

Economists argue role of government

Samuelson, Friedman disagree on basics

By MERIL EDWARDS

Campus Staff

Nobel Prize-winning economists Milton Friedman and Paul Samuelson both took issue with the title of the program, "The Economic Responsibility of Government," that featured them Tuesday night.

The two men spoke before a packed Rudder Auditorium at Texas A&M University and an additional hundred or so people watched them on closed-circuit television.

The program was sponsored by the MSC Great Issues Committee.

Friedman began his 30-minute presentation by poking fun at the title with a story about two youngsters from the boondocks, maybe from College Station or Bryan, Friedman joked, who go to New York.

"They finally work up the courage to go to dinner in a fancy restaurant," Friedman

said. "They have soup, the entree, everything and then the waiter brings them finger bowls. They can't figure out what to do with them, they've already had soup and drinks, so what can they be for?"

"One guy wants to ask the waiter what the bowls are for, but the other one says that would make them look silly. But, the first guy does ask the waiter who tells them they're finger bowls. And the other guy says, 'See, I told you, ask a foolish question and you get a foolish answer.' Well, that's the same way I feel about the title for this session."

Friedman said not to ask the question: "What is the economic responsibility of government?"

"Government has no responsibility," he said. "Only people have responsibility and the government is not a person. The right

question to ask is: 'What things do we want to do through government?'"

"Government is the means we use to achieve our objectives. It adds up to the problem of how do we keep it from becoming our master."

Friedman listed six traditional functions of the government: to preserve law and order, to preserve the nation against foreign enemies, to establish a framework of rules through legislature, to mediate disputes and provide a judiciary system, to provide a monetary system and to provide a paternalistic element as a last resort for people who cannot take care of themselves.

"In the past 50 years," Friedman said, "we've been expanding the role of government, particularly in monetary controls and paternalistic activities. And as the government has expanded its scopes, it has

performed the traditional functions less and less well.

"And economic progress is not possible anywhere, anytime unless there is some relatively stable structure of law and rules and regulations under the security of the First Amendment promise."

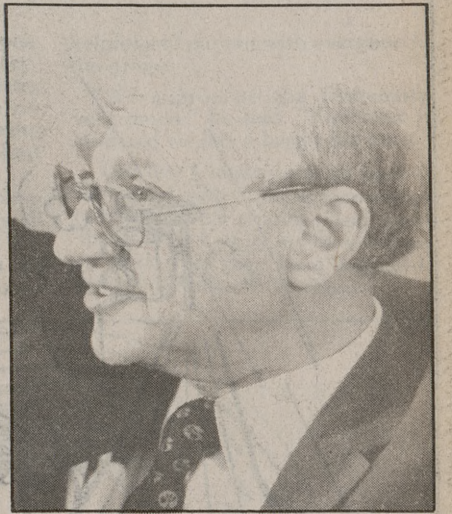
The most rapidly expanding area of government spending is the paternalistic area, Friedman said. He said the total spending on various programs that are supposed to redistribute income, eliminate poverty and transfer income to the needy have grown by leaps and bounds.

"These programs have had the opposite effect though," he said, "and instead have imposed burdens on the poor. My objection with government programs has to do with

(Continued on page 3)



Paul Samuelson



Milton Friedman

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Officials examine cause of wreck

By NANCY ANDERSEN

City Staff

An investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of a train derailment west of the Texas A&M University campus Tuesday morning.

There was no danger or damage when five Southern Pacific railroad cars derailed from the tracks running parallel to Wellborn Road on the west side of the Texas A&M University campus.

The cars, carrying salt, grain, and farm equipment, were being pushed onto a side track at about 8:30 a.m. when the derailment occurred, said Tony Aleman, a SP spokesman. None of the cars overturned, and the main line was not blocked, he added.

Workers at the scene of the accident said it was caused by a broken rail.

"This is something that always happens — anytime you use something a lot it's gonna wear out," said a worker who would not identify himself.

College Station Fire Chief Douglas Landua said the department was called about an hour after the derailment, and there was no danger.

"It was a minor incident — it happened on a side track and the cars were going

slow," he said.

As for what could happen if cars carrying toxic gas derailed, Landua said it would depend on the circumstances — whether or not there was a leak, what kind of car, and the direction of the wind.

