

Monday, August 4, 1974

THE DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE

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Environmental Institute Retains Original Concept

The North Texas State University Institute for Environmental Studies reorganized last fall under a plan that retained modern insight, but in reality was the formalization of the far-sighted intention of the institute's founder in the 1960s.

When Dr. J. K. G. Silvey first went to work with biologists and chemists from the NTSU faculty in the 1960s to study the chemicals in the Trinity River that might affect the taste and smell of Dallas' drinking water, he consulted with faculty members from the social science disciplines for their suggestions as to what might affect the quality of the water.

This concept of interdisciplinary cooperation on community projects has become the modern world's approach to improving the

educational efforts. Mrs. Higgins, who took the position June 1, is in charge of a wide variety of educational activities for the institute, including the initiation, formulation and supervision of educational projects, and the development of workshops, mini courses, symposia and other special education projects sponsored by the institute.

Dr. William Glaze, a member of the NTSU chemistry department, is director of the institute, and Dr. Lloyd Fitzpatrick, a member of the biological department of biological sciences, is associate director responsible for scientific research and grants.

Robette Higgins, a Denton woman active in environmental projects of the League of Women Voters and for the preservation of the Big Thicket, was named associate director of the institute to coordinate the

interdisciplinary nature of the institute. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 required an impact study for many types of construction projects, including building highways, dams, a city, enlarging a city, Dr. Glaze explained.

"IMPACT studies in an area we feel we can be of service to industry and to municipalities," Dr. Glaze said. A team of NTSU researchers found that

Aubrey Reservoir, to be built on 15,000 acres northeast of Denton between Pilot Point, Aubrey and Sanger, would have a "highly positive" effect on the environment of North Texas.

The nine professors on the research team were from the faculties of the NTSU departments of biological sciences, geography and history. Other disciplines represented in the institute are psychology, business administration, political science, economics, sociology, geography and geology, physics and chemistry.

Some of the questions the researchers ask for such a project as the impact study of Aubrey Reservoir, Dr. Glaze said, are what effect is that going to have on the total community, how will it affect the age of the com-

munity that can be expected to form in that area, how will it affect anthropological deposits in the area, what effect will it have on the economy and comfortable living?

People are asking more questions about how the quality of man's life will be affected by a new housing project, bridge, dam, golf course, factory, hotel, city or city dump, before they actually begin building it, Dr. Glaze said.

"No PEOPLE are going to have to measure these sociological, economic and physical variables and secondly come up with some kind of formula that gives a reasonable statement that sums up all these variables," Dr. Glaze explained.

"Yes, someone can say, 'Yes, build this,' or 'No, do not allow this project,' he said.

The NTSU institute is uniquely suited to this type of approach, Dr. Glaze said.

"The interdisciplinary nature of the institute at NTSU distinguishes it from industrial firms which also carry out environmental impact studies," he said.

"They often have a sufficient number of biologists and other scientists, but they simply cannot have the reservoir of social scientists that NTSU has.

"We find NTSU has a larger reservoir of expertise in areas important to the environment, although they have not been directly involved in any environmental projects thus far," Dr. Glaze said.

Administration there are experts in systems analysis and statistics. In sociology there are experts in urban-regional planning. There is an urban historian, cultural geographers, and many others.

"What we are doing is assembling a consulting staff, not a formal staff for the institute," he said.

Prospective consultants have been formally approached and are committed to the institute, although they still work on a voluntary basis, he explained.

Besides the director, associate director, and Dr. Silvey, an advisory committee has been organized with Dr. N. C. Hightower, the director of research and education at Scott and White Hospital in Temple, as committee chairman.



CAMPUS CONCERT—The central park area on the North Texas State University campus is ideal for musical concerts on warm spring days for the pleasure of students and Denton folk as well.

SAU Brings Campus Entertainment Variety

Go to a movie or a concert in the Main Auditorium. Participate in a ping pong or billiards tournament. Listen to a politician, a magazine editor, a civil rights activist, or an expert on unidentified flying objects.

You will soon discover that extracurricular activities at North Texas State University are more often than not the result of the efforts of the 170-member Student Activities Union (SAU).

With administrative guidance from Mary Yates, director of student activities, SAU brings films, performers, speakers and a number of other activities to the campus.

An impressive example of what can be accomplished with student involvement, SAU began four years ago as a 30-member organization with emphasis on entertainment. It has expanded to include sponsorship of informational and educational programs. Ten committees formulate and coordinate the ever-widening variety of ac-



LILLIE TOMLIN Appears On Campus Activities. Committee membership is open to all interested students.

During the past year, the Video Tape Committee sponsored showings of "Fiddler on the Roof," "Cabaret," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Fritz the Cat." Willie Nelson, Lily Tomlin and Earl Scruggs and the Bluegrass Review entertained students in the Main Auditorium, while smaller concerts held in the Temporary Union Building featured Townes Van Zandt

and John D. Loudermilk. All were sponsored by the Popular Entertainment Committee.

A series of High Noon Seminars featured prominent faculty from the campus as well as prominent off-campus figures. In question-and-answer sessions with students, State Rep. Walt Parker, former U.S. senator Ralph Yarborough and gubernatorial candidate Stacy Farnsworth were some of the speakers presented by the Forum Committee.

Fashion shows and a Fashion Fair at Neiman Marcus in Dallas kept members of the Fashion and Hospitality Committee busy while the Recreation Committee sponsored several tournaments.

The International Committee was only one of the several committees to organize and present a series of special weeks emphasizing ethnic groups, including "Black Emphasis Week," "Women's Emphasis Week," "Mexican-American Week" and "International Students Week."

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