — and with guts and grit and a novel financing scheme, he began acquiring land.

He wrenched prosperity from the raw terrain, faced death at the hands of his laborers and sired, besides his namesake U.S. senator, two other sons and a daughter.

The senior Bentsen was one of six children of Danish parents who settled before the turn of the century on a small South Dakota farm.

He had little time as a child for school and none at all after age 13, when he followed the grain harvest across Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas.

The incidental injuries in breaking wild horses were nothing compared to a motorcycle accident in 1915 in which Bentsen broke several bones and almost lost his life.

After months of treatment, he fled the hospital and, following several rejections, eventually tricked a drunken recruiting officer into enlisting him in the Army.

He bluffed his way into a 16-week ground-training school at Princeton University and wound up in the aviation section of the Signal Corps. Fate took him then to Texas where he met Dolly, who became his wife. After the wedding in 1920, Bentsen borrowed \$500, and he and his petite young bride moved into a small house on the Edinburg Canal.

His current home is filled with photographs and paintings of the Bentsen clan, a smiling Dolly and her four children — Lloyd Jr., the senator; Kenneth, a Houston architect; Don, a McAllen businessman; and Betty, the wife of Valley businessman Dan Winn.

In the 1970s, Bentsen's holdings ranged from farm, cattle, oil, gas and nursery operations to control of six Valley banks, stock in other banks and land sales estimated at \$1 million a month.

Austin renews search for city administrator

AUSTIN (AP) — After failing in a last-ditch bid to hire a city manager from Oakland, Calif., Austin officials are resuming their year-long search for an administrator to head city government.

In the interim, Austin on Tuesday named a second acting assistant city manager, Barney Knight, to succeed another acting manager, John Ware.

Ware last week resigned from the job he had held since the last full-fledged manager, Jorge Carrasco, quit in November 1987.

Knight will hold the interim position until the council finds a permanent manager, a process that has been marked by false starts and failures since it began nearly 14 months ago.

Ware's resignation late last week prompted a final bid to hire Craig Kocian, assistant city manager of Oakland, as permanent manager.

Notziger said that Friday he telephoned Kocian in Oakland and offered him nine months' severance pay and that Kocian agreed to take the offer if the rest of the council supported it. But he said Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Sally Shipman, and Councilmen Smoot Carl-Mitchell and Charles Urdy did not want to make the offer to Kocian.

Councilman Robert Barnstone said he hoped the selection of a new manager can move ahead quickly. "The main reason this matter of hiring a new city manager needs to be laid to rest is that personality issues like this tend to be the most divisive and least productive for us," he said.

The council has been trying since February 1988 to hire a chief executive, a hunt that has spanned the terms of two mayors.

Initially, under former Mayor Frank Cooksey, the council interviewed nearly half a dozen candidates, but they were either unacceptable to the council or withdrew from consideration.

After winning the mayoral election last May, Cooke began a lengthy effort to recruit new manager prospects.

More candidates were interviewed by the council in August, but none received solid support.

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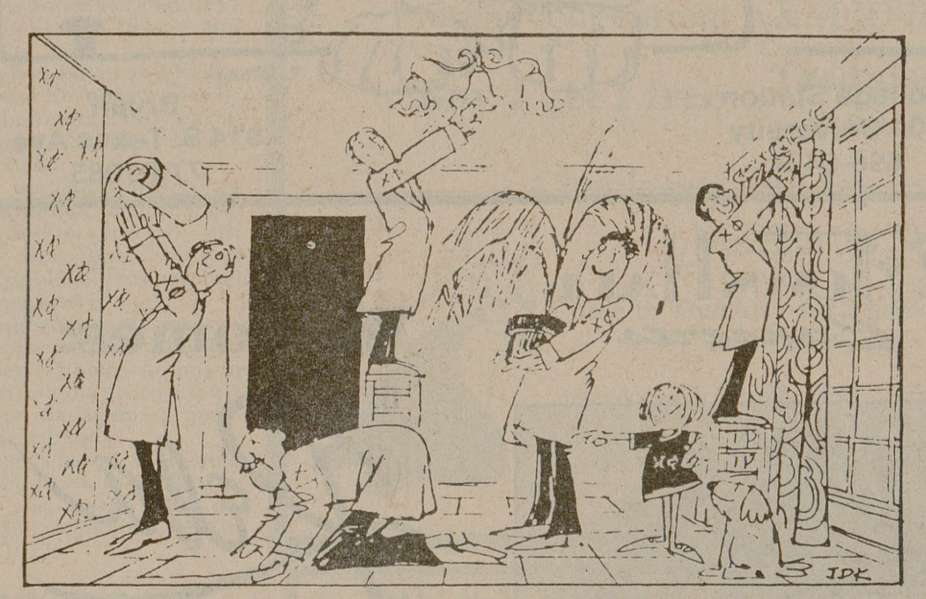
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