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What's Up

Monday

PARENTS' WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications are available through Wednesday in the MSC.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION: will have a required meeting for all students scheduled to co-op in the Spring at 5:15 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

WOMEN'S STUDIES SUPPORT GROUP: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 139 MSC. Call Melissa Cuthbert at 846-3487 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will have a Christmas presents sale with 'Batik' products from Malaysia from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on the first floor of the MSC.

SNOWSKI CLUB: will have a mandatory meeting for people going on the ski trip at 7 p.m. in Rudder.

SCUBA CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

TAMU ROADRUNNERS: will meet at 7:15 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Call David at 696-8544 or Tony at 847-2270 for more information.

ALPHA PHI ALPHA: will have a founders day program at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder. Call Terris Burton at 847-1651 for more information.

Tuesday

HISPANIC BUSINESS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will take pictures for year-book at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of Zachry.

TAMU SYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF: will have a Christmas program and reception at noon in 201 MSC. Call Peggy Ritchey at 845-5311 for more information.

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: will have its final meeting of the semester at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

SADDLE & SIRLOIN CLUB: will have a business meeting, and Marx Howell with the Texas Department of Public Safety will speak on criminal law enforcement and the applicator of memory training and hypnosis at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.

AGGIE ALLIANCE: will have a Christmas party at 6 p.m. at Mama's Pizza in Culpepper Plaza. Free food and drinks.

STUDENT Y: will have a Christmas service with the Singing Cadets and speaker Jo Hudson at 7:30 p.m. at the All Faiths Chapel.

PAID: will have a Christmas banquet at 7:30 p.m. at Casa Ole in Post Oak Mall. Dress casually. Call Tobin Strickland at 696-6653 for more information.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: will take a tour of the Medical School at 7 p.m. Meet in 201 Veterinary Medicine Complex. Call Ingrid at 846-8708 for more information.

ECONOMICS SOCIETY: will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Kyle Field Press Box. Call Cindy at 693-1014 for more information.

MEXICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 8 p.m. at Wing Joint at Northgate. Call Gabriela at 693-2501 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Home school

(Continued from page 3)

"I've certainly seen where it (home schooling) has worked and worked beautifully, but I've also seen a lot (of cases) where I'd really question the motives (of the parents)," McFarland said.

She said that generalizing the home education movement as good or bad can't be done because the educational and social needs of each child are unique.

"Each and every child is different, each and every school is different, each and every case is different," she said.

Those who know home schoolers and have seen the positive and negative aspects say the parents' role is central for a productive home schooling experience.

Dee Yates, a graduate student in educational psychology, has run a private school and come into contact with many home schoolers.

Her experience is that children of parents who home teach often socialize together in a way that fulfills the children's socialization needs. What is also important, Yates said, is the parents' role.

"The people I know who've done it have not been trained in education, but they've been able to handle the first few years," she said.

"I have a problem with people not knowing what they're doing and kids not getting a good education. But if you know what you're doing and you can give them a good education and they're still getting socialization, I don't have a problem with that."

Studies show that, of the parents who home school, at least one parent has a college education, and many parents say that specific instructional training is not necessary for a productive teaching experience.

"There's tons of material out there for anyone," Crouse said. "If you can read you can learn anything — if you have a desire to learn — and I have a desire to learn the best method to teach my children. I do a lot of research."

Crouse said her children follow a workbook curriculum format that is used in many Christian schools. Her children do about three hours of the standard academic fare, such as reading, writing and mathematics, each day.

The McDow family teaches their children using a curriculum from an Illinois-based school that teaches about 20,000 students via satellite communications.

Indeed, what skeptics have found is that home schoolers consistently do well in independent studies measuring aptitude and basic curriculum requirements. Studies by the Departments of Education in Alaska, Tennessee and Washington show that home schoolers score just as well as, if not better than, their comparable academic group.

Dee Yates agrees that criticism of

home-schooled students is unfounded.

"I think that more than an (educational) program, it's the teaching ability and the IQ level of the kids (that determines success)," she said. "Those are factors that haven't been taken into account when people start throwing out accusations."

The case of the Colfax family in California is a home-schooling success example. The oldest child, who was home schooled on the family's homestead, was accepted into Harvard and graduated with high honors. The Colfaxes argue that approach, rather than IQ, determines success, and they continue to home school their two youngest children, who are adopted.

Home schoolers who receive their General Equivalency Diploma and hope to attend institutions of higher learning around the country meet with different acceptance standards.

Texas A&M will admit only high school graduates and therefore does not usually consider home-schooled applicants.

"Each and every child is different, each and every school is different, each and every case is different."

— Katherine McFarland,
A&M doctoral student

Dr. Bill Lay, director of student admission, said that although home-schooled students usually aren't admitted to the University, any application is subject to appeal.

"We have not admitted anybody directly who I know of that has come out of the high school home teaching program," Lay said. "In the past year I may have talked to four students (about home schooling) at most. It's not a great number certainly, (but) a few more people are doing it."

Many home schoolers and federal and state education administrators are now looking for a compromise between what roles they should play in providing a good education for children.


Many parents argue it is their right under the Fifth Amendment to educate their children at home for religious reasons.

"The question is 'Should government interfere with schooling?'" McFarland said.

Whelan said the status of compulsory attendance in public schools always is changing.

"I hate to say that we're (TEA) not 100 percent successful (in providing a good public education)," Whelan said. "A lot of times the educational needs of a child are probably going to be better met in the home school than they are in the organized environment."

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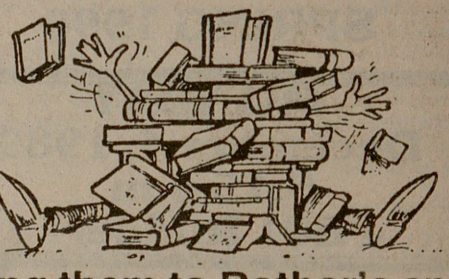
 

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