

THE BATTALION

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How valid was critical column?
— A Texas A&M official responds to Jack Anderson's column criticizing the treatment of women in the Corps of Cadets — and he doesn't give Anderson much credibility. See page 3. Also see page 2 for comment on the story.
— People injure and kill 40 percent of the young birds of prey that die each year, and a Texan spends his own time and money to heal as many birds as he can. See page 10.
— Is it just coincidence, or are you *PSYCHIC*? See page 6.



'Aaaaayyyyyee!'
Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

The position of yell leader at Texas A&M took a new shape Thursday night. Freshman Kim Manuel, an Army ROTC cadet in the W-1 unit, was the first woman ever to be a Texas A&M yell leader. She was one of five freshmen "yell-leaders" that Thursday's Elephant Bowl game.

Trouble with a capital T? — maybe

House group hears A&M

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

AUSTIN — Texas A&M University expected trouble in the House Appropriations Committee hearing Thursday. Trouble about its use of the Permanent University Fund.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, is long charged that the campus at College Station is not sharing fairly with the impus at Prairie View the System's part the proceeds from the endowment.

Three weeks ago, at a hearing of a subcommittee of the House Higher Education committee, Texas A&M officials were severely questioned about the fund's distribution and possible neglect of Prairie View.

Thursday the "results" of that hearing — what the Higher Ed Committee recommended to the Appropriations Committee — were available. The most significant change the committee made was adding about \$6.5 million for new construction and renovation for Prairie View.

These committees cannot significantly affect distribution of Permanent University Fund (PUF) income, but Thompson introduced legislation that would force the System to give Prairie View the money to abolish the endowment altogether.

The University of Texas and Texas A&M systems split income from the PUF, which is a constitutionally established endowment based on land holdings in West Texas.

The chief clerk of the Higher Ed Committee, George Torres, said Thursday that Thompson has declined to schedule hearings on the bills. He also noted that legislators sometimes introduce legislation even when it is not intended to be passed. The bills are statements of where they stand, he said.

One of Thompson's administrative aides explained Thursday in the Capitol that she is also waiting for the HEW to release its report on higher education in Texas. Thompson has suggested she knows the conclusion of the report, which was researched last year, and that it may alter PUF distribution.

But no one at Texas A&M knows for sure.

Thompson, a member of the committee, directed most of her questions Thursday toward the PUF, but it is hard to predict the effect on other committee members.

Her impact — or lack of it — will be one factor when the committee draws up the general appropriations bill for the House. Sometime in April that bill and a similar bill in the Senate will be debated, compromised and sent to the governor, probably in May.

Thursday was the last official chance for the 11-part Texas A&M System to justify its requests for money.

Clyde H. Well, chairman of the Board of Regents and acting chancellor, directed the presentation. Much of the four-hour session was dull but mostly important recitation of figures and justification.

Several legislators and spectators napped.

The hearing was delayed from 10 a. m. to 1:30 p. m. by a speech by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who emphasized the need for education spending.

Wells and most other System representatives said more of that spending should be on low salaries. Inflation has been devastating, he said, and has eroded professors' buying power.

Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M, said the growth of the school has penalized it because the scheme used to figure 80-85 percent of the budget has not kept up with increasing enrollments. He also said more funds should be allocated for organized research, which was cut drastically last time the Legislature appropriated funds.

Moody College President Bill Clayton said growth at the Galveston campus necessitates more facilities. If given the needed dorms and classrooms, he predicted, the college's enrollment of about 700 would double in two years.

Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, president of Prairie View A&M, said this is the time for a "bold leap forward" at the predominantly black campus. The \$6.5 million recommended by the Higher Ed Committee includes a \$3.7 million facility for nursing students and major repairs at the campus.

Barron threatens move of Davis case to Bryan

United Press International

A district judge — angry about an intrusion by the Tarrant County district attorney's office into his courtroom affairs — Thursday said he might move the divorce case of Texas millionaire T. Cullen Davis and his socialite wife, Priscilla, from Fort Worth to Bryan, his central Texas hometown.

Meeting with Davis' battery of attorneys and reporters in the front room of his Bryan home, District Judge John M. Barron also said he would not tolerate any more "interference" from either a special Tarrant County grand jury investigating Davis' financial dealings or members of the district attorney's office.