Dr. Chuck McCandless, vice president of Academic Affairs, is the University representative for the Metropolitan Planning Organization. MPO was formed to study improved railroad safety in College Station and Bryan. It contracted a Houston engineering firm to study possible relocation and other alternatives, the costs involved and possible sources of funding.

McCandless said the University wants the tracks moved, but admitted this would be expensive and somewhat complicated. The railroad has been cooperative in the study, he said. "But probably the only way this would happen would be by using government funds."

If moved, the tracks might follow FM 2818, and another alternative would be to make modifications in the present location, McCandless said.

The firm, Wilber Smith and Associates, is in the final phase of the study and plans to have the final report out by the summer, McCandless said.



Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller eyes some of the railroad track damaged when five Southern Pacific rail cars derailed on the University campus Tuesday.

day. Please see related story at left.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Board increases rent, board fees

By ANDY WILLIAMS

Staff Writer

A proposal to raise rent in residence halls by 10 percent and board fees by 8 percent was passed at the Texas A&M University Board of Regents meeting Tuesday.

Rent increases will range from \$18 in Motard (from \$175 to \$193) to \$50 in the Commons area (\$496 to \$546).

Board rate hikes are \$35 for the five-day plan (from \$427 to \$462) and \$39 for the seven-day plan (from \$478 to \$517).

Student shuttle bus passes will also be increased, from \$30 to \$38. The changes will take effect this fall.

In other action, 11 men were appointed to top-level positions in the Texas A&M University System.

Almost all of the appointments resulted directly or indirectly from the reorganization of the system that took effect March 1. Those revisions made Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert responsible for supervising a number of agencies and offices previously under the direction of University President Jarvis E. Miller.

The regents also appropriated \$385,000 for preliminary design of two women's dormitories at Texas A&M. They gave unconditional approval to proceeding with construction of one dorm but asked for further study of the location of the second.

The board had no quarrel with the proposed site for a 300-resident dorm. It will be built between the Commons complex and the band's drill field.

But some members objected to building a 240-bed residence hall west of Fowler Hall on Jones Street. Regent Joe Reynolds of Houston said the land was one of the last open areas on the west part of the east campus.

"We might as well build on the drill field and the golf course," Reynolds said. "Let's just go out and cut down all the trees."

The board asked University officials to investigate the possibility of putting the dorm in what is now a parking lot near Puryear Hall.

In an attempt to eliminate mold in the University's first two modular dormitories, \$10,000 was appropriated to a \$250,000 construction project.

The work is aimed at lowering humidity in the dorms. Among other things, it involves installing exhaust fans in the crawl space between the bottoms of the dorms

and the ground and putting humidistats in the rooms.

R.B. Butler Inc. of Bryan was the low bidder on a construction project that will build a turf practice field and more parking spaces at Kyle Field. The bid was \$753,254.

The 11 men and the positions they were appointed to are:

— Dr. Dean C. Corrigan, dean of Texas A&M's College of Education. Corrigan is currently dean of education at the University of Maryland. He will fill a position which was left empty when Hubert became chancellor last year. Dr. P.C. Limbacher has held the job on an interim basis since then.

— Robert G. Cherry, assistant chancellor. Cherry was formerly assistant to the chancellor. He will continue to serve as secretary to the Board of Regents.

— Dr. Perry Adkisson, deputy chancellor for agriculture. Adkisson has been university vice president for agriculture until that office was phased out by the chancellor's proposal.

— Dr. O.D. Butler, associate deputy chancellor for agriculture. He has been the University associate vice president for agriculture.

— Dr. Fred J. Benson, deputy chancellor for engineering. Like Adkisson, Benson was a university vice president for his area before the office was eliminated.

— W.A. Porter, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. Porter has been the station's assistant director and is a professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M. He will replace Benson.

— Heston Cherry and Edwin Fenner, associate deputy chancellors for engineering. Cherry's responsibilities will involve plans and operations and Fenner's will be administrative. Both have been associate vice presidents for the University.

— Stanley H. Lowy and Terry E. Shoup, assistant deans for Texas A&M's College of Engineering. Lowy is a professor of aerospace engineering at Texas A&M. Shoup is a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Houston and will assume his new position July 1.

— Robert L. Smith, assistant executive vice chancellor for administration. He is now assistant to the executive vice chancellor for administration.

