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The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High 78	High 80
Low 49	Low 62
Rain none	Chance of rain ... 20%

Fees could go up \$7 instead of \$1

By BERNIE FETTE

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students are now faced with the prospect of a \$7 (20.9 percent) increase in their student service fees next semester.

After agreeing Saturday on a recommended \$1 increase in student service fees, from \$33.50 to \$34.50 per semester, the Student Government Finance Committee Tuesday voted to recommend an increase to \$40.50.

Misunderstandings between between the committee and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, forced the recommended increase after errors were discovered in the initial recommendation figures, Tracy Cox, vice president for finance, said.

"What it boils down to is a big misunderstanding," Cox said. "I guess it was just a big mistake."

The committee originally recommended a \$1 increase to \$34.50 Saturday when it met to recommend alloca-

tions to each of ten student service fee users.

Using the \$34.50 figure, the committee came up with a total of \$2,622,000 in available funds.

Of that amount, \$2,570,136 would have been allocated to the fee users for the 1981-82 school year and \$51,864 would have been left in the reserve fund to be used for emergency expenses.

But two errors were made in reaching that total.

First, the estimated number of students used by the committee came from Koldus, who knew the number included an estimated number of summer school students. The committee didn't know.

Also, Cox said the committee assumed that all students pay the same \$33.50 student service fee. But they don't. Students pay a different amount proportional to their class load, with a maximum of \$33.50 per semester.

As a result, Cox said by changing the maximum to \$40.50, the total amount collected would be \$2,602,000.

The only difference resulting from the change would be a reserve fund which contained \$20,000 less than originally planned, he said.

"This is probably going to make the committee look bad," Cox said. "But everything will work out."

If approved by the student senate, the committee's recommendations will go to Koldus, to Acting President Charles Samson and the Board of Regents for approval.

Cox said that although the population of the university is increasing, it is increasing at a slower rate than before. "But still, in my eyes, student service fees have inevitably got to go up," he said.

In its hearing held in closed session Saturday, the committee voted to allocate less than the amount requested by each user except Student Publications, which received its entire request.

"Not everyone can have everything they want, is what it boils down to," Cox said.

Living with animals a 'status,' student says

By GWEN HAM

Battalion Reporter

A fishing pole stands in the corner, a tin coffee pot is on the burner and horses neigh gently outside the door of the bunkhouse at the Texas A&M University Horse Center where two students live.

Walter Fuermann and Dave Holstford, both animal science majors, are among the chosen few who get to live in a barn for looking after and feeding around 120 horses and paying \$15 a month rent.

"Sometimes I wonder if it's worth it," Fuermann said during an interview. "It gets real old because, since you're right here, you never can just come home and relax without someone poppin' in. But it's kind of a status thing. All the animal science majors want to live out here."

Fuermann, a three semester veteran, said that he had always loved horses, even though he's from Houston, and just happened to need a place to stay when someone was needed at the center.

"I used to take care of my neighbor's horses when I was younger," he said, "so I knew a little about them. I feel like now I'm getting two majors because I'm learning so much."

Even though the room has modern conveniences like a bathroom, heating, cooling, two desks and bunk beds, it's still pretty basic. The floor is cement and the walls are brick. This can be an advantage though.

"Last semester when we got ready to clean our room, we just emptied the dead mice from the dresser drawers, moved everything out and hosed it down with water," Fuermann said.

The men are allowed to cook in their room but don't because of lack of time, space and equipment, Fuermann said.

They both eat in Sbis Dining Hall.

Other animal centers at A&M used to have men living in barns but the Poultry Center and the Sheep Center no longer do because they don't have a place suitable anymore.

Bill Stone, a veterinarian student, lives at the Equestrian Center.

Gerald Popp, Bob Jones and Andy Hollaway, all senior animal science majors reside at the Swine Center but not in a barn. They live in a room, complete with a small kitchen and walk-in closet, in the main center. The room is so small though that they eat on their desks, there is no room for a kitchen table. Graduate student Keith Hayden also lives at the center but has his own room.

"When I tell people where I live, they just kind of look at me and say, 'Oh,'" Popp said.

"What's really funny is when we go to Skaggs and give a check. They ask where we live and it's hard to explain that we live at the Swine Center," he said.

The three seniors pay a small undisclosed amount of rent and oversee the center at night and work during the day, said Popp.

"We always get questions on how we stand the smell," Popp said. "It's not the swine center but the sewer odor from across the road that bothers us. To us, the pigs smell like money."

Popp, along with his roommates, has lived at the center for two years. He claims it is the social spot of the animal science department.

"People come out of their way to come out here," he said. The Corps is always coming out here looking for pig manure so they can quad somebody with it.

"This is the good life," Popp said.



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Up, up
and away!

Dr. Richard Morse takes the Texas A&M emblem high in the sky on his hot-air balloon. Morse, a petroleum engineering professor, has had the balloon for almost two years and finds it a great escape from his routine.

Texas A&M has new lobbyists in Austin

S.G. forms own lobby group

By TERRY DURAN

Battalion Staff

A Student Government lobbying group is gathering student input while waiting for bills to be filed in the Legislature that would affect Texas A&M students — and their pocketbooks.

David Collins, external affairs vice president, oversaw the passage of a student senate bill Feb. 18 that officially set up a lobby group for Texas A&M students in the Legislature. Funds for gas money and some expenses were set aside in summer budget planning sessions, he said.

Last year, the Texas A&M student senate withdrew from the Texas Student Association, which is supposed to represent Texas student interests in the Legislature.

