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Board of Regents increases room rent, board, laundry

By JIM CRAWLEY
Battalion Staff Writer

After discussion the Texas A&M Board of Regents approved room rent and increases for A&M students during morning's meeting. The board fee was set at \$423.15 for the day plan and \$378 for the five-day plan. This represents an increase of \$15.75 and \$13.65, respectively. The dormitory rent increase averages 10 percent over this semester's rent. The increase for the married-student housing will average eight per cent. The board did spend time discussing the use of the optional laundry fee. They approved the \$10 increase unan-

imously. A&M students weren't the only students who room and board fees increased by Regents today; the students of Tarleton State University, an A&M System school, have to pay an additional \$25 for a laundry room and \$27 extra for the board

fee. H.C. Bell of Austin asked University President Jack K. Williams if the increase would reach a point where it would no longer be profitable. Williams said the laundry may in the future reach a point where it would not be profitable to operate. Williams added that when this occurred some alternative would have to be considered. During the 90 minute meeting, the board approved changing the name of the Journalism Department to the Department of Journalism. Bell asked Williams if Journalism students were being selected on the problems of getting a job in journalism. Williams told the members no specific program was in effect, but the university's counseling service provided this kind of counseling for all students. Bell suggested that additional counseling might be appropriate.

Although no projects were discussed at the meeting, the Board approved the contract for a new elevator in the Systems Administration Bldg. and carpeting for two floors of the Rudder Tower. During yesterday's Building and Planning Committee meeting, the group de-

termined to ask for another set of bids on the Phase II of the Shiba Renovation. The reason given was that the lowest bids were not acceptable to the university.

The nine-member panel approved a \$93,000 appropriation for design of a new baseball field. The planned site is on the west side of Wellborn Rd. They also ap-

proved money for the West Campus Electrical Study. The amount appropriated was \$12,000.

The Regents promoted 86 local faculty members upon the recommendations of Williams. Also approved by the group was the offering of tenure to 79 A&M faculty members.

Seven option plans for doctorate degrees in the College of Education were approved by the Regents. This is a conditional approval until the State Coordinating Board gives final approval.

The panel accepted gifts and grants totaling \$389,822.85 from various groups and individuals.



Local Dump

Jim Hendrickson

This pile of assorted trash lies in the field bounded by the old hospital, the All Faiths Chapel, Hughes Hall and Houston Street. The area is used as a trash dump by campus construction workers.

Student directory delayed; publisher may close down

By LEE ROY LESCHPER JR.
Battalion Staff Writer

The Midland-based firm contracted to publish A&M's 1975-76 University directory has all but closed its doors, an employee said this morning.

P. Industries (BPI) is operating with a skeleton crew," BPI Production Director Dwayne Hooper said. He said employees are still working at the Midland plant.

BPI had at one time employed at least 60 people, sources here said.

Richard Taylor, a BPI representative, said Gael L. Cooper, A&M's director of student publications, in a Jan. 19 telephone conversation that BPI would not publish the University directory, Cooper said.

BPI does not have the capacity to do anything with the A&M directory, BPI President Aubrey Linne said this morning. BPI sold the A&M commitment to Blake Publishing Co. last year "in an effort to salvage some of our obligations," he said.

"We're in very poor financial shape," Cooper said. BPI's financial problems were the result of "basically just poor management," he said.

One of the reasons we sold it (the A&M tract) was that our company was edging," Linne said. He also blamed management for BPI difficulties.

BPI had not filed a petition for bankruptcy with the State Bankruptcy Court in San Antonio as of this morning.

The status of the A&M directory is uncertain, Linne said. Blake Publishing will make the decision on whether or not to publish the directory.

Jack Blake, owner of Blake Publishing, earlier told BPI representatives that he was not going to publish the A&M directory.

BPI had also run into difficulties with the Tech photo magazine "Photolith," whose production BPI had contracted through September 1976, head of Tech's student communications Bill Ross said last night.

Tech had to pick up copies for the December "Photolith" from the BPI plant. Only half a dozen employees were at the plant then, Ross said.

"I took my car and went down and took everything of ours that I could find," said Dowdy, with Tech's high school newspaper and yearbook association.

"Photolith" personnel feared the BPI plant would go into receivership, making it

impossible to retrieve any Tech materials, he said.

Jerry Kelly, Tech manager of publications, said this morning that several printers in the Lubbock area have purchased equipment from the BPI plant.

The 75-76 directory is the first A&M has contracted with a private firm. University President Jack K. Williams signed a five-year publishing agreement with BPI in January 1975.

On Friday Journalism Department Head Bob C. Rogers notified President Williams that problems were developing with the directory. Williams in turn has notified Systems Attorney James Amis Jr., who will determine what legal action may be open to the University.

"I'll get to it as soon as I can," Amis said yesterday. Amis said it would be two to three days before he made a decision on the BPI publishing contract.

