

University's appropriation not as generous as before

by Scott Griffin
Battalion Staff

The Texas Legislature's recent budget appropriation for Texas A&M is not as benevolent as in previous years, says a University budget official.

"The increases we got weren't that generous if you compare them to past years," said Clifton Lancaster, assistant vice-chancellor for budgets at Texas A&M.

While Texas A&M did get a 27.6 percent increase for the biennium, Lancaster said the increase is not significant.

"The money we received was considerably lower than what we requested," he said. "But we expected it. We never get all we ask for."

However Lancaster did point out some special funding Texas A&M received:

- \$180,000 for a public policy resource lab.
- \$100,000 for a military studies institute.
- \$1 million for teaching and laboratory equipment.
- \$945,000 for engineering lab equipment.

Lancaster said some of the special appropriations could be credited to

the efforts of State Sen. Kent Caperton and State Rep. Bill Presnal.

Included in the appropriations is a teacher salary increase of 4 percent for next year and 3 percent for 1985.

Lancaster added that because of the money provided, no personnel cuts will be necessary and that the University will be able to maintain its current operating level.

As far as other state schools and their appropriations are concerned, Lancaster said, "I don't think we fared any better than anyone else. A lot of appropriations are based on square footage, enrollment, etc., and

the money we got was not essentially different from anyone else based on the formulas."

Prairie View A&M's appropriations were cut from \$43 million from the last biennium to about \$42 million for the next two years.

"Prairie View lost some money because of a drop in enrollment from 5,600 to about 4,000," Lancaster said.

One plus for Prairie View, however, is that the state will continue to fund repairs and rehabilitation of existing buildings at the university. Lancaster said the Legislature has decided to discontinue the same type of funds to most of the state schools.

Begin defeats withdrawal plan

United Press International

Prime Minister Menachem Begin today easily defeated an opposition motion for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, blocking the most dramatic challenge yet to his government's handling of the costly year-old war. The Knesset voted 55-47 against opposition Labor Party's motion after Defense Minister Moshe Arens ridiculed the proposal, saying Syrian troops would move into positions vacated by the Israeli army.

The vote came amid mounting domestic criticism of the war, which has claimed at least 490 Israeli lives since the invasion of Lebanon June 6, 1982. Two more Israeli soldiers were reported killed in a car bomb blast in Beirut Wednesday, official Beirut radio said.

Labor Party Chairman Shimon Peres' motion would have Israel first leave the Shouf Mountains in favor of the Lebanese army and the multinational force, which includes the Marines. They would act as a buffer between remaining Israeli and Syrian forces. In the next stage of the pull-out, the Israelis would leave Lebanon. Peres reasoned that the pullout would force Syria to act and leave under pressure.

"Is there anyone in this house who thinks it would be better for Israel for the Syrians and PLO to remain?" Arens asked Begin during the parliamentary session.

On the eve of the motion, Israeli military intelligence chief Ehud Barak predicted that Syria would use any tactics — short of all-out war — to sabotage the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and force Israeli troops out of Lebanon. In an interview published Tuesday by Beirut's An Nahar Arab and International weekly, Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak said it appeared that Israel wants no immediate change in Lebanon.

"It is in Israel's interest that foreign troops don't pull out from Lebanon for some years to come while it continues building settlements in the West Bank and Gaza," Mubarak said. "Soon the Palestinian problem will be forgotten."

"By the end of next year the West Bank and Gaza will be so cluttered with settlements that it will be impossible to remove them even by an all-out war." Israel agreed in its May 17 accord with Lebanon to remove its 30,000 troops from Lebanon in 1976 to quell a civil war between leftist Muslims and rightist Christians.

Property premiums to decrease

United Press International

AUSTIN — Texas homeowners will save between \$8 and \$24 a year on property insurance premiums beginning this fall under new rates approved unanimously by the State Insurance Board.

The average 3.8 percent reduction in Texas property insurance rates for homes, farms and ranches was approved by the board Wednesday and will be in effect from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 1985. The reductions will save Texas property owners an estimated \$42 million a year.

Renters' insurance policies will decrease slightly for brick veneer apartments and condominiums but will rise

as much as 27.5 percent for buildings made of wood frame and other compositions for an average 10.2 percent statewide increase.

The insurance industry, represented by the Texas Insurance Advisory Association, had asked for a 13.5 percent increase in rates.

"We realized coming into this hearing today that there would probably be some disparity between what we would ask the board for as compared with what their staff recommended," said TIAA spokesman Rick Gentry. "I would like to have seen the board come a little bit in our direction, so yes, I was disappointed."

The TIAA claimed the Insurance

Board staff recommendation of a 3.8 percent average statewide reduction failed to take into account adequate profit margins and potential losses due to catastrophes such as hurricanes or tornadoes.

