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Board installment plan to be eliminated next fall

By CAROL HANCOCK

Battalion Reporter

Beginning next fall, Texas A&M University students will no longer have the option of paying their board fee in three installments.

After hearing a recommendation from Edward Vestal, vice president for business services, the Board of Regents voted during the Nov. 30 Board of Regents meeting to discontinue the installment plan.

Vestal said during the meeting that the installment payment plan caused problems in bookkeeping and was expensive for the University.

Lloyd Smith, assistant director of food services, said the plan causes problems for the Food Services Department and the Fiscal Office.

Many students fail to read the rules of

the installment plan and think that failure to pay an installment drops them from the board plan, Smith said. This is not the case, he said. After signing up for the board plan, students are committed to complete payment whether they continue to eat or not.

The Food Services Department does not know if a student has failed to make payments until it is notified by the Fiscal Office, which collects the payments.

Often, Smith said, Food Services is not notified until up to 1½ months after a student's payment was due. Meanwhile, the student can continue to eat in the dining halls.

Smith said the plan has also caused misunderstandings and sometimes hard feelings between students and the Food Services Department. "Every time a board

payment is due, for about a week I get up to 50 people a day in to see me trying to straighten finances," he said.

Robert Smith, assistant controller for the fiscal office, said the main cost to the University is administrative services. Having to track down students with delinquent payments takes time and personnel, he said.

"It doesn't really cost the University much in terms of someone getting something for nothing," he said. The Fiscal Office tries to be as lenient as possible with students but almost always gets the money due, Smith said.

Although the plan was initiated to help students who had insufficient funds to pay tuition and fees at the beginning of the semester, some students found the installment plan to be more of an inconveni-

ence than a help.

Dana Creel, a freshman physical education major on the board plan, said she was planning to pay her board in full next semester. By being on the installment plan, Creel said, she had to worry about getting enough money to pay three times instead of once.

Sylvia Nolan, a junior marketing major, said she, too, was going to get off the installment plan next semester. Nolan described it as being a hassle and said mistakes were made on her records for pre-registration because of it.

Vestal said at the board meeting that most students were capable of paying for board plan in one payment. The resolution passed by the board, however, enables students to pay on an installment basis if they can show hardship.

Khomeini says 'American spies' are to blame for violence in Iran

United Press International

TABRIZ, Iran — Iran's political crisis deteriorated and new clashes and killings were reported Tuesday in the troubled northwest region where a government peace commission held talks to try to halt the violence.

At least two people were killed and about 20 wounded in clashes Monday in the west Azerbaijan capital of Urumieh between loyalist revolutionary guards and resident supporters of Ayatollah Kazem Shariatmadari, who bluntly accused the government of renegeing on recent promises to the populous region.

Tabriz, scene of weekend violence, was quiet Tuesday as the government commission headed by Finance Minister Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr held a second session of

talks to try to halt further bloodshed.

But the demonstrators, demanding greater autonomy and a revision of the Islamic constitution giving Khomeini absolute powers, controlled most of the city and were encouraged to continue their resistance by Shariatmadari's refusal to intervene.

"I see no reason to intervene further," the ayatollah said in a statement.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini blamed the crisis in Turkish-speaking Tabriz on "American spies (sent) from the embassy," where Moslem militants have been holding 50 Americans hostage for 39 days.

The leader of those opposed to Khomeini's absolute rule, Ayatollah Kazem Shariatmadari, countered with charges the 79-year-old religious leader was moving

steadily toward a political dictatorship and breaking agreements designed to end the current strife in northwest Iran.

Moderate Ayatollah Shariatmadari said he would not actively intervene to halt the crisis in Tabriz where his supporters battled loyalist revolutionary guards for days to control public buildings.

"How can I guarantee peace in a city where agents of the Islamic republic, without any reason, have caused deaths and injuries?" he said.

Shariatmadari's bluntest warning to the government and his charge that the Tabriz violence was government-inspired effectively appeared to deadlock the crisis.

At least nine people died and 60 were wounded over several days of fighting and Tehran Radio said Monday there was re-

newed fighting, including one report of another three deaths. But correspondents at the scene saw no evidence of renewed clashes.

Shariatmadari said Khomeini and his aides should "have the courage to state facts" and added, "to connect all happenings to American imperialism will not solve any problems."

Despite the domestic crisis in the northwest, diplomatic sources said delicate contacts were still being maintained to try to secure the release of the hostages.

And in the capital, Canadian Ambassador Kenneth Taylor said Tuesday U.S. Charge d'Affaires Bruce Laingen and two other embassy officials in protective custody at the Foreign Ministry are in good health.

U.S. denies setting deadline for Iran

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The State Department Tuesday denied the United States set a 10-day deadline for the safe release of the hostages or that it seeks to encourage the fall of the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"There is not such a deadline ... (and) we are not seeking the overthrow of the Khomeini regime," department spokesman

Tom Reston said.

"Clearly, we don't want this thing to go on forever, but there is no 10-day deadline or a two-week deadline or anything of the sort."