The agreement provided that BPI pay all production costs for the directory and would provide A&M with 10,000 free copies. In exchange, BPI was to receive all advertising revenue from the directory.

Such an agreement is fairly standard for universities contracting off-campus help in producing directories, Cooper said.

The University has received no written notification that BPI will not fulfill the agreement, he said.

Both Cooper and Tech's Bill Ross said communications with BPI had been poor recently.

"They didn't let us know anything," Ross said. He said that to the best of his knowledge Tech never received notice that BPI wouldn't be able to deliver Tech's December "Photolith."

The original agreement with BPI was arranged before Cooper took over as director of student publications. Lane Stephenson, university news service associate director,

handled the agreement under then-director of student publications and university information Jim Lindsey. Lindsey is now solely director of university information news service.

BPI originally approached the University through the office of the vice-president for business affairs, Stephenson said.

BPI was highly recommended to A&M at that time, Stephenson added. The firm had produced the Tech university directory for some time and officials there had been highly pleased with the result, he said.

Kelly said BPI had had the Tech directory contract for the '73 and '74 school years. A Lubbock firm underbid BPI for the present directory, he said.

"They (BPI) did a good job for us. I'd hoped to go back to them, because theirs was better than our present printing," Kelly said. Kelly said he had had no contact with BPI "since a year ago in October."

Several other members of the Tech publications and information services praised BPI. Jim Hastings, Tech university news service writer, said the then Lubbock-based firm did "fantastic" work at that time.

BPI moved from Lubbock to Midland in spring, 1975.

The BPI agreement with A&M stipulated that BPI would deliver the finished directories to the University no later than five weeks after receiving the final set of student listings.

In a January 23 memo to Bob Rogers, journalism department head, Cooper said final listings were sent out January 6. Those were faculty-staff listings.

The faculty-staff listings were delayed by the Payroll Office transition of file cards to magnetic tape for record-keeping, Cooper said. BPI received all other listings by October 27, Cooper said in the memo.

In the memo Cooper said that after sending the last group of tapes January 6, "I called Taylor to tell him that the tape was on the way. He informed me that Jack Blake (BPI sales manager) was threatening to return all money and cancel the book. He told me that he wasn't sure but that he thought Blake might have started returning some of the money."

"On January 19, Taylor told me he had spoken with Blake and that he's not going to do it."

Cooper said last night he had begun to make tentative plans to produce the directory through the university if necessary. It would take about four weeks for the university to produce the directory now, he said.

Charges filed on 3 athletes

STEVE GRAY
Contributing Editor

Two Texas A&M football players and a former A&M basketball center were charged Monday morning with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Patrick S. Thomas, 21; Alvin Ray (Skip) Walker, 21; and Cedric V. Joseph, 23; will be arraigned before County Judge William R. Vance at a later date, according to County Attorney Roland Searcy, Jr.

Also charged was Julie K. Willis, 18, of 306 Redmond, Apt. 138 in College Station. All four were charged with possession of less than two ounces of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Conviction carries a fine of up to \$1,000 or a six-month sentence in the county jail, or both.

The charges were the result of a five-day investigation that followed a raid of a party late last Tuesday in a unit of the Monaco II Apartment complex in College Station. Police, who had a search warrant bearing the name of A&M senior safety Jackie Williams, said they noticed a "heavy smell" of marijuana but saw no one smoking. No arrests were made at that time.

According to police, nearly fifty persons,

including Thomas, Walker, Joseph and a number of other athletes, were attending the party after A&M had defeated the University of Houston, 74-67.

Officers found "less than a lid" at the apartment rented by Williams. Police later, acting on a tip, confiscated between 10 and 11 pounds in another apartment rented by Kevin Grant Gunnard.

Possession of more than four ounces is considered a felony in Texas and is punishable by a prison term of two-to-ten years or a fine of \$5,000 or both. No arrests have been made concerning the larger amount of marijuana, pending further investigation.

District Attorney Tom McDonald had said earlier he would present evidence to the grand jury next month that could result in the indictment of two others on felony possession charges.

A two-time All-American as Aggie cornerback, Thomas also was named to All-Southwest Conference squads in three of his four years as a letterman.

Walker was a four-year starter at halfback and won All-SWC honors his sophomore year. Joseph, who ended his basketball career last season was one of the top scorers and rebounders for the Aggies.

Professor proposes 'Big Bird' identity

By TONY GALLUCCI
Battalion Staff Writer

Dr. Keith Arnold, Associate Professor and Ornithologist in the Wildlife Department at A&M, is pretty certain he has come up with an identification for the mysterious "Big Bird" which is terrorizing or at least stirring the imaginations of South Texas natives.

Arnold believes the "Bird" is a Jabiru, a very large stork native to Central America. He cited various reasons for naming this particular species. "We know there has been breeding of this stork near Tampico (central Gulf Coast of Mexico); at least three times in the last five years the bird has been seen in the U.S., plus the fact that it is so large. The fact that it has been seen in Texas and Oklahoma so recently really clinches it for me," said Arnold.