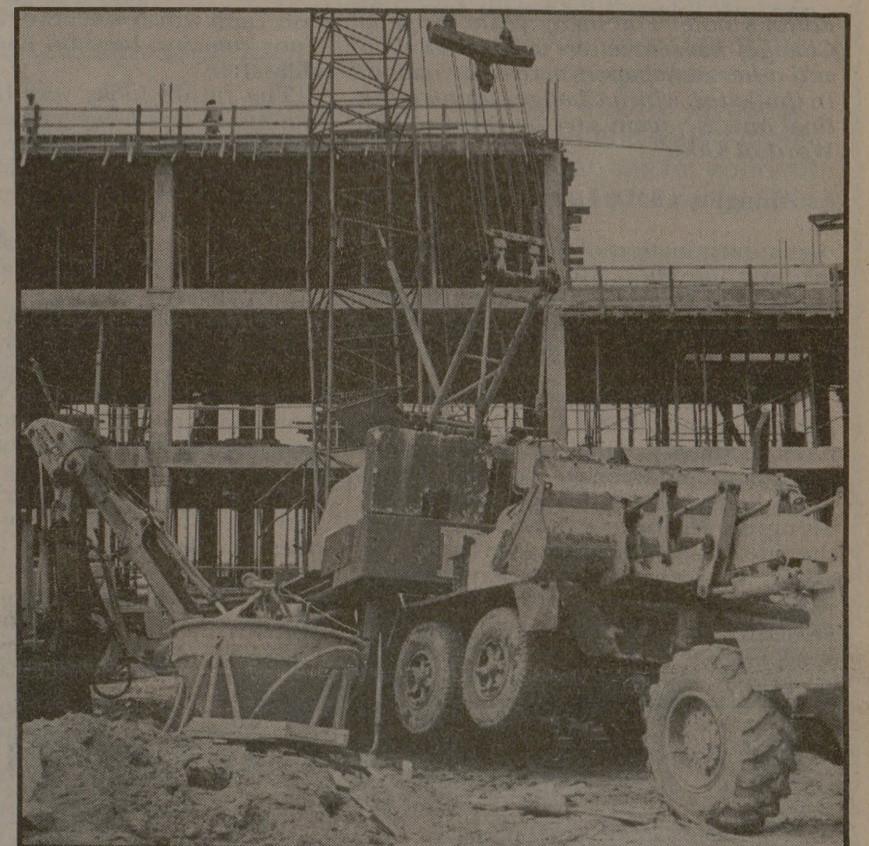
Premium rates for individual homes will vary according to areas of the state, with policyholders in the Panhandle and West Texas paying the highest rates and homeowners in North and Central Texas paying the lowest.

Under the new property insurance rates for basic homeowner coverage, owners of \$50,000 brick homes in the Panhandle and West Texas would

pay about \$463 a year for general homeowner insurance. The owners of similar homes in the Dallas area would pay \$292; in the Gulf Coast area \$297; in Houston \$260; in San Antonio and South Texas \$273.

Rates for extended coverage — which insures homes for damage from additional perils like windstorms, hurricanes or hail — would vary from \$164 a year in South and Central Texas to \$345 in West Texas.

Apartment or condominium renters would pay an average of between \$219 and \$253 a year for \$20,000 worth of coverage compared to current rates ranging between \$224 and \$259.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Need a lift?

This crane, located at the Halbouty annex building site behind the Reed McDonald Building, moved into an area of soft dirt and almost tipped over Wednesday. The shovel of a bulldozer was placed at the front of the crane to lift it and prevent it from falling over. The crane then was moved to an area with solid ground.



staff photo by Peter Rocha

Dr. John Nagyvary displays a violin he carved and specially treated to duplicate the tonal quality of a Stradivarius instrument. Nagyvary spoke at the College Station Lion's Club breakfast Wednesday.

Violins made to sound old

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

New violins — which sound like the antiquated versions created by the Italian masters — soon may be available to musicians.

Dr. Joseph Nagyvary, a Texas A&M professor of biophysics and biochemistry, has developed a chemical process that opens the cell walls of spruce wood, a material used for the construction of violin bodies.

At a College Station Lion's Club breakfast Wednesday, Nagyvary said he believes the process duplicates formulas used by Stradivarius and Guarneri, two violin makers during the 17th and 18th centuries, whose violins are famous for their tonal quality.

Nagyvary said a Stradivarius cost \$500,000, even if broken, and recently one sold for \$1.2 million in South Korea.

Violinists cannot afford them any longer, he said, and many have abandoned playing the old violins because insurance is very expensive.

"A violin can make or break a musician," Nagyvary said.

New commercial violins sound terrible for a year, he said, but after aging about 50 years they start sounding better.

