

Thursday, June 28, 1990

Conference focuses on restructure of public schools

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

More than 300 national and state leaders of education and industry are attending a Texas A&M-sponsored conference today to discuss topics including the possible restructuring of public schools.

The two-day conference, "New Directions In Education," was initiated by A&M President Dr. William H. Mobley and the University's Commitment to Education Task Force.

Dr. Dean Corrigan, the president's deputy for educational leadership and CTE director, said meetings would focus on action rather than policy.

"We're into people who are willing to do something, to search for better ways to do things," Corrigan said.

"CTE intends to marshal the resources

necessary to move untried ideas into action, study the results, and share the best that are found in research and practice," he said.

Corrigan said top national education experts will speak at each of three general sessions, all in Rudder Theater.

Denis Doyle, co-author of the best-selling book "Winning the Brain Race," is the principal speaker of the first session at 1:30 this afternoon.

Doyle is presently a senior research fellow at the Hudson Institute and is a member of the Education Excellence Network Board and the American Textbook Council Board.

The focus of the second session, at 8:30 a.m. Friday, is finding ways to make education systems work at the local level with the assistance of state and national agencies.

Speakers are Sonia Hernandez, Victoria Bergin, and David Holmes.

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**— Dean Corrigan,
Commitment to Education
director**

Hernandez is a senior associate at the National Center on Education and the Economy and adjunct professor at the University of Rochester in New York.

Bergin is deputy commissioner for cur-

riculum and program development with the Texas Education Agency.

Holmes is coordinator of the Comprehensive Program and program officer for the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Henry Giroux will speak at 11 a.m. Friday, during the third session, about developing curriculum and schools to meet the needs of all students.

Giroux is director of the Center for Education and Cultural Studies at Miami University of Ohio.

His book, "Teachers as Intellectuals," was named one of the most significant books of the year by the American Educational Studies Association.

Corrigan said the conference also includes 20 one-hour presentations, called "lighthouses of innovation," that will high-

light solutions to some problems facing educators.

"The lighthouses share ideas, but they don't always have to be right," Corrigan said. "You can learn a great deal from failures."

CTE supports risk takers, but schools must remain accountable for the results of new programs tried, he said.

Corrigan said the conference will stress a "bottom-up" strategy, meaning state regulations should set lower requirements for a school's curriculum.

Teachers would then have more freedom to implement new programs, he said. In Texas, for example, TEA guidelines leave little room for teacher initiative.

"We want to treat teachers as professional decision makers," he said.

Students are welcome to attend any of the three general sessions, he said.

Reporter begins six-month jail term for refusing to reveal source's name

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A television news reporter began serving a six-month jail term Wednesday for refusing to turn over the name of a confidential source to lawyers in a police killing.

"I sure don't want to do six months in jail," KMOL-TV reporter Brian Karem said on the Bexar County Jail steps. "But I'm going to keep my promise."

Karem has defied three court orders to turn over confidential notes of a telephone interview with one of two jailed murder suspects last year. Attorneys in the case say they have to know who arranged the interviews to ensure a fair trial for the defendants.

Karem has said the source fears for his life if his identity is revealed.

"We can't live up to our principles every day in life," Karem told reporters as he was going into the jail. "But I think this is an important enough

issue, and I feel strongly enough about it that I want to live up to how I believe."

Karem's hopes for staying out of jail while he appeals the contempt citations were dashed Tuesday when the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to issue a stay.

Karem arranged to surrender to Sheriff Harlon Copeland, who met Karem on the jail steps Wednesday afternoon.

"I'm not looking forward to it," Karem said. "I'd rather be at home with my wife and my son." Karem has an 18-month-old son.

Karem said his only hope for release would be for the confidential source to come forward or for the U.S. Supreme Court to grant a stay of his sentence pending appeal.

His attorney, Laurence Macon, said Wednesday he has filed for a stay with the high court but did not expect a ruling before the end of the

week.

"It does not look very good for the First Amendment today," Macon said.

KMOL News Director Ron Harig said the station would hold Karem's job open and he would continue to be paid while he is jailed.

"The information contained in those notes could have been easily obtained by those attorneys and the agencies they represent," Harig said Wednesday. "We shouldn't be an investigating arm of law enforcement."

"We can only guess at their motives. Perhaps they are trying to discourage people from talking to reporters," Harig said.

Harig, station Manager Bob Donohue and Karem's father, James, were at Karem's side when he arrived at the jail.

Chow time



By Sharla Skillern

Squirt, a silver ferret, decides to snack between meals. Squirt has lived in College Station with her owner Steve Coffey, a senior industrial distribution major from Plano, for a year now.

USDA service faces shortfall

27,000 women, children risk being cut from aid

Associated Press

Thousands of pregnant women and young children are in danger of losing food they receive from the government in a program designed to improve birth and to decrease mortality rates.

But the Bush administration has not asked Congress for any new money to meet the shortfall, a Department of Agriculture official told a congressional panel today.

Betty Jo Nelsen, administrator of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, said the WIC program has grown by 300,000 participants. She said \$11 million has been re-allocated to make up for spending or budget shortfalls some states are suffering.

But Texas alone needs \$17.5 million to maintain its

current level of service to about 340,000 women and children. Otherwise, 27,000 will be dropped as early as next week, said Debra Stabeno, director of the Texas Department of Health's program for women infants and children.

To improve birth and decrease mortality rates, WIC provides milk, cheese, juice, cereal, peanut butter and other food to pregnant women and young children.

Stabeno said higher foods costs and more program participants are driving up costs even more than expected.

Food costs have increased 9.7 percent in Texas this fiscal year, twice as much as the rate projected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The department sends federal funds to state agencies for WIC programs.

IN FULL EFFECT

By Eric V. Lewis



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