Barron then signed a restraining order barring the district attorney's office "or anyone else from interfering with this trial" and indicated he would move the bitter, longrunning case to Bryan if both parties agreed to the change and if an available courtroom could be found in the Brazos County courthouse.

But Mrs. Davis' attorney, contacted in Fort Worth, said there was "no way" he would agree to the trial move. And even Barron admitted there was little possibility of finding an available courtroom.

After signing the injunction, Barron told reporters: "Goodbye, I'm going rabbit hunting."

The divorce trial was thrown into an immediate recess Thursday when the retired judge, appointed as presiding judge after Fort Worth Judge Joe Eidson withdrew from the bitter 6-year case, failed to appear in court.

"I'm not going to put up with this," the normally goodhumored judge told reporters after Assistant District Attorney Jack Strickland subpoenaed thousands of pages of records of the divorce trial Wednesday.

"I'll go back to Bryan and hunt rabbits."

A court spokesman said that's apparently what the judge did. He disappeared from his Fort Worth hotel room and remained unavailable by telephone in Bryan.

At one point, Barron said he was going to declare a mistrial, but that threat subsided with his failure to appear court.

Barron's courtroom humor had been one of the few bright spots in the five weeks of tedious proceedings in the case reportedly involving millions of dollars in community property. But the witticism turned to criticism when Strickland appeared in court saying he needed the financial records for a Wednesday afternoon meeting of a special grand jury.

The subpoena said the information was sought in connection with the murder-for-hire charge against Davis.

Davis, who was acquitted of murder two years ago, was tried earlier this year for soliciting the death of his previous divorce court judge, Joe Eidson, but that trial ended with a deadlocked jury.

Barron, who said he would have gladly turned over the divorce trial records once the trial was over, apparently was offended by the intrusion and later called Strickland "that little squirt" and "a wet-eared fool prosecutor having no respect for anyone."

Strickland was unavailable for comment Thursday.

"He could have worked it out with me very well that after I'd made a decision in the case I'd have give him the whole record," Barron told a reporter Wednesday. "But he comes up there and just kicks us around like we were a bunch of dogs."

The reaction in the Priscilla and Cullen Davis camps was one of surprise.

"I did not know it was going to happen," said Ronald Aultman, Mrs. Davis' attorney. Aultman said "as a matter of ethics" he preferred to withhold further comment until "I know what the judge is going to do."

But one of Davis' attorneys, Cecil Munn, presented motions to Administrative Judge Charles Murray Thursday after Barron failed to show in court, asking that the divorce trial be moved to Bryan — Barron's hometown — and that the district attorney "and everyone else" be enjoined from interrupting the case "for whatever reason."

\$5 health fee increase likely

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

Maintaining competitiveness in the local health care job market, and thus the quality of services provided, is the rationale behind a student government request for the creation of a new health center fee, according to Dr. John Koldus, Texas A&M University's vice president for student services.

The new \$5 compulsory medical service fee is needed "to maintain the current level of services," Koldus said.

The proposal for the new fee is currently in the form of a senate recommendation to Koldus, but he is expected to approve it in time for next year's fee assessment.

The University's A.P. Beutel Health Center has been operating at a deficit since 1973, he added. However, funds in reserve enabled the center to operate with the deficit.

Also helpful was the fact that the health center has in the past had problems in filling its budgeted staff positions.

However, Koldus said, the University recently lost \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year because the center no longer receives the money to provide mandatory University Workmen's Compensation physicals. The physicals are no longer mandatory, and the University has thus cut off their funds.

More money was needed, Koldus said, to attract good quality people into the Texas A&M health center. The former salary of \$29,000 "wasn't too competitive for physicians," he said. President Jarvis Miller recently approved a \$38,000 ceiling on physicians' salaries designed to attract more doctors to Texas A&M.

"However, it is not mandatory to employ someone at a base salary of \$38,000. A physician with less experience would be employed at less than \$38,000," he added.

Nurses' salaries have also been increased to provide more competition, Koldus said.

