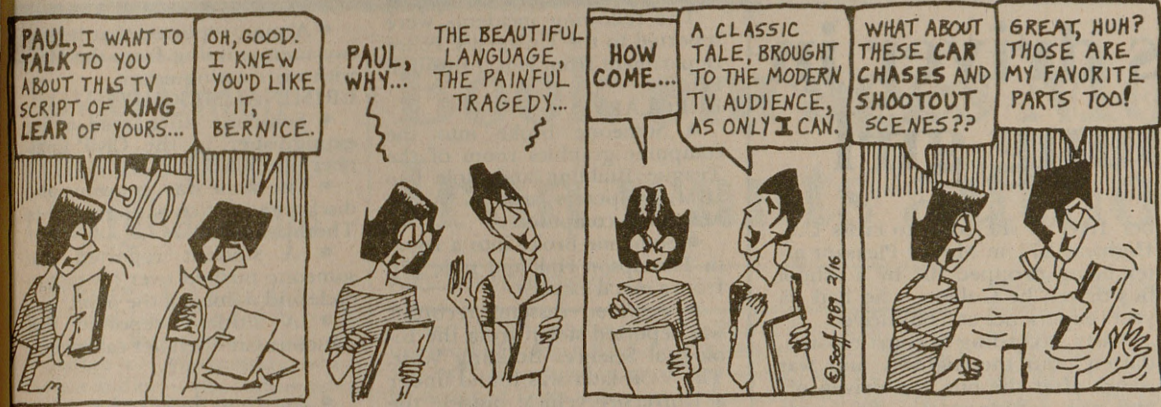


Warped



by Scott McCullar **Groups lobby to criminalize spanking pupils**

AUSTIN (AP) — Paddling students is child abuse, said children's rights groups and those against spanking in school, who testified Wednesday before a Senate committee considering a bill to outlaw the practice.

"There is nothing good about corporal punishment," said Jimmy Dunne, a former Houston math teacher and current president of People Opposed to Paddling Students.

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

"It's hurting the dropout problem and it's turning kids off to education," said Dunne, who carried a large, wooden paddle to the committee table. "They don't want to be in an environment where they can be hit with boards by their teachers.

"Plus, it adds to vandalism and violence... and you're inviting all sorts of abuse," Dunne told the Senate Education Committee.

Dunne told the committee of a recently reported beating of a special education student in Houston, and two 5-year-old girls in Jacksonville each of whom got five hard swats for snickering.

"We think children should have equal protection under the law," he said.

**Blinn provides education, security to 3,200 students**

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

For many students in the Brazos Valley, Texas A&M is the only school of higher education. But for many students such as freshmen who want the security and attention a large university might not provide or working adults returning to school who want the convenience of night classes, smaller is better.

Blinn Junior College has been providing these services in the Bryan-College Station area for almost 20 years.

"We want to give people an opportunity and a chance," J.B. Carrington, dean of the Bryan-College Station Blinn campuses, said.

In Texas, more than half a million people are seizing the opportunities community colleges have to offer, making them the fastest growing segment in public higher education.

"We serve a different clientele than A&M," Carrington said. "About 84 percent of our students are full- or part-time workers, so we provide large evening classes for adults going back to school."

Blinn's student body also includes those who can't fulfill A&M's or another state university's entry requirements and students who fail academically at A&M. Blinn gives them the chance to raise their grade-point ratios so they can transfer to a four-year institution.

The spring enrollment of the Bryan-College Station campuses is about 3,200. Of this number, about 500 students are co-enrolled at Blinn and A&M.

"We hope to be moved in by July 1, in time for the second summer session," Carrington said. "And there's parking as far as the eye can see."

The faculty consists of 123 professors, some of which are teaching assistants and graduate students at A&M.

Hatter said, "Many of my professors have been or are teaching at A&M. They are very thorough in the way they present the material and in the way they test. The quality of education I am receiving is very good."

Dr. Thomas Kiffe, a full-time associate professor of mathematics at A&M and part-time professor at Blinn, said, "It's quite a change from teaching at A&M. I like the smaller classes because they make it easier to interact with the students."

