

Wednesday, October 11, 1989

An apple for the teacher C.S. instructor competes for state education award

By Andrea Warrenburg

Of The Battalion Staff

A College Station elementary school teacher has been chosen one of the six finalists for the 1990 Texas Teacher of the Year award. Charlotte Slack, a second grade teacher from Rock Prairie Elementary School, is one of the three finalists in the elementary school category in the running for the honor. Three other finalists are in the high school category — all were chosen from hundreds of nominees from school districts across Texas. The six teachers will travel to Austin at the end of October to be interviewed by a panel of judges made up of representatives from various state teacher organizations. Only one will be chosen by the panel to represent Texas in the national competition. "The administration is excited," Slack said.

"Since we've never had anyone enter the contest before, we didn't think we'd go this far."

Each school district can enter only one application to the panel. Slack's 19-page essay application was chosen the district winner above the other applications from the seven elementary, junior high and high schools in the College Station Independent School District.

"I was surprised to win because there are so many wonderfully outstanding teachers in this district," Slack said. "I can't even comprehend the state selection yet."

Slack has been a teacher for 15 years, 13 of them in the CSISD. She said it is her inquisitive nature that led her into the teaching profession. "My inquisitive nature led me to teaching and helps keep me there today," Slack said. "I had the simplistic idea that I wanted to help children an-

swer their questions. I never seriously considered any other profession."

Slack's philosophies include teaching in a positive atmosphere, emphasizing the things the children do best and communicating with students and the parents.

"The essence of teaching, and one cornerstone of my philosophy, is a deep respect for the worth and dignity of each individual child in my classroom," she said. "Each family sends to me their very best, their most precious being. They have entrusted this child to my guidance, and I accept that trust with a deep sense of commitment to do my best."

Slack said she has not thought down the road to actually winning the honor.

"My goal is right here — to work with the children everyday," she said.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Clayton Williams gives students a Gig 'Em Tuesday night.

Williams warns Texas: drug offenders will pay

By Melissa Naumann

Of The Battalion Staff

Clayton Williams, Class of '54, will bust drug offenders by having them bust rocks if he is elected governor.

Continuing on the campaign trail, Williams spoke to the A&M College Republicans Tuesday and emphasized his plan to give drug offenders a "second chance," sending them to a 90-day boot camp, followed by a six-month work camp.

"I want to teach those young criminals the joy of busting rocks while they build roads and parks to pay us back for the damage they've done," he said. "If someone doesn't want a second chance, Gov. Williams will have a place in the penitentiary for them."

Williams, who teaches a class on entrepreneurship at A&M, said the drug problem needs to be approached from a business point of view, dealing with supply and demand.

While planning to cut down on the drug supply, most of Williams' focus is on demand. He will fine drug offenders \$20,000, revoke the driver's licenses of high school students caught with marijuana and expel college students caught with drugs at state schools.

Williams said he will announce his plans for funding his drug program Friday.

He approached the education issue by saying that teachers are the ones who know what needs to be improved, not legislators.

"The best fertilizer is the footprints of the owner," he said.

High school students who aren't college-bound frequently get bored with courses on Shakespeare and drop out, Williams said. These students need more options to keep them from dropping out, he said.

"If you can't get a job, you've got two roads," he said. "You've got a road to welfare and a road to crime."

He said he will veto any mandates from the state Legislature to local schools that don't provide state funds, so local taxes won't have to be raised.

"We don't need more taxes — we need less government," he said.

Williams said the business environment in Texas is suffering because the Senate doesn't support legislation such as worker's compensation or reform on product liability.

"The liberal Democrats are running the state of Texas and they're running it like a wrecking machine," he said. "We've got to give them their pink slips."

Staff member forum discusses fate of China

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

"China, reform or regression?" was the topic of a forum Tuesday night of A&M staff members who were in China during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations.

Dr. Jon Alston, a sociology professor, said during his visit in April and

May, he saw a mixture of success and failure in Chinese economics.

"There is a positive trend toward economics in China," Alston said. "People are well fed, healthy, live in decent homes and really aren't worried about the bare necessities anymore, but this economic progress is concentrated mostly on farms."

Alston said intellectuals, state and industrial workers haven't enjoyed

economic progress because of the high inflation rate. In fact, he said taxicab drivers make more than professors.

Dr. Lawrence Wolken, a lecturer in the finance department, said gadgets such as televisions, video tape recorders and telephones are more prevalent in China than in 1986.

"When I was in China before, the only phones that were around were

phones at work, which were always busy," he said. "Now a few people have their own private home phones."

"During my first visit, people didn't have television sets, or if they did they were black and white ones," Wolken said. "Now many people have their own color televisions."

Wolken said many farmers were facing problems because the government wouldn't allow prices to be set by natural supply and demand.

"The government had very low fixed prices for grain which caused farmers to spend more on production than they made at the market," Wolken said. "On the other hand, there was no price control on vegetables and they were bringing in a big profit. This made most farmers switch from producing grains to vegetables."

Wolken said the government then imposed a quota on the amount of grain farmers had to produce.

Alston said the black market is popular because it is the best way to

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Freshman runoff elections decided

By Michael Kelley

Of The Battalion Staff

Bill Benker was elected the Class of '93 president for the 1989-90 school year. Benker, a general studies major from Houston defeated Esther Cochran, a political science major from Plano, by 31 votes, earning 53 percent of the 560 votes cast in the freshman runoff elections yesterday.

Benker said he will now work to unify the freshman class by working with his newly elected staff to find out what the Class of '93 wants to do this year. He especially wants to start working on the freshman ball at the end

of the year to begin the fundraising needed to purchase the class gift in 1993.

Cochran said she would run again next year, but in the meantime would work with Benker, whom she said was a good friend of hers. She said she wants to work to see her canned food drive competition idea become a reality between the A&M freshman class and the University of Texas freshman class.

The following Class of '93 positions were also filled from yesterday's elections:

- Vice President — John Sweeney
- Treasurer — Greg Hurst
- Secretary — Lance Ogletree
- Social Secretary — Blair Johnson
- Historian — Dean Blackenship

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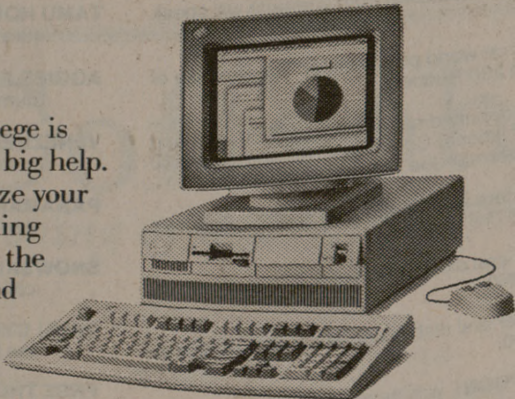


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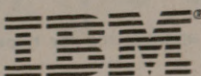
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