

Status of presidential list in limbo

By BERNIE FETTE
Battalion Staff

Attorney General Mark White's opinion committee has reaffirmed their June 16 ruling that the names of some 500 candidates for the Texas A&M University presidency must be disclosed, but University officials have yet to release that information.

"I foresee a whole lot of problems," said James Bond, vice chancellor for legal affairs. Bond said it would take more time for the dispute to be resolved.

Board of Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Wright said Monday he did not know anything about the opinion committee's response. "I don't know a thing about it," he said.

But John Williams, president and publisher of the Bryan-College Station Eagle, said he believed he would know by late today what course of action would probably be taken by the Eagle. He (Bond) wanted one more day, so one

more day it is," Williams said. "Either he'll shoot straight with us or we'll do what we have to do. We have the option of pursuing this through legal means," he said.

In February The Eagle requested the list of candidates from the regents. After the board refused to release the list, White was asked to determine whether the list was a public record.

White ruled June 16 that the list of 500 initial considerations for the post must be released but that the list of finalists could be kept confidential.

After White's ruling was handed down, the board, through Bond, requested a clarification of that ruling.

Bright said the request for clarification was made because the regents did not completely understand White's ruling.

Bond had requested clarification on three specific points, said Mary Hardesty, an information assistant on White's staff.

The first question concerned whether the entire list of some 500 nominees and applicants must be released. Secondly, Bond asked whether the names of some 171 persons which were screened by the search committee had to be released. Bond also asked whether the identities of the finalists for the post could remain confidential.

According to an article published Friday in the Eagle, Bond said he did not believe the names of all 500 nominees and applicants should be released since only 171 of them were actually considered. Susan Garrison, chairman of the attorney general's opinion committee, said the entire list of candidates must be released regardless of whether they were seriously considered for the position.

Concerning the finalists in question, the ruling states that those persons recommended to the board need not be distinguished as a distinct group but that their identities must be released

along with the rest of the candidates.

The ruling also provided for the release of the qualifications of the candidates.

Garrison closed the response to Bond's clarification request by saying, "We can see no reason for delay in carrying out your statutory obligation to make the records in question available to the persons who requested them."

If the regents refuse to give up the list, the Eagle's next course of action could be to seek a writ of mandamus, a court order forcing the regents to release the information. Failure to comply with the writ of mandamus can result in citations for contempt of court.

"We expect to pursue the various options," Williams said. "Those options include meeting them at the courthouse."

Eagle Editor Glenn Dromgoole said last week he believed the board was stalling.

"The board of regents asked the attorney general for an opinion and now they've got it,"

Dromgoole said. "Now they're refusing to abide by it."

"I'm very disappointed with the way A&M has responded in this matter," he said. "They're obviously stalling."

Dromgoole said the Eagle's primary intention in this dispute is to serve the public interest by making the identities of the candidates known to the public.

A presidential search committee began its screening process of the nominations and applications for the presidency following Dr. Jarvis Miller's dismissal by the board of regents a year ago. The 22-member committee in January recommended a list of 20 candidates to the board.

Since that time, a committee including Bright, Vice Chairman John Blocker, Regent Clyde Wells and System Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert have interviewed candidates for the position.

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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 95	High 96
Low 75	Low 75
Chance of rain 10%	Chance of rain 20%



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Get 'em while they're cheap!

David Holan, a sophomore student from Pasadena, displays three of the eight puppies he had for sale in front of Rudder Tower Monday afternoon. The sale price of the mixed breed pups was nearly nothing: just a good home and some tender loving care.

MSC lounge ruling given by council

By KATHY O'CONNELL
Battalion Staff

The MSC Council Saturday approved a temporary policy regarding the MSC lounges which is in effect until the Building Studies Committee can establish a permanent policy.

MSC Council President Doug Dedecker said he and MSC Director Jim Reynolds established the interim rules because the MSC main desk staff has complained of continual abuse of the lounges by groups gathered to play "board games."

A memo from Rick Olivarez, custodial shift superintendent, to Reynolds outlined several complaints from custodians and hotel staff members that furniture has been rearranged, the areas have been littered and that the student groups are loud and disruptive.

MSC Assistant Director Richard Reynolds said members of the facilities staff have considered a proposal to charge University students an extra building use fee to pay the custodial staff for working extra hours if the abuse of the lounges continues.

"I think they (the facilities staff) are exercising sensitivity in bringing the problem to the council first," Richard Reynolds said.

The temporary policy says, "The purpose of the MSC lounges are for studying, relaxation and quiet conversation."

They are also intended as "a gathering place for those attending scheduled functions in the meeting or banquet rooms and programs or receptions scheduled through the MSC-University Center scheduling office."

The policy also states that food and beverages are not allowed in the lounge areas, except in conjunction with a scheduled program. It also prohibits card and board games in the lounges.

The policy points out that space is provided for recreational activities in the basement snack area.

Vice President of Student Development Kirk Kelley questioned the temporary rules: "If we're calling the (MSC) the living room of the campus, as we've called it before, I have questions about writing a specific policy. I don't see how we can try to limit the activities of all the students."