He said he wants musicians to have the chance to own a good violin at a reasonable price.

Violinist Manuela Roller, a founder of the Bryan-College Station Chamber Orchestra, demonstrated two of Nagyvary's violins and an Italian violin made in 1753, also belonging to Nagyvary, at the Lion's Club breakfast Wednesday.

One of the violins was only two weeks old and had been carved by the best violin maker in mainland China, Nagyvary said. He said Xu Fu carved the outside and he carved the inside and treated the wood.

"It has no right to sound good," he said. He said the violin which is six months old has a sweeter tone.

Nagyvary said he has worked on the project for about 10 years, and has really become involved during the last four years. He studied the

literature of the 16th Century to determine what violin makers used at that time.

He made his breakthrough when he examined a piece of a cello made by Guarneri in 1660. He decided that treatment of the wood was the secret of the old violin makers.

The cells in the wood he examined had millions of tubular holes, he said, but violins of lesser quality don't have any holes.

"New violins have too many overtones because the holes are closed," he said. Those with open holes have no reverberations and a better tone.

Nagyvary is now in the process of obtaining a patent for his chemical formula, which uses fungus to eat out the holes.

Nagyvary uses gold in the violin's finish to give the instrument the golden brown color preferred by musicians.

Nagyvary recently sold a violin to a musician in Chattanooga, Tenn., for \$4,000. He said the price is reasonable because it takes 400 to 500 hours to make a violin.

He said selling his instruments to performers establishes a value for them.

He is interested in making and selling more, although he no longer carves them himself because it takes too much time. Instead, violin makers and students do the carving.

"There's no glory in the carving," he said.

Nagyvary said he personally has spent about \$20,000 conducting the research on the violins because it is a hobby and is not connected with his work at Texas A&M.

Nagyvary used to play the violin, but now he just researches. He said he still has improvements to make, but he believes he has pinpointed the major points in the process.

Wednesday afternoon, Nagyvary went to Roundtop for blind testing of his instruments by experts. He said the experts will try to determine the difference between his instruments and those of Stradivarius.

Air Force hurling chickens

United Press International

TULLAHOMA, Tenn. — The Air Force is firing dead chickens out of a cannon at 700 mph, hurling them at airplanes to learn more about the damage caused by bird-plane collisions.

Since 1966 14 Air Force planes have crashed — and seven pilots have died — because a bird either broke a windshield or jammed an engine,

officials said Wednesday.

The "chicken gun," located at the Arnold Engineering Development Center, is a Navy cannon that has been converted into a pressurized air gun.

The chickens are hurled at airplanes' windshields and engines to determine how much damage a mid-air collision can cause. A spokesman

for the center, Sgt. John Blackburn, said both military and civilian aircraft have been tested during the past 10 years.

Live chickens are obtained from local farmers and gassed. After being frozen and stored, Blackburn said, chickens are thawed for 24 hours before being fired at airplane windows or engines.

Naturalization Service, confirmed Alfaro's application for asylum.

"As with anyone with an application pending, he will not be removed. Until the claim is adjudicated, he will remain here as is the case with all foreign nationals," Austin said.

Alfaro, who has two children, has lived in the New Orleans area for 10 years and has served as consul general for the past 10 months.

Nicaraguan diplomat ordered home seeks asylum here

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — Nicaraguan Consul General Augustin Alfaro, criticized for his country's restriction on speech and religion, decided to seek political asylum in the United States rather than return home with fellow diplomats ordered out of the country.

The five other heads of Nicaraguan consulates left the country by

the 3 p.m. Wednesday deadline set by the government. Nicaragua's six consulates were ordered closed by the State Department in retaliation for the Sandinista government's expulsion of three U.S. officials for alleged spying.

But just as the deadline was drawing near, Alfaro announced he had asked the United States for asylum.

"I did apply for political asylum be-

cause I do not agree with the policies of Nicaragua, mostly with the restrictions they have imposed on the press and religion and the freedom of speech," he said.

Alfaro, who announced his decision at a hastily called news conference in front of the Federal Building where he applied for asylum, said he would remain near his Metairie home while awaiting word from the govern-

ment on his defection bid.

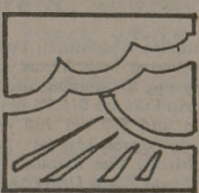
"It has been a very hard and difficult day for me," he said. "I don't want to leave the United States."

Alfaro walked swiftly from the Federal Building where the Immigration and Naturalization Service is located and stepped into a car driven by his wife, Amelia Zavala.

In Washington, Duke Austin, a spokesman for the Immigration and

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forecast

Partly cloudy skies today with a high of 88. Southeasterly winds of 10 to 15 mph. The low tonight near 69. Continued partly cloudy skies Friday with a high near 89.