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MSC CAMERA GENERAL MEETING



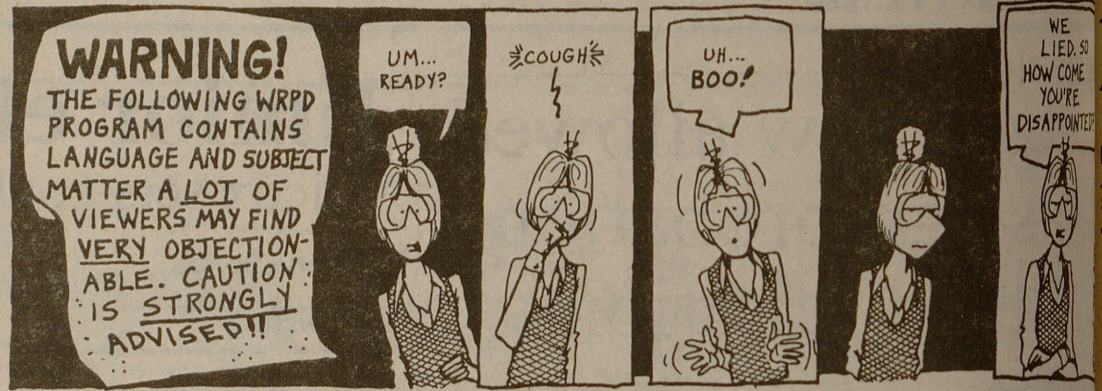
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1989 7:00 P.M. 146 MSC
 Special Guest: Tony Rydzewski will speak on the visual art of photography. He is a graduate of the L.A. College of Design and a photographer for Texas A&M. All members of the TAMU community are invited to attend.

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Doctor says maturity level shouldn't affect education

By Melissa Naumann
 REPORTER

A child's level of maturity may not always equal his level of intelligence, but it should not hinder his education, Dr. Nancy Robinson said Saturday at the 1989 Conference for Early Childhood Educators.

Robinson, director of the Center for the Study of Capable Youth at the University of Washington, said, contrary to what many parents and teachers believe, social skills can and should be taught.

"I've heard so many people say they can't move a child to another learning situation because he's immature," she said. "I think immaturity is something we can do something about."

Since all children, including gifted children, differ in temperament, motor skills, social skills, independence and creativity, Robinson said these differences should not be obstacles to academic achievement. She stressed teaching to strengths as well as weaknesses, flexibility with reason and a social, psychological curriculum.

Many teachers fail to recognize strengths in children and teach only to their weaknesses, Robinson said. For example, if a child learns to read before he goes to school and his teacher is unaware of this, the child's reading skills may deteriorate. While a teacher cannot always know of a child's every ability, it is essential that strengths are emphasized as much as weaknesses.

"When teachers don't recognize abilities, many kids figuratively go home," Robinson said.

Another important quality of teachers and adminis-

trators is flexibility. When flexibility is not used reasonably, however, the results can be disastrous, she said.

In an elementary school in Seattle, Robinson urged the teachers to move a gifted 6-year-old girl ahead. When they moved her from the first to the fifth grade she did horribly because her motor and social skills were not advanced enough. The teachers and administrators failed by not combining flexibility with reason.

A social, psychological curriculum can help fill gaps caused by rapid academic advancement of gifted children, she said. For example, gifted children frequently suffer from low self-esteem.

"Children who are different are likely not to be good about themselves," Robinson said.

To avoid this, she encouraged teachers and parents to help children make the transition from home, where they are the center of attention, to the classroom.

This kind of curriculum teaches children social skills that are necessary to advance at a rapid rate academically.

"When you ask bright children about social situations, they talk a wonderful game but they can't necessarily carry through," Robinson said.

She said many skills do not come with age, but can be taught. A child who tells parents or teachers "I don't like you" can be taught to say what he means — "I don't like you when you do certain things."

These social skills are also necessary for communication among children, she said. "We had one four-year-old who left a note for his friend to meet him at 3:30," Robinson said. "It was a good idea, but his friend couldn't read or tell time, so it didn't work."

