

Income

(continued from page 1)

of the deductibles. Mynar isn't the only employee who looked off campus for alternate insurance plans. Mark Busby, an assistant professor of English, said it will cost \$100 more a month to insure his 11-year-old son.

"And he's healthy," Busby said. "I don't expect anything to happen to him."

Busby said he priced other insurance plans. "At most places, I can get insurance for \$30 a month," he said. "I don't want to take my son off of the plan because I trust the University's backing, but for that amount of money I will."

Busby said he will remain on the plan because the state contribution pays for his insurance.

But Honea said the Texas A&M plan really can't be compared with other plans because of basic differences in coverage.

Honea said newspaper ads say other companies offer comparable coverage at a lower cost.

"But they're not comparing comparable policies," he said.

And if an employee leaves the University plan, he or she may be required to show proof of insurability before being allowed to rejoin the plan, Honea said.

Most employees have selected the basic plan, he said. But Honea said he has been surprised at the number of employees who have stayed with the deluxe plan.

The basic plan includes the Prescription Card Service, a \$200 deductible and 80 percent of the first \$2,500 of covered expenses paid. The deluxe plan includes the PCS card, a \$100 deductible and 80 percent of the first \$2,500 of covered expenses paid. The economy plan does not include the PCS card, has a \$500 deductible and pays 80 percent of the first \$5,000 of covered expenses. All three plans pay 100 percent of the benefits after the first amount.

Facts and figures were studied after the impending increase was announced. But

many members of the faculty and staff were just as worried about the shock of the increase to unprepared employees.

Parrish said faculty members were unhappy because they were not consulted in the deliberation.

"It is our money after all, and we deserve to be told what is possible — competitor's rates, what they had to offer and what we have to offer," he said. "Some say we got off as well as we could. But there will continue to be suspicion ... there will continue to be rumors, founded or unfounded. More information should be provided to reduce that as much as possible."

"Someone knew about it quite some time ago. Administrators somewhere must have realized what was in the offing. I don't think it sits well with some of the faculty to be told in August (when a lot of the faculty are gone)."

Honea said his office provided a number of facts prior to the announcement of the in-

crease. He said the distribution of information this year was no different than last year.

The process to select an insurance company began last October with the System Personnel Policy and Employee Benefits Committee, an advisory group to the chancellor, Honea said. The committee decided to remain with Southwestern Life Insurance Co. and the chancellor approved its decision. The System contacted 489 carriers and six bidders participated — Lone Star Life, Prudential, Metropolitan, The Equitable, Southwestern and Lincoln National, Honea said.

Honea said an increase was really in order two years ago. However, up to that point, there were more premiums than claims, he said, which resulted in reserves for the plan. But to keep a recently approved 5.1 percent salary increase from being swallowed by insurance rate hikes, the committee decided the reserves should be used to hold down insurance

costs. "We would have been in the same situation then as we are now," Honea said. "One consolation, if you could call it that, is that we could have been paying higher rates for a longer period of time."

Another factor in the increase, Honea said, is the litigious attitude of society today. Doctors are ordering more tests, and people want better treatment because they know what now is available.

"In the past, a sprained ankle would cost \$8 or \$10 because the doctor would check it over and send you home with an Ace bandage," Honea said. "Now it could cost up to \$300 because you may have to go to get X-rays, pay the radiologist to read the X-rays and maybe make a trip to a bone specialist."

Increases in technology also have raised costs, Honea said. "You used to be able to pay for a new piece of medical diagnostic equipment over several

years," he said. "Now new machines become obsolete within two years because of quick advances in technology. So they must be paid off within a shorter period of time."

It seems no relief is in sight for employees paying higher insurance rates. But several organizations are working to keep the costs down.

Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen told the Legislative Budget Board on Sept. 1 that requests for an increased state contribution made by the Texas Public Employees Association may be more realistic than the current state contribution.

Billye Tate, president of the local chapter of the Texas Public Employees Association, said the chapter has sent petitions to the Legislature asking for a larger state contribution. These petitions recommend full funding of the deluxe insurance plan for employees, both active and retired, for both years of the biennium, in the amount of \$91 in the first year of the biennium and \$109 for the second year.

Honea said he has been working with other institutions on a legislative package of requests for cost containment of the insurance program. He said the requests include limits on some items being misused in the program.

Dr. Jane Armstrong, chairman of the Personnel and Employee Benefits committee, said the committee will need funding input as to what the employees want to see in their coverage.