Regarding possible economic measures against Iran, including an embargo, Reston noted Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is now in Europe talking to U.S. allies "about what we have done and what we

might do."

"But I am not prepared to specify" those measures, he said.

ABC News reported the deadline Monday, saying that despite the State Department denial it stands by the story by its diplomatic correspondent Ted Koppel.

Koppel said the administration has indicated it would try to bring down the Khomeini government through economic means if the 50 American hostages are not released within 10 days. A blockade was

not ruled out.

"The message to Tehran has two sides," Koppel reported. "Release the hostages within the next 10 days, and that would go a long way towards softening the consequences of U.S. anger; but anything less than a total release within that time period, and the United States will embark on a policy of actively trying to bring about the downfall of the Khomeini government — initially through a policy of tightening the economic screws at Washington's disposal, but not ruling out an eventual blockade."

RCA loses satellite, fears it has blown up

United Press International

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — U.S. space-tracking stations around the world scanned the skies Tuesday for a lost \$20 million communications satellite that may have blown up.

The missing one-ton satellite, designed for the cable television industry and owned by RCA American Communications Inc. (Americom), was launched Thursday night. On Monday RCA realized it had lost track of the satellite.

After the launch NASA officials said the satellite had gone into its preliminary transfer orbit as planned. They then turned the satellite's future guidance over to RCA.

Americom spokesman John Williamson reported late Monday that RCA scientists lost all track of Satcom III after they

radioed a signal to fire a rocket motor on board the satellite to guide it into its permanent, stationary orbit 22,300 miles above the Pacific Ocean at the Equator.

"We don't know if the satellite exploded or whether it's gone into the wrong orbit," said Donald Quinn, a spokesman for Americom.

A source close to the RCA project speculated it had exploded, because otherwise it would have remained on tracking screens longer, the Florida newspaper Cocoa Today reported.

NASA spokesmen said they believe it was only the second time a satellite had been lost in that manner. The first was Syncom I, launched Feb. 14, 1963, and lost when a "kickmotor" was fired a few days later to adjust its orbit.



Battalion photo by Clay B. Cockrill

With a little help

Lenny Barszap, 22 months, apparently wasn't participating enough in singing caroles at the MSC Hospitality Committee Christmas party Tuesday, so friends Rayne Kelley (left) and Christine Howe decided to help him along. Lenny is the son of Michael Barszap, a professor in the modern languages department.

Carter doesn't plan to be 'spectator' to hostage trial

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter does not intend to "sit by as a spectator" if the 50 American hostages in Iran are put on trial, presidential aides have indicated.

Press secretary Jody Powell refused to say what Carter contemplates if "show trials" are held in Tehran. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has been discussing a possible trade embargo with European leaders.

With Congress closing shop in a couple of weeks, Carter arranged an early morning legislative breakfast Tuesday with Democratic leaders. In the evening, he and Mrs. Carter gave a Christmas ball in honor of Congress.

The Iranian crisis is now in its sixth week and Powell continues to insist that there is only one issue — the release of the hostages.

Carter considers the question of the alleged crimes of the deposed shah extraneous at the present time.

The siege began Nov. 4 when militant students stormed the American Embassy in Tehran nearly two weeks after Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was permitted

into the United States for medical treatment.

Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Qotbzadeh has threatened trials of some of the hostages. He has said an international panel will be convened and the rule of the shah and U.S. wrongdoing over the past 25 years will be aired.

"The issue is the illegal holding of our people," Powell said. "Their release is the only issue. While they are in the posture of holding our people illegally, other matters — grievances, whatever — are simply beside the point."

Powell referred to national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's statement Sunday, in which he said "further abuse of these already maltreated hostages would give us very grave concern and we could hardly sit by as spectators."

The aide said Brzezinski's comments about not sitting by "were in reference to such an action on their part." The aide also said the administration obviously would draw a distinction between physical harm being meted out to the hostages and other situations.

Posthumous degree awarded to senior killed in accident

A posthumous degree in aerospace engineering was awarded Tuesday to 21-year-old Amer Sheikh, a Texas A&M senior killed in a car wreck near Hempstead Friday.