Richard Reynolds said these rules will be in effect immediately, and will remain in effect until the Building Studies Committee presents a permanent policy at the August 8 MSC Council meeting.

He said a sign has been placed in the Serpentine Lounge (second floor) prohibiting food and drink. Reynolds said other temporary signs will be placed in the Schiwezt Lounge (first floor, near the main desk).

In addition to presenting that policy, Paul Fisher, vice president of operations, said the Browning Library will be closed this week for carpet installation.

The new carpet will replace defective carpet that was installed last October. Richard Reynolds said the University was sold a type of carpet that did not withstand heavy traffic.

Reynolds said the MSC doesn't have to pay additional installation charges, just the difference in price of the more expensive carpet.

Policy change may endanger civil rights

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is leaning toward a change in the government's sex discrimination policy that seems likely to add to the furor triggered by allegations it has weakened civil rights enforcement.

Clarence Thomas, director of the Education Department's Office of Civil Rights, told the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education Monday the administration probably will take the position sex discrimination in employment should not be covered by Title IX of the Civil Rights Act.

The issue is now before the Supreme Court. He said the final decision had not

been made. He said he thought the department would take the position Title IX does not cover employment," said coalition member Holly Knox of the Project on Equal Educational Rights.

Neither Thomas nor Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell was available for comment.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in education. Civil rights activists want job discrimination included under Title IX so schools found in violation could have their federal aid terminated.

Many activists consider Title IX a major weapon in fighting discrimination in education. Its use also is less cumbersome than alternative means of seeking relief.

As paraphrased by coalition members, the possible change in policy would reverse the stance of Jimmy Carter's administration and likely lead to criticism from feminist and civil rights groups already unhappy with Reagan's antidiscrimination policies.

Another participant, who asked not to be identified, said Thomas indicated the administration was leaning toward backing job discrimination complaints under Title IX only if such complaints are shown to affect students.

The Supreme Court has before it two cases dealing with whether victims of job-related sexual discrimination in education can use Title IX to gain relief. "If the Supreme Court should rule

Title IX does not cover employment it means women in education will have no practical recourse when they've been discriminated against," said Ms. Knox.

"This is a really important employment issue because large numbers of women are employed in education. About one-third of the nation's women professional workers are in education," said Ms. Knox.

She said if the court rules Title IX does not cover employment, "it would keep the Education Department from acting on a blatant case of sex discrimination in employment. It would mean federal education funds could go to an institution that is discriminating."

Texas A&M vets study unusual Gulf coast redfish deaths

A Texas A&M microbiologist says he still has no clues as to what is killing the thousands of redfish that have washed up on the beaches along the lower Texas coast.

Dr. Donald Lewis and a team of scientists at Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine have been sent several carcasses and are conducting autopsies to determine what is killing the species.

"Some have suggested toxic agents are killing the fish, which is a possibility but unlikely since all the fish killed were about the same size," Lewis said. "Right now we don't really know what happened and I don't want to speculate before we get some results from our tests."

The microbiologists are examining cell structures in tissue samples from the brain, heart, kidney and liver for a variety of infectious agents and results of their analysis will be ready later this week.

"The most puzzling aspect of the kill is that all the fish were approximately the same size and age," Lewis said.

Nearly 3,000 redfish, all about 36-45 inches long and weighing up to 30 pounds, began washing ashore from Padre Island to Port Aransas last week.

Speculation has centered on redfish hatcheries hatched by parks and wildlife hatcheries transmitting a disease that has infected redfish offshore, but wildlife officials dispute the argument. They say a disease transmitted from fingerlings would have shown up in die-offs of bay redfish rather than the big spawners in the Gulf.

While explanations for the kill have ranged from dynamite to seismographic explosions, marine biologists have speculated that a parasite or virus is responsible for the kill.

The biologists said they know of no disease restricted to redfish, but say parasites can be selective about which animals to infect.

Redfish were in the news earlier this

year when the Texas Legislature passed a bill banning commercial fishing for the fish effective Sept. 1 along the Texas coast. However, sportsmen who wish to fish will be allowed to catch the redfish, which are among the top sportfish in the state, said Dr. James Davis, a Texas A&M fisheries specialist.

Davis reported the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has proposed a rule that would cut down on the number and size of redfish sportsmen could catch. The proposal would also limit the number each could have in possession.

"The effect of the ban may cause restaurants to buy redfish from outside the state," Davis said, "and many have turned to Louisiana for additional supplies."

Davis and a team of fisheries experts with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service are presently looking at possibilities of raising redfish for commercial purposes in ponds. The team is raising redfish in ponds at the University's Aquaculture Research Center.



Photo by Janet Joyce

Killer Tomato

Phil Spector, a graduate student in the Institute of Statistics from Rochester, N.Y., came dressed for The Grove's showing of "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes." When he heard that his picture might appear in The Battalion, Spector said, "That's great! Before this, the closest my family ever got to fame is a bottle of Hunt's ketchup."