"I'm sure the committee will look at what people want, what used and what it all costs," she said. "Our main problem this year has been that the cost dependent coverage went up. One of the things that is visible is to look at a dependent coverage that is less than the employee coverage. I'm sure how popular it will be, it's a possibility."

Nuclear researchers charge adviser with ignoring break

NEW YORK — Fusion energy researchers say a laboratory breakthrough last summer could bring one source of unlimited clean nuclear energy into use at least five years sooner than had been thought possible.

The Fusion Energy Foundation also said President Reagan's science adviser, Dr. George Keyworth, is ignoring the implications of the breakthrough. The foundation says Keyworth insists successful fusion energy is 70 years away when, in fact, the Japanese expect to have a prototype commercial fusion reactor in operation by 1993.

Last summer's breakthrough was the conclusion by R.H. Kulsrud, H.P. Furth and E.J. Valeo of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and M. Goldhaber of Brookhaven National Laboratory that "polarized" fusion fuel can be used for a successful commercial reaction.

This was, at one time, believed impossible. The foundation said if this conclusion is verified in sustained testing, the problem of producing commercial fusion will be vastly simplified.

The foundation's magazine said the greatest promise of the breakthrough is "to accelerate the beginning of the plasma age." This could lead to the direct conversion of fuels into energy without dynamos and to more economical processing of ores.

Polarized fuels for fusion reactions already are being tested in several countries and were the subject of extensive discussion at the recent International Conference on Plasma Physics in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Keyworth, formerly with the Los Alamos Laboratory, told the Fusion Energy Foundation he considers the polarized fuel breakthrough worthy of research priority. He said the funds necessary for testing are available under the energy program passed by Congress in 1980 under President Carter.

Paul B. Gallagher, executive director of the Fusion Energy Foundation, said that under Keyworth's policy direction, the fusion budget is \$125 million lower than the 1980 act projected.

Gallagher said that instead of serving as a true science adviser to President Reagan, Keyworth insists the United States won't have a need for a new source of energy in the remainder of this century.

Gallagher said it would be a wrong to drop other fusion research and divert the funds to testing out the polarized fuel concept.

Gallagher said it would be a wrong to drop other fusion research and divert the funds to testing out the polarized fuel concept.

Gallagher said it would be a wrong to drop other fusion research and divert the funds to testing out the polarized fuel concept.

Gallagher said it would be a wrong to drop other fusion research and divert the funds to testing out the polarized fuel concept.

3707 E. 29TH (TOWN & COUNTRY CENTER)

PIPES
SNUFF
SPITONS
PIPE RACKS
ROLLING PAPER
CIGARS - IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC
LIGHTERS/FLUID
IMPORTED CIGARETTES
CUSTOM BLENDED TOBACCO
CANDLES THAT KILL TOBACCO ODOR

SARITAS SMOKE SHOP

Top Drawer
from Basics to Designers

Levin - Sedgwick - Lee - Bill
Hess - Calvin Klein - Ocean
Pacific - Jockey - Stanley -
Mackay - Esprit - Jorlache -
and more.

Aggie Mums

"Made For Ago By Ago"

On Sale In the MSC
Tuesday-Friday
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
FREE CORPS DELIVERY

Support your Student Floral Concessions

If you're ever arrested for a misdemeanor crime (or if you have a child age 17 or younger who is accused of a crime) that case will eventually be heard in the Brazos County Court at Law. This court was established by the Legislature in 1975 to meet the increasing needs of Brazos County. The work of the court in criminal and juvenile areas directly affects each of us who live here. The Committee to Elect Steve Smith wanted you to know about this important part of Brazos County government.

STEVE SMITH

Paid Political Advertisement by Committee to Elect Steve Smith/Judy Rychlik, Treasurer/Box 9213/College Station, TX 77840

Meet Don Scott Marable

He's Your On-Campus Beer Expert.

Whenever the subject is beer or social events, Don's the one to call. Maybe, it's four days before your fraternity or dorm "Casino Night" and you need advice on how much beer to have, how to get it and how to serve it, call Don. Don is your Coors Campus Rep. Not only he personally assist you in planning your social event, but he can also direct you to all the Coors beer you need to ensure it's a hit. Call Don, your Coors Rep at 696-6818.

Coors made for the way Aggies really like it.

You read it:

SPYRO HOOLA

Concert Tickets will be awarded as prizes!

MSC Town Hall presents

HOOP CONTEST

Thursday (Sept. 23) Noon - 12:45
Between the Academic Bldg. and the Library

A promotion for:

SPYROGYRA

Friday, Sept. 24 at 8 p.m.
Rudder Auditorium