Student body president Brad Smith said, "We wanted to lobby in areas where we felt we weren't being represented by the TSA, so we pulled out, keeping an eye on an option like this."

Activity of the student lobby group is limited to gathering information right now, Collins said, because some bills dealing with issues pertinent to college students have yet to be filed in the Legislature. Legislators have until March 13 — 60 days after the beginning of the session — to introduce their bills.

The lobbying group has 21 members, although only four will actively be lobbying in Austin: Collins, Smith, senator Scott Hall and Class of '83 president Mike Lawsh. The other members will support the lobby effort by doing legwork and research, Collins said.

Collins said there are several issues the lobby group would concentrate on. One would be how the Permanent University Fund is apportioned, and who gets it. The current setup gives two-thirds of the Available Fund — proceeds from bond sales on money in the PUF — to the University of Texas system, and one-third to the Texas A&M University system.

Collins said Wilhelmina Delco, chairman of the Legislature's committee on higher education, will probably push for Prairie View A&M to receive 16 percent "off the top" of the Available Fund, and the remaining amount to be divided up in the previous ratio between the UT and Texas A&M systems.

This reapportionment would decrease the UT system's share from 66% to 56%, and Texas A&M's part from 33% to 28%.

"I would assume," Collins said, "that we'll be against that."

Another issue Collins said the lobbyists would probably target is raising tuition fees. The actual cost of putting one student through one semester hour at Texas A&M is \$97.50, Collins said, but tuition at state-supported schools is only \$4. Collins said Delco and other legislators will probably push for at least a doubling of tuition to reduce the amount that must be subsidized by the state. He said there are also those who support having the student pay 10 percent of the educational cost, which would put tuition on a sliding scale dependent on inflation and other economic factors.

Alumni hire new lobbyist

By BELINDA McCOY

Battalion Staff

In an effort to protect the Permanent University Fund, the Association of Former Students at Texas A&M University has hired an Austin lobbyist to represent the System in the Texas Legislature, said James Moore, president of the association.

Robert Johnson of Austin has been hired on behalf of Texas A&M to protect its interest in the Permanent University Fund — the University's biggest asset, Moore said.

The PUF is the constitutionally mandated and protected endowment of 2.1 million acres that contain oil and gas in West Texas. Money from the PUF is invested and the return on that investment is known as the Available University Fund.

Two-thirds of the AUF goes to the University of Texas System and the Texas A&M University System receives the other third.

In addition to the AUF, the two systems are allowed to utilize the PUF money through 20 percent bonds against the fund.

A constitutional amendment has been written to raise that bonding to 30 percent. The amendment would also allow other schools within the two systems to utilize money from the fund, not just the University of Texas and the Texas A&M campuses.

"Currently the fund can be used only for new construction (by the other

schools). The amendment contemplates not only new construction, but repairs and rehabilitation," Johnson said in a speech to the Association of Former Students.

Johnson will work with lobbyists from the UT System to get the amendment passed by the Legislature and put before the voters, he said in a telephone interview.

At the present, Robert Cherry, assistant chancellor and secretary to the Board of Regents, represents the Texas A&M System in Austin when necessary.

However, Moore said the former students association envisions possible criticism of this arrangement in the future because Cherry is employed by a state institution. Cherry's function in Austin, Moore said, could be mistaken to be that of a lobbyist — trying to influence legislation.

"It is not appropriate for state employees on state time ... to talk to the state Legislature to attempt to influence legislation while using state funds," Moore said. "It's like bribing a jury."

Cherry said he does not consider himself a lobbyist, and does not try to influence legislation.

"I try to project myself as a professor or educator, (not a lobbyist)," said Cherry. "I try to provide information that the members of the Legislature need to know."

If someone decided to take action against state employees' speaking to members of the Legislature — the way

Cherry does — then Texas A&M and the PUF would be left without representation in Austin, Moore said.

"We don't want to be left out in the cold," said Moore. "We hired Johnson

"The other schools endorse the PUF. They realize there's not enough money if the PUF is spread all over to every school in Texas. They don't want to bust it up..."

for the purpose of protecting the trust fund, which is Texas A&M's biggest asset."

Johnson said he and Cherry have been working together in Austin, and that Johnson's employment did not mean the former students association was dissatisfied with Cherry's work.

"It was never even discussed. I think I'm just another hired hand to help carry out the wishes of the Board of Regents," he said. "My job is to help plan strategy to get the Legislature to pass the amendment and to help protect the PUF."

"We want to make sure our people are staying in touch with what's happening in Austin," said Jim Jeter, assistant executive director of the Association of Former Students. "We want to keep up with what's happening with the PUF. We feel like we would be getting straight information from (Johnson)."

Other state schools want part of the PUF, said Jack Fritts, president-elect of the former students association.

"Historically, about every two years the other schools try to get part of the PUF," he said. Johnson was hired, Fritts said, to protect Texas A&M against that.

However, Johnson said the other state schools do not actually want part of the PUF, but they would like for the Legislature to set up an endowment for them similar to the PUF. Johnson said he has had some discussion with legislators about such a fund.

"The other schools endorse the PUF. They realize there's not enough money if the PUF is spread all over to every school in Texas. They don't want to bust it up ... With that attitude we should be able to provide them with some funding," Johnson said.

When asked what he thinks of the former students association's hiring of Johnson, Cherry said, "I think it's great. Bob Johnson is known to be a great lobbyist."

"He's the most effective lobbyist in Austin," said Moore of Johnson. "He's the fastest gun in town."