Carrington called his faculty the "greatest bunch of people in the world."

In addition to night classes and a qualified faculty, Blinn has many other opportunities to offer students.

Blinn operates a vocational nursing school on Koch Street in Bryan and by Fall 1989 it will provide a two-year nursing program for students who want to take the state test to become registered nurses.

"In this respect, we're trying to give back to the community," Carrington said.

Blinn's Bryan library contains 12,000 volumes. But with one phone call, a student can have access to more than 105,000 volumes from the Brenham campus library and have the book delivered by shuttle bus by 5 p.m. that same day.

Blinn's schedule is arranged so that there are no Friday classes.

"Classes are on the same schedule Monday through Thursday, with an hour and fifteen minute classes," Carrington said. "We want them to utilize the tutor and help sessions on Fridays."

And of course, Blinn College offers the one-on-one attention of smaller classes.

"It's better for students who might get lost in the shuffle at A&M, especially the freshmen," Kiffe said. "There are 80 students in my classes at A&M compared to 15 students at Blinn. I have a chance to find out what their strengths and weaknesses are and help them in that respect."

Hatter said, "It's a better climate. You receive more attention and the professors can be more personal."

Carrington said, "We're a public service institution trying to offer an opportunity for people to establish themselves in a college program."

**Summer — A&M offers Fellows Program to ambitious undergraduates**

(Continued from page 1)

"We've tried to accommodate students by increasing the size of the class sections," he said. "One of the problems we run into there is that this University does not have a wealth of large classrooms."

"Another way we've tried to accommodate students is to increase the number of graduate assistants and lecturers available to teach classes that we don't have the professors to teach. Even when you look at all these things we've tried to do, you still come back to the fact that the budget is less now than the number of students requiring courses."

This problem is compounded by the fact that the liberal arts college supplies courses across all majors in the University, Parrish said. The College of Liberal Arts is responsible for general core-curriculum classes, courses to fulfill majors and general-education courses.

"What this means is that we can't only be concerned with students in our departments, but we have to be concerned about students from all other colleges and majors taking their humanities or general electives through this college," he said.

Parrish said students should feel reassured in that the faculty and administration are aware of and concerned about the problems with budgeting. He said the big key to whether the budget problems can be eliminated is how the next legislature handles educational issues.

"The students through student government and the faculty through the faculty senate need to address these issues and be concerned with how the Legislature handles the issue of education," he said.

By Sharon Maberry  
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M undergraduate students have the opportunity to participate in a research program similar to graduate programs.

The University Undergraduate Fellows Program provides a select group of students with an independent research opportunity similar to opportunities in graduate studies.

"There are a wide range of participants from year to year," Honors Program Director Dale Knobel said of the program that has been at A&M for about 20 years. "We have had as few as 35 and as many as 100. There is usually an average of 50 or 60."

"Any major in the University can participate. We have theses on such diverse topics as Old English literature, microbiology, mechanical engineering, physics and accounting."

Juniors who have completed nine hours of Honors coursework and have at least a 3.25 grade-point ratio are eligible for the program.

The Fellows Program is a year-long independent study comprised of two 485 courses in which participating students work closely with a faculty adviser on a research project which is usually in the student's major.

Applicants who are chosen formally begin the Fellows Program the fall semester of their senior year.

"Students applying for the pro-

gram find a faculty sponsor they would like to work with and develop a research proposal which they submit in late March," he said. "The proposals are turned over to committees of faculty specialists who assess them. They are evaluated as much as proposals from faculty members applying for research grants."

"We have many employers coming to us asking for students who have displayed special initiative and dedication."

—Dale Knobel, honors program director

Knobel added that most of the students who persevere that far usually present research proposals that are attractive to faculty members.

"At this point, they really become part of a community of scholars," he said. "At the beginning of the year, there is a major convocation where we talk, not only about the mechanics of the program, but about the excitement and rewards of research."

Students are grouped with other students researching similar topics. These small groups meet several times during the year to discuss one

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