

Student financial funds increase, loans available for various needs

In March 1922, the Association of Former Students established the Student Aid Fund which has benefited thousands of Aggies. Skepticism surrounded the initial idea, but students, former students and others interested, showed that the plan would work.

The Class of '22 exhibited their support when they raised \$1,000 for the fund before their graduation. Several student organizations and alumni pitched in and by March 1924, the fund had accumulated \$10,000.

However, the association estimated that more was necessary to meet the demands of the students coming in the fall. So a massive campaign was launched during the spring and summer to raise the money.

Fund raising activities were held all over the state as well as on campus. In Dallas, members of the local A&M Mothers Club gathered at teas to raise money. Before the socializing began, each mother's

height or waist was measured and she was assessed one penny for each inch. They raised \$100 and donated it to the Student Aid Fund with the stipulation that Dallas boys were to be given priority on the loan funds.

Three years later, A. Kidd Short of the Class of 1900 arranged for Sears, Roebuck and Co. to make a \$25,000 donation to the fund, boosting the total to about \$40,000.

Today, the fund has grown to more than \$424,651 from donations from the Association of Former Students and student fund raising projects. Loans are drawn from \$156,300 while the remainder is invested.

The fund has provided loans for 4,395 students since 1964 totaling more than \$1,120,000. Last year the Student Financial Aid office located on the third floor of the YMCA building, made 674 loans from this fund totaling \$184,000.

"The students here are far above average in repaying these loans," said Robert M. Logan, director of student financial aid. "We have a default rate of 1.58 percent, which is extremely low. If a bank or savings and loan has a rate below 6 percent, they are delighted."

"I think it's due to the quality of students here. They realize that if they borrow money, it is their responsibility to repay it."

To qualify, students must be enrolled fulltime in a degree-producing course of study and be free from conduct or academic probation. Recipients must have a grade point ratio of 2.0 or better and demonstrate a financial need to meet educational expenses.

Students may obtain up to \$750 from the Student Aid Fund. It is repayable within one year at six percent interest. However, if the loan is repaid within 90 days, the minimum service charge on loans under \$100 is only \$1. The charge

goes up to \$2 for loans of \$100 or more.

"I've gotten a loan to pay my tuition and fees for the past two semesters," said a graduate student. "I'm married and have two children. I have a part-time teaching position, but it's hard to pay that lump sum for tuition and fees at once. I've always managed to pay it back in six months."

Special funds have been set aside to assist students in meeting the cost of the senior year and graduation. There are loans available to purchase senior rings and to help senior cadets purchase their senior uniform and boots.

An interview trip to a prospective employer can be financed with a loan of up to \$200.

There are loans to help seniors meet the cost of graduation such as invitations, diploma, and cap and gown. Loans are also available to assist students in paying fees for state board and graduate record exams.

Graduating students may apply for a loan to help with moving expenses. A loan of up to \$200 is available through the Bertha Pratt Loan Fund to help the graduate move to his new job.

Students can also borrow money to cover unexpected medical bills arising from the illness or accident of a spouse or child.

"I got a loan for my senior ring," said a senior cadet. "I tried working during the week to earn the money for my ring, but I just couldn't make it."

"I wouldn't be able to go to school here if these loans weren't available to help me," he said. "My father died when I was 14 and there are six kids in my family. I just had to have some financial aid. Some people feel it's degrading to ask for a loan, but I think it gives you a greater sense of responsibility."



Battalion photo by Sue...

This dog can fly

Jay, a Queenland blue heeler cowdog, "flies over" a hurdle for trainer Jan Tinsley. Jan, a senior biomedical science major at Texas A&M University, trained the 2-year-old dog for an animal science course last spring. The dog is owned by Doug Sanford, a first-year veterinary student at Texas A&M.

Potato salad found as one source of botulism

United Press International

CLOVIS, N.M. — Medical investigators tracing the cause of an outbreak of botulism poisoning said Tuesday many of the 32 persons stricken with the potentially lethal disease have improved.

While three botulism victims remained in critical condition at hospitals in Texas, officials at two Albuquerque hospitals said the condition of several other victims had improved from critical to serious.

"We have reports that most patients who are ill are either stable or improving," said state epidemiologist Dr. Johnathan Mann.

However, he said, infections or other complications could develop among the victims still on mechanical respirators.

The botulism has been traced to potato salad served last week at the Colonial Park Country Club. But officials are uncertain how the potato

salad became contaminated.


"The potato salad is not the only source, but we do not know what other products are involved," Mann said. "This is a complicated outbreak involving different products."

The latest poisoning victim, a 21-year-old woman, remained in critical condition at the Clovis Memorial Hospital Monday with what Mann described as a "moderate" case of botulism.

Officials at Lubbock Methodist Hospital said John Garrett of Clovis remained in critical condition at the High Plains Baptist Hospital in Amarillo reported that Keith Bomar and Devota Martin, both of Clovis, also were in critical condition.

Fifteen others were listed in serious condition at hospitals in Texas and New Mexico.

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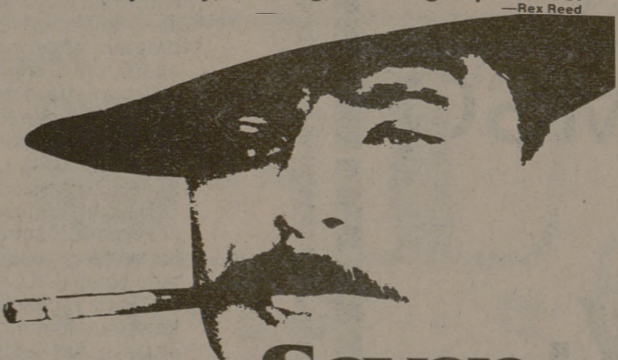
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