J.K. Strecker, Jr. listed the birds in his checklist of Texas in 1912 on the basis of a specimen he stated was taken near Austin. American Birds, the field record journal of the National Audubon Society, stated that the specimen was taken about 1867 and was at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences but had been lost recently.

A Jabiru was seen in Kleberg County on several occasions in July of 1971 and was photographed by a graduate of the wildlife dept. This bird, the first apparently seen in over a century and only the second known for the U.S., was described as being wild in behavior, although many scoffed and claimed it an escapee.

Then in July 1973, another was seen often and well photographed by Bob Farris near Tulsa, Oklahoma. It was determined that the bird had neither escaped from the Tulsa or Oklahoma City zoos and no other zoo claimed it.

In that same month, Arnold received a Jabiru that was taken near Houston "found sick or wounded, I don't know which. All of these birds have been immature birds, which are mainly brownish on the back," said Arnold.

The bird would produce large footprints about eight by four inches from measurements made on the A&M specimen, but nowhere near the nine to twelve described by valley observers. The wingspread is about ten feet, also not close to the "Big Bird's" 15-20 foot wingspread, but no other bird in the area comes as close as the Jabiru.

Early identifications called the bird a condor, but the world's two species of Condor are both extremely rare and stick to the reaches of higher mountain cliffs, making them a much more remote possibility than the Jabiru.

Composite drawings resembled a pelican. However most observers called the bird dark or grayish, dispelling chances that it was a White Pelican, the larger of Texas' two species. The other, the Brown Pelican is now rare in Texas and is limited to the lagoons of the central coast.

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Colby admits news leak

Bush may be successor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid charges and countercharges over the leakage of intelligence secrets turned over to the House intelligence committee, CIA director William E. Colby has acknowledged that he too was once an anonymous source for a newspaper story exposing CIA contacts with journalists.

Colby and other Ford administration officials accused the House panel Monday of violating its oath by disclosing top-secret intelligence operations contained in the committee's final report which was to be released this Friday but which was leaked to the news media over the weekend.

"The committee seems neither able to keep secrets nor its agreement," Colby told a news conference in one of his last official acts as head of the CIA.

Meanwhile, the Senate is expected to vote today to confirm former Republican national chairman George Bush as Colby's successor at the CIA. Also, former CIA director Richard M. Helms, currently under investigation by the Justice Department for his role in past agency misdeeds,

is scheduled to testify before the Senate Government Operations Committee on legislation that would create a new panel to monitor the intelligence community.

FBI director Clarence M. Kelley told the committee Monday that the establishment of such a committee could jeopardize the bureau's investigative work.

Colby acknowledged in an interview Monday that he had revealed to the Washington Star in November 1973 that the agency had some three dozen American journalists working abroad on its payroll.

Colby said the question was raised by a Star staffer during a meeting he was having with the newspaper's editorial board. Colby said he "couldn't be in a position of telling them something false" and so he responded affirmatively to the question.

During the interview and a later news conference Monday, Colby also:

— Denied a statement in the House committee's report that the CIA manipulated the British-owned Reuters news agency. Colby accused the panel of distorting a hypothetical reference to Reuters and said the name was raised for the hypotheti-

Arnold doesn't think it is a pelican because, "it must be something very unfamiliar to the people in the area." The bird has been described also as having a monkey like face, which might account for the Jabiru which has a head and neck devoid of feathers and is colored black with a red collar. It also has the very large beak described on "Big Bird."

Other possibilities which have been discussed are Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, White-Faced Ibis and Wood Storks. Arnold dismissed them as too small and cited the familiarity factor. All occur regularly in good numbers in South Texas.

The actual center for the sightings has been in the Raymondville, San Benito Area. Sightings or mistaken identities of the mystery bird have come from such distant places as Eagle Pass, Arlington and Laredo. In fact the bird was simultaneously seen in Laredo and San Benito over 200 miles apart.

"I'm sure this is part of mass hysteria," said Arnold.

Nevertheless the sightings continue and a couple of new twists have been added. Now the bird attacks humans, a propensity foreign to Jabirus or any other of the bird species considered. And there is also some considerable monetary considerations to searchers for the elusive bird.

Radio station KRIO in McAllen is offering one thousand dollars for the capture of the bird and a geologist in San Antonio is offering five thousand dollars for its capture. In order to certify for the five grand the bird must be alive, be certified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. to have a wingspread of over fifteen feet and be either a species new to science or thought to be extinct. TP&W officials warn that capture of a protected or endangered species is subject to prosecution.

Meanwhile chances that the bird is a cosmic phenomenon, interplanetary visitor or satanic monster do not outweigh the chances of it being a partygoer in a Sesame Street costume, a figment of someone's imagination or a Jabiru. So, put away the shotguns and open the blinds. At least "Big Bird" hasn't invited himself into anyone's home yet.

