

A&M Educational Costs Low Despite Fee Hike

Texas A&M administrators announced last month a \$21 increase in fees for board and laundry, to be effective next fall.

This, of course, caused some head-shaking among students, and possibly an even stronger reaction from parents who are footing the ever-increasing costs of a college education.

But while Aggie education costs do increase now and then, it remains that after a student has spent four or more years in Aggieland and received his degree, he has spent considerably less than his counterpart at other land-grant and state-supported institutions.

In figures recently released by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, of which A&M is a member, the median in-state tuition for 1965 was \$311. The Aggie from the Lone State still pays \$100 per year. Out-of-state tuitions for these colleges soared to \$734 per year, while the non-native Ag pays only \$400.

Aggies shelled out \$360 per man for board during 1965, and even when the increase to \$396 goes into effect next fall, it will still be well below the Land-Grant mean of \$450 for food.

While there were no separate records kept for laundry, the A&M rate of \$17 a semester, to be raised to \$20, would certainly not be considered outrageous. Especially when a large percentage of these universities do not even offer a laundry service.

While Aggies make comments about the changeable quality of chow served in the mess halls, they may bear in mind that of the 95 association members, 17 offered no board plan, one offered a six-day plan and four offered only a five-day plan.

There is no way to measure the quality of a degree in dollars and cents, or its worth in relation to the fees paid. But A&M has always offered an above-average education at relatively low cost.

Three universities included in curriculum to A&M — all in the South — may be a good basis for cost comparison. They are Clemson in South Carolina, Georgia Tech, and Virginia Tech. With A&M, they represent some of the South's finest technical institutions.

Clemson charges the highest tuition and required undergrad fees of the four, with a yearly total of \$486. Virginia Tech is next with \$420, Georgia Tech runs at \$300 while the Aggie pays only \$170.

In board, Georgia Tech is most expensive, while A&M's new hike will boost it to third highest of the four. In Georgia the young engineer will dine for a yearly cost of \$510, while his counterpart in Virginia will fork over somewhere around \$443. Clemson's \$380 board fee was \$20 above last year's food cost in Aggieland, but is slightly below the \$396 to be paid next year.

All-in-all, the Aggie gets an education that compares favorably with the one offered by similar schools in the South, but at a considerably lower cost.

Even with that \$21-a-semester fee increase.

Poll Tax: Ticket To Vote

Deadline for payment of the poll tax — the "ticket to vote" in 1966 elections — is closing in.

Democrats, Republicans, liberals and conservatives are emphasizing this in the wind-up of their voter registration drives this week.

All sides apparently are concerned that some of their supporters may fail to qualify, because of the confusion over the federal suit to ban the poll tax.

Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr and State Democratic Executive Committee Chairman Will D. Davis issued reminders that federal judges who will rule on it have advised Texans to pay their poll taxes, since they will reach no decision before Jan. 31.

Carr noted these requirements for voter eligibility in 1966:

- Those who want to vote in all primary, general or special elections for nomination of candidates (including state and local), or on bond issues, constitutional amendments and other propositions — and who hold no exemptions — must pay the \$1.75 poll tax no later than the end of the month.

- Persons over 60 must obtain exemption certificates by Jan. 31.

- Those turning 21 years of age can secure exemption certificates up to 30 days prior to an election, as can new residents just completing their residential eligibility by election date.

- Free poll tax receipts are available through Jan. 31 to qualify voters to cast ballots for federal officers (U.S. senator and congressman only this year).

Apparently, 1966 will see lots of political action — and the voter without a poll tax will be on the outside looking in.

Water Safety Instruction To Be Offered In Spring

A water safety instructors course will be offered the spring semester for students who plan to work as lifeguards and instructors this summer, according to Swimming Coach Art Adamson.

The course will be at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition, students will be required to attend one class a week for practice teaching. In April or the first part of May students

will have to spend five nights, Monday through Friday, with the district representative of the Red Cross for instruction.

The course will replace the old theory course 210 but the prerequisite is senior life saving. The course is now going to be a regular physical education course and will be needed by those planning summer jobs related to swimming.

Battalion Interview

Draft Outlook Examined

What are the college student's chances with his draft board? Will draft calls continue to soar? These and other hot questions are answered by Col. Morris S. Schwartz, Texas director of Selective Service, in an interview

With Battalion Editor Glenn Dromgoole

Q. Col. Swartz, what is the present draft quota for Texas?

A. The draft quota for January is 1,475. I can reasonably say this is twice as much as this time last year.

Q. About how many men are registered with the Selective Service in Texas?

A. As of Dec. 31, 1965, there were 1,709,528.

Q. And about what percentage of these actually are presently 1-A?

A. We have 12,734 who are 1-A not examined. In that total, there are about 11,000 orders to report for pre-induction examinations. That right there gives you an idea of how short we are of manpower in the state.