Many students had believed the current \$15 compulsory group hospital fee charged at Texas A&M was the ceiling, set by state law. Koldus said this was true, but that another section of the Texas Education Code allows the University to charge another fee, the compulsory medical service fee. The ceiling for that fee also is \$15, Koldus said.

"The fees are not by law going into the same place, but they are tied," he said. "In terms of operations, I don't see how they can separate the two, which is what they are doing legislatively."

Koldus said the comptroller of the University System had wanted a \$10 increase.

"But I thought that would be too much," he said.

The current fee charged by the University brings in about \$850,000 per year, Koldus said. The projected increase when the new fee is implemented will be one-third of that, or about \$280,000, he added.

"I hope the fee will meet the needs for the next three years. I hope we don't have to raise it again for a good long time," Koldus said. "The problem is keeping pace with inflation."

Jackson preaches hope, not dope in joint session

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Rev. Jesse Jackson, leading a cheer of "down with dope, up with hope," commanded legislators at a joint House-Senate session Thursday to regain their moral authority and search for a higher vision.

"It's not so much the strength of our eyes, but where we stand and what we see," Jackson told the legislators, the state's governor and a packed gallery, who came to hear his speech supporting education and morality.

The civil rights leader led the legislators in a recitation of a former black power chant that said in part "I am somebody, I am God's child. Down with dope, up with hope, no one can protect us from ourselves. I can learn anything, I am God's child."

Jackson, 37, is leader of Operation Push. He described the program as "a human rights organization that tends to be the voice of the underprivileged and unrepresented." Another program led by Jackson, EXCEL, is the educational arm of Operation Push and is aimed to encourage youths to stay in school and improve their lives.

"Education costs — it does cost," Jackson said. "But ignorance costs even more."

He compared the cost of a four-year public college education at \$20,000 to the cost of imprisonment for four years at \$50,000 to \$126,000.

"Education and employment costs less than ignorance and incarceration. Schools at their worst are better than prisons at their best."

Jackson urged the lawmakers to guard against the backlash of tax relief amendments — which he labeled neo-conservative — that might damage educational programs.

"This is fundamentally based upon a sense of economic panic," the gray-suited leader said. "These people say: 'We're going to lead a tax rebellion,' while the fact is we need a tax reform." He added that giant corporations are paying less taxes than before, while citizens are paying more.

Jackson was introduced to the joint session by Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston, who told reporters he invited the minister to address the Legislature because crucial education bills will be discussed this session and he is concerned over their success. Edwards said legislation has been introduced to get state funding for Operation Push and EXCEL in Texas.

He said 60 percent of the nation's students are bused and only 6 percent for racial reasons. He said stopping busing would greatly harm students, especially rural children.

"He was one of the great visionaries of the 20th century, perhaps of our nation," Jackson said of the former president. "He could rise above the trees and see the forest of human rights."

Jackson was not as approving of other presidents, particularly President Carter, accusing him of ignoring the mandate to be a visionary of human rights and claiming "It appears cataracts have set in."

The educator recommended voter registration certificates be distributed with high school diplomas to encourage young citizen involvement in government.



The Rev. Jesse Jackson appeared before the Texas Legislature Thursday.
Battalion photo by Liz Newlin

Aggieland, Battalion seeking next editors

Applications are now being accepted for summer and fall editorships of The Battalion and for 1979-80 editorship of the Aggie-land.

Applications forms are available from the Student Publications Board, Room 301 Reed McDonald Building.

The Battalion summer editor will serve from May 14 through August 22, 1979. The Battalion fall semester editor will serve from April 23, 1979, through December 1979 (with the exception of the summer term).

The Aggie-land editor will serve for the academic year 1979-80.

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office; at least one year in a responsible staff position on the Aggie-land or comparable yearbook experience elsewhere.

The Student Publications Board will interview candidates and select the editors on April 5 at 5:15 p. m. in Reed McDonald 301

office; at least one year of experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable student newspaper, or at least one year of editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, or at least 12 hours of journalism including Journalism 203, 204 or equivalent.

The 12 hours of journalism must include completion of journalism law or enrollment in the course during the semester served.

Qualifications for editor of the Aggie-land are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office; at least one year in a responsible staff position on the Aggie-land or comparable yearbook experience elsewhere.

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