Continued on page 16

CS police investigate rape claim

By BECKY SWANSON

City Staff

College Station police are investigating reports by two Texas A&M University students that they were taken from a local bar Saturday night to an apartment where they may have been drugged before one of them was raped.

One of the women was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan and examined Sunday morning.

Police reports said tests showed that the woman had had sexual intercourse, but results of the blood tests from the two women to check for the presence of drugs were not yet available.

The women said they were drinking with friends in Rosewood Junction and sat down at a table with four men to talk.

One of the women told police that she drank 4 to 6 shots of tequila at the bar and the other said she drank 6 to 8.

Both women said that they did not remember leaving Rosewood Junction or much of what happened afterward. They said they were taken to Travis House apartments on Highway 30 where they were offered LSD by one of the men.

The women told police they refused the LSD, but said they may have been given some other drug without their knowledge.

The man, known only as "Don," was described as being white, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches, 190 pounds with long, wavy blond hair and a bushy beard.

One of the women said she woke up about 2:30 a.m. Sunday on a mattress in the living room of the apartment and could not wake the other woman, who was also on the mattress. The woman said her friend was nude.

The other woman said she woke up at 4:30 a.m., put her clothes back on, and was driven back to her dorm in a light blue pickup with California license plates by a man described as a small-built white man in his early 20s with black hair.

The woman told police that she did not remember having sexual intercourse, but if she did, it was against her will.

College Station detectives say they have no suspects in the case.

Abduction, beating reported

A Texas A&M University student said she was kidnapped and beaten Monday night.

The woman reported that she was abducted at approximately 9 p.m. by three men in a pickup truck as she was walking through an open field on Holleman Drive on the way to meet a friend.

She said she was forced into the bed of the truck by the men, who told her they knew she was supposed to meet a friend in that area, so they would have to take her somewhere else.

She said she was taken to Dexter Park in College Station, where the abductors told her they were going to play a game.

They told her they would turn her loose, and if they caught her they would beat her, the woman reported.

She was caught, beaten, turned loose and recaptured many times, but was finally able to get away from her abductors and was picked up and taken home by a passing driver at about 11:30 p.m., she said.

Police report the woman was hysterical after the ordeal and would not speak to police officers, but would talk about it only with her brother and a friend, who reported the details of the incident to the police.

According to College Station Police officials, there are no suspects in the case. However, the woman was able to give a description of the truck driven by her abductors, and Bishop said police are looking for the vehicle.

U.S. envoy fails to gain concessions from Israelis

United Press International

President Carter's Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz has failed to win concessions from Israel that could induce Egypt to prolong the Palestinian autonomy negotiations beyond the target date of May 26.

Linowitz's failure to gain Israeli concessions on the definition of the Jewish state's security and promise to free settlements on the occupied West Bank for two months came on the eve of today's first anniversary of the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

But Linowitz said Tuesday after an hour-long meeting with President Anwar Sadat in Cairo he thinks the "many problems" in the negotiations on Palestinian self-rule can be resolved if Egypt and Israel show determination to reach "permanent answers."

The American envoy later flew to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria where he

will meet today with Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, leader of the Egyptian side at the stalemated talks. The next round of the autonomy negotiations is scheduled to open there Thursday.

Before he came to Egypt, Linowitz met three times with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Jerusalem but failed to win his consent for a freeze on the establishment of settlements in occupied territories and the creation of a committee to define Israeli security.

Khalil mentioned both last week as "positive signs" that could encourage Egypt to prolong the negotiations.

"I discussed with Mr. Begin the possibility of a freeze on the establishment of settlements but I did not get a favorable answer," Linowitz said. "On the other hand, I cannot say there was a rejection. Perhaps, it is still being considered."

Asked if agreement was reached to set up

the security committee, Linowitz said: "I did not say that. I said the security issue will be discussed and I hope we will find a mutually agreeable way of doing it."

Khalil has complained Israeli negotiators use security as a pretext, stalling the negotiations. He recently said it would be futile to continue the negotiations beyond May 26 if Israel does not agree to the establishment of a committee that would define what security means exactly.

Linowitz is laying the groundwork for next month's summit talks between Carter and Sadat and between Carter and Begin in Washington. Sadat told reporters he will travel to Washington April 8 and spend three days there, conferring with Carter and congressional leaders.

Sadat and Linowitz pronounced themselves in agreement and said they would meet again after the Alexandria talks.