Q. What are the various classifications and what do they mean?

A. (1-A) Eligible for no other classification and available for military service. (1-C) On active duty in the military service. (1-D) Member of armed forces reserve or a student taking military training. (1-S) College or high school student subject to deferment by law for short period. (1-A-O or 1-O) Conscientious objector. (1-W) Conscientious objector working in an approved civilian job. (1-Y) Qualified for military service only in time of war or national emergency. (2-C) Farm job deferment. (2-A) Civilian job deferment. (2-S) College student. (3-A) Fathers. (4-A) Completed military service. (4-B) Public officials. (4-C) Aliens. (4-D) Ministers and divinity students. (4-F) Physically, mentally or morally unfit for service. (5-A) Too old for military service.

Q. Who decides student and civilian deferments?

A. The local boards.

Q. What factors do they take into consideration for civilian or farming job deferment?

A. They ask if the man is engaged, except for a seasonal or temporary interruption, in the activity; if he can be replaced by persons with his qualifications or skills; and if his removal would cause a material loss of effectiveness in the activity.

Q. What is the policy concerning college students?

A. We recommend that local boards regard the student's undergraduate study to be in the national interest: When he is certified as satisfactorily pursuing a full-time course of instruction (colleges usually consider a minimum of 12 hours as full-time); or when he is certified as pursuing less than a full-time course if the local board finds that he is making satisfactory progress toward attainment of a bachelor's degree in four successive calendar years, or five successive years in case of those degrees normally requiring five years of study.

Q. What about deferments for college students — do you expect them to be tougher to get?

A. I think if a boy goes to college, he has an interest in going to college. If he's taking a bachelor's degree and maintains his scholastic equilibrium for the first four years, I think the board would go along with him for his first bachelor's degree. I think also that if he is anxious to go to graduate school, the board would give consideration to that because he has to be a pretty good student to go there. But

I don't think the board will let him work or an additional bachelor's degree.

Q. Are draft calls in the near future expected to reach Korean War proportions?

A. I haven't the slightest idea. The President hasn't said what he wants. All we know is they want to build up the services to 3 million. That would mean an additional 335,000. If it went beyond this, we could easily have a call similar to Korea — it reached 80,000 then and some Reserve and National Guard units were called.

Q. How would these quotas be filled?

A. I'm afraid that we'd really have to ride close on the student picture. In Texas, we have 105,379 student deferments. Now these lads are military age boys. Of course, I don't know how many of those would be physically deferred. They all should be able to pass the mental test.

Q. Who would be called after the college students?

A. After they take the students and all-single men, then they will have to take fathers. Before we'd do that, we would take those that are 1-A and between 26-35. But that's just a drop in the bucket. Also, we have 183,711 in 1-Y classification, but I doubt that we'd get more than 20 per cent of them. While we've got a lot of people in numbers, when the time comes to say where they are — they're just not here.

Q. Do you think Selective Service will resort to tests in choosing college students?

A. I hope not. I think that we are going to get from the reg-

istrars the kind of cooperation we need. We've got to remember that we've got a war on and a lot of people don't seem to realize this. It's one that is going to require a dedicated effort by the military services and the home front.

Q. Do draft boards show preferences for certain fields of study — for instance, would a student in engineering be less likely to be called than a student in, say, liberal arts?

A. During World War II and the Korean War, the board did take into consideration what would be best for the national interest. Many of the defense plants specified certain types of graduates. It is up to the local board to decide what might be in the national interest. The humanities are sometimes just as necessary as any other field. I think maybe some draft boards might not consider a student majoring in piano as being in the national interest. There again, though, just what does the local board consider to be in the national interest?

Q. What is the status of graduate students?

A. Various deans of graduate schools have convinced me that boys who are working on a Ph.D. need the full three years above their master's degrees for research, practice and dissertation. When a student goes to graduate school, the dean notifies us that he has been accepted. The local boards consider five years as reasonable time for graduate work.

Q. Is a student preparing to

teach accorded any special privileges?