Lobbyists entertain Texas legislators, foot \$250,000 bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Lobbyists reported spending nearly \$250,000 on entertainment for legislators and other state officials in January, according to records filed with the secretary of state's office.

For January, a month when the Legislature was in session for three weeks, lobbyists reported spending approximately \$244,940 on entertainment.

If divided equally among the 181 members of the state House and Senate, that comes out to about \$1,353 spent on each legislator for entertainment.

Entertainment expenses include funds spent on food, beverages, hospitality rooms, sporting events, theatrical and music events, transportation and lodging.

In these reports, called "activity reports," lobbyists must state how much they spent on entertainment, in addition to gifts, awards and loans, "to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch to influence legislation or administrative action."

The reports come at a time when there is a push among some legislators for a constitutional amendment to raise their pay from \$7,200 annually to about \$23,000.

There are about 750 lobbyists registered with the secretary of state, or more than four for each member of the state House and Senate. For the month of January, about 280 lobbyists reported spending money, ranging from \$5 to more than \$12,000.

The body of lobbyists, who often mill around outside the House and Senate chambers to confer with legislators, is often referred to as Texas' "Third House."

Under state law, lobbyists must file monthly expense reports when the Legislature is in session.

resenting their clients provides a view of the major political battles occurring in the Legislature.

Some of the major issues lobbyists are focusing on include proposed changes to the workers' compensation system, the regulation of utilities and legislation pertaining to the chemical industry.

Workers' compensation has become a major battleground, with lobbyists for insurance, doctors, trial lawyers, business, and labor jockeying for positions over a proposed overhaul of the system to compensate workers injured on the job.

Lobbyists for tobacco and alcoholic beverage companies are making themselves known, as some lawmakers have considered raising so-called sin taxes to help cover a revenue shortfall in the budget.

And lobbyists for the old standbys — oil and gas, banks, trucking, railroads — are spending thousands of dollars to preserve, protect and expand their turf.

The top spending individual lobbyist in January was Neal T. "Buddy" Jones who spent \$12,366 representing a clientele of business giants, including Enserch Inc., Ebasco Engineering and Development, Bass Brothers Enterprises Inc., Texas Air Corp., Continental Airlines, Texas Bankers Association, Anheuser-Busch Cos., Perot Systems, and Farmers Insurance Group, among others.

Lobbyists are not required to submit an itemized list on what they spent funds on, or what specific legislation they are trying to affect.

Many lobbyists simply report they are interested in matters affecting their clients, without naming specific proposals, although some attach long lists of House and Senate bill numbers they are monitoring.

B.J. Durham, a lobbyist for Central Power and Light Co., reported spending \$2,907 on entertainment in January, and in the space reserved for listing what matters he spoke with officials about, is typed "None."

Houston hopes rodeo events boost economy

HOUSTON (AP) — Officials are hoping this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo will surpass the \$175 million economic boost from last year's event, a figure more than 20 times higher than the much-bemoaned Democratic National Convention would have generated.

The massive Houston event which began with the arrival of thousands of trail riders and downtown parade Saturday, also generates more than \$1 million in scholarships for Texas agriculture students and provides a showplace for top breeders.

And it draws swarms of spending tourists anxious to see first class rodeo action and a host of country music stars including Crystal Gayle, Kenny Rogers and George Strait.

"New Orleans has its Mardi Gras, San Antonio has its Battle of Flowers," said Hal Hillman, show president. "Houston has the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, which is the largest social and charitable event in Houston each year."

Its profits are spread throughout the state and range from endowments to colleges and universities to contributions toward research and other agricultural programs, as well as junior livestock shows and scholarships and graduate assistantships.

The 57-year-old show is the largest donor of agricultural scholarships in the world," said Leroy Shafer, the show's assistant general manager.

Four-year, \$8,000 scholarships are awarded each year to 50 Texas FFA and 50 Texas 4-H members who want to major in agriculture or life sciences at a Texas college or university.

Another 24 scholarships also will be awarded this year to 24 Houston-area students, with no restriction as to their academic major.

Field Agriculture
 By Sharon Mah...
 STAFF WRITER
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