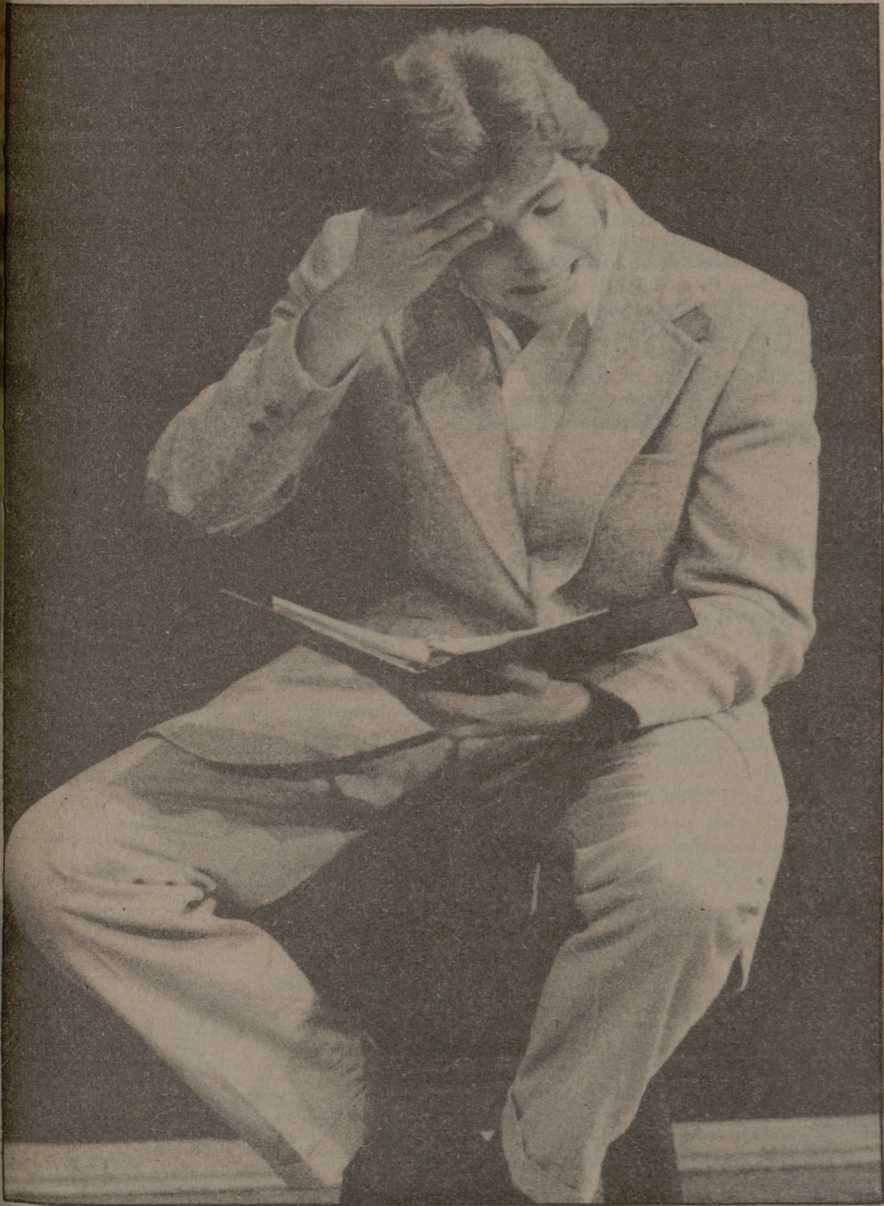
Silver Taps for Sheikh, a Pakistani, will be Jan. 22 after the return of students from Christmas break. Services for him are pending in Pakistan.

Officials said Sheikh had completed

required degree work and was to receive his diploma this weekend at regular commencement ceremonies.

Sheikh is the 11th student fatality of the current academic year and is the 12th Texas A&M student to die in an auto accident since mid-May.

Eight of those traffic deaths have occurred since September.



Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Studying? No ...

Robert Keen portrays Death in the "Death Knocks" segment of a Reader's Theatre adaptation of Woody Allen's "Getting Even." Keen and four other students presented their interpretation of four of Allen's works in Rudder Forum Tuesday evening. The oral interpretation group is part of speech communication at Texas A&M University.

Academic Council to tighten policy

Grad students must register officially

By LAURA CORTEZ

Battalion Reporter

Graduate students who have finished their course work and are working on their research, but who fail to properly register with the University each semester, will be dropped from enrollment, the Academic Council decided Tuesday.

Furthermore, these students will not be re-admitted to the graduate college unless they have a GPR of at least 3.0, and they must pay a \$50 reinstatement fee and present evidence that their graduate program is being successfully pursued.

There is also the possibility that a re-evaluation procedure will take place in

order to determine if these students should be allowed to continue in the graduate program. This action may include formal re-appointment of a student's committee and filling out a new degree program.

The guidelines for in absentia registration were drawn up and approved by the Graduate Council following a study in this area, and these guidelines were submitted to the Academic Council for consideration at Tuesday's meeting.

"Many students continue to work in absentia for several years without registering," the study states, "during which time they expect to have help from the faculty,

including the reading of their theses, dissertations, or other required documents."

The study also says that graduate college files shows that 11 doctoral students who were registered for the 1978 fall semester did not register for the 1979 spring semester. Since none of these students graduated, all are probably continuing work on their degrees, the study concluded.

Based on an informal check, these 11 students represent 15-25 percent of the students who are not now enrolled but who are working toward an advanced degree at Texas A&M, according to the study.

It continued that if this estimate is cor-

rect, the University may be losing about \$50,000 per semester in subvention funds (funds granted to the University by the state.)

Beginning in fall 1980, graduate students who have completed all course work on their degree program, but who are still engaged in research for their dissertations, theses, or records of study must register for a minimum of four hours of 691 (Research) or 692 (Professional Study) credit each semester or 12-week summer session until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

Exceptions to these guidelines will be the prerogative of the dean of the graduate college.