A. There is no group deferment, but as individuals they are given serious consideration for deferment.

Q. When a student graduates, about how long is it before he is reclassified 1-A?

A. Just as soon as the local board receives word from the registrar's office that he is no longer in school or has been graduated. He would perhaps be reclassified at the next board meeting. They meet once a month. Of course, they can meet at any time and with our needs so critical, they may be meeting more often.

Q. And then about how long before he is called for physical and mental examinations?

A. He would be called at the next date for physical examinations, usually once a month. He would be more likely to be called than some boy who has just finished high school. The induction process is in reverse order—we take the oldest first. Right now, we're in the 19 age group.

Q. If a person is found qualified for service, about how long after his physical is it before he is called into the service?

A. We have to give him 21 days notice when he gets his physical. From the time he gets his physical, he can count on 22 days before he gets his orders for induction.

Q. So then, a college graduate in good condition could expect to be drafted in ?

A. A boy who graduated in May in all probability would go pretty early in July.

Jokes, Tensions Mark Process

Draft Physical Exams Reviewed

Editor's Note: Clovis McCallister, former Battalion News Editor and presently a reporter for the Midland Reporter-Telegram, relates his experiences with the draft's physical examination. (Reprinted from the Midland Reporter-Telegram.)

By CLOVIS MCCALLISTER

"What in the hell are you doing here?"

Although the answer was apparent, the question seemed the most typical exchange among 16 men who climbed aboard a Selective Service chartered bus one afternoon last week in Pecos.

Old neighbors, underclassmen and fellow graduates were beginning their trip to Ft. Bliss at El Paso for the Armed Services physical and mental examinations.

In addition to the 16, three others were bound for induction. Of the group, six were married, two over two years and one just a short month. A majority of the group had been to college and most were recent graduates. A couple had just dropped out the past semester and planned to return as soon as possible.

Most of the men were being paid by their employers for the time while they were under the care of the U. S. Some were not. Jobs included school teaching, credit manager and oil company pumper.

The group joked, cursed the government and President Johnson and the draft board.

One prospective draftee got a taste of the military when he first received his notice to appear. He lived near El Paso, and wanted to meet the group in El Paso. But he was ordered to travel to Pecos, some 227 miles.

He drove to El Paso, left his car, purchased a ticket to Pecos, left at 6:30 a. m. on a bus from downtown El Paso, got to Pecos at 11:30 a. m., got back on the bus at Pecos at 2 p. m., got off the bus at 6:30 p. m. in El Paso at the same place he had boarded it earlier, walked across the street and took his room provided by the Army. All by order of the U. S. Government.

On the bus, the group joked, exchanged ideas about their chances for being selected and became reacquainted. Some relived the past and recalled forgotten friends. And continued to curse the government.

After arrival in El Paso at the Army YMCA and supper provided by the Army, the group quickly went their different ways, most

meeting at one place or another on the other side of the Pecos River.

Nothing but money stopped the group until the 5:30 a. m. the YMCA for breakfast, Luckily, all showed up.

At the induction center, the prospects were greeted by the board and ushered in for the start of the physical examination, which was broken into two parts.

There were moans about "three foot needles" used for tapping blood, and that the floor was too cold for bare feet.

And there were those personal indignities. Finally, 5 of the 16 were called in for another session of induction sergeant and were informed that "they had been" enough to be qualified.

As the five returned and told their news, the remaining 11 signs of relief, talk buzzed and smiles appeared. Then two found they had to have further testing, another that he was turned Jan. 11 and another five were needed for additional induction.

Those who had medical histories provided by their family doctors as proof of some physical limitation were not selected.

Of those selected, two were college graduates, both of whom another lacked a year of schooling and the others had had some college. They were informed that they had at least 22 days before they would be called for induction, and the oldest would be called unless he had been married before Aug. 26, 1965. Those in the group would be called only after the unmarried and those who had since Aug. 26 had been called.

The 21 had comfort was the news that under an act passed in 1950's, the draftee was not legally responsible for his debts in military service, but they would continue to mount interest through the in the service.

Thoughts of those selected then turned to what they would do. Some drifted into the idea of Officers Candidate School, others eyed enlistment and the reserves.

Then it was time for the return trip.

But five of those aboard now knew that instead of returning to routine civilian lives, they could soon find themselves behind enemy lines in a Viet Nam rice paddy.

By Charles M. . . .

PEANUTS



THE BATTALION

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EDITOR: GLENN DROMGOOLE
Managing Editor: Gerald Garcia
Sports Editor: Larry Jarden
News Editor: Tommy DeFrank
Photographer: Herky Killingsworth