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Texas A&M

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Connecticut win: A Hart landslide

United Press International
HARTFORD, Conn. — Sen. Gary Hart got back on the victory trail Tuesday, winning the Connecticut primary by a landslide over Walter Mondale and gaining momentum going into next week's battle for delegate-rich New York State.

With 79 percent of Connecticut's 722 precincts reporting, Hart had 91,779 or 55 percent, Mondale 49,680 or 30 percent and civil rights activist Jesse Jackson had 15,284 or 9 percent.

In the battle for the 52 delegates at stake in Connecticut, a preliminary count gave Hart 34 and Mondale 18. But Mondale still kept a big lead in the battle for the 1,967 delegates needed to win the nomination.

The latest nationwide UPI delegates count including Connecticut showed Mondale had 698, Hart 429 and Jackson 87.

Connecticut was a lopsided victory for the Colorado Senator, but not unexpected since he had campaigned heavily in the state where he spent six years studying religion and law at Yale while Mondale had virtually ignored Connecticut.

The victory gave Hart a sweep of the caucuses and primaries in all six New England States this year, and his first primary victory in two weeks.

Hart swept all parts of Connecticut, scoring heavily in the suburbs.

Mondale had his best showing in the cities of the state, but still lost them to Hart. Jackson was strongest in the cities, with a 22 percent vote in Hartford in the early count. In Bridgeport, the state's largest city, Jackson was running ahead of Mondale with only one precinct left to report.

The Colorado Senator put together the same coalition that has brought him victory in earlier battles — the young, affluent, well educated, suburban and independent voters.

CBS reported that Hart carried a majority of both the labor and Jewish vote — probably Mondale's two strongest constituencies in his earlier victories.

"We're going to lose and lose badly," Gov. William O'Neill, Mondale's strongest supporter in the state, said less than a half hour after the polls closed at 8 p.m. EST. Connecticut, with one of the fastest computerized voting counting systems in the nation, had nearly all its votes counted within the first hour.

A light turnout was reported across the state despite perfect sunny spring weather. Party officials estimated a third of the state's 660,000 Democrats would cast ballots.

Nearly all the state's Democratic leadership had backed Mondale except Sen. Christopher Dodd, whose early endorsement of Hart sparked instant speculation in the state that he was among the senator's vice presidential possibilities.

Hart needed the Connecticut victory to overcome the perception that his campaign might be slumping after its dramatic early victories. After Mondale won the season opening Iowa caucuses as expected, Hart scored one of the major upsets of political history by winning the New Hampshire primary with ease.

That startled the slumbering Mondale political machine, but it was slow to make a comeback as Hart followed with victories in the Maine caucuses and Vermont's beauty contest primary the next week.

Then two weeks later, Mondale got back in the race, winning in Alabama and Georgia while Hart scored big in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Florida.

In the most important contest to date, Mondale scored a big victory last week in Illinois, setting the stage for the big showdown next week in New York and again the week after in Pennsylvania where 172 delegates are at stake.



Photo by CHRISTINE THAYER

Up a tree

"Would you please detach your cat from my chest," was firefighter Rob Bordeau's only comment after rescuing Maggie, a 7-month-old tabby cat from a tree. Her owner, Susan Talbot, a senior journalism major from San Antonio, called the College Station Fire Department after Maggie had been in the tree for 24 hours.

Parking policies toughen

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

In an attempt to crack down on students, faculty and staff who repeatedly ignore the parking regulations, the University Police Department has developed a new, tougher policy for handling parking violations.

According to the new policy, people with six or more tickets will not be able to buy a parking permit for the coming academic year until their tickets are paid for.

"We have about 1,000 to 2,000 faculty and staff with six or more tickets," said Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic for the University Police Department. "We also have some students who have 30 or 40 tickets and have been towed before, but still haven't paid for the tickets," he said.

A new twist to the University towing procedure is any person with six or more tickets could be towed at any time, regardless of whether he is parked illegally.

Such a person will not be able to recover his car from the A-1 Wrecker Service lot unless he presents a release from the University Police Department. The release cannot be obtained without paying for the tickets.

Those unable to pay for all of their tickets at once, such as offenders with several hundred dollars worth of tickets, can arrange to make weekly payments to the University Police Department.

These people will not be allowed to park on campus until the payments are complete and their parking permits will be scraped off the rear windows of their cars.

"The bottom line is, folks, we're all going to be legal," Wiatt said.

He said that "most people on campus obey the parking regulations, but we have a small minority of flagrant violators."

"This is not a punitive measure," he said. "It's the only way to gain some semblance of sanity in parking on this campus. We want to emphasize that the parking regulations are in effect 24 hours a day and apply to everyone, regardless of position."

Rate plan criticized

By TRICIA PARKER
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents voted Tuesday to increase the rent rates for married student housing to a level so high that it will be cheaper to live off campus, claims the president of the married student housing organization.

"The only way you will be able to live here cheaper (than off campus) is not to live here," says Chuck McCullough, president of the organization. "The only people who will save money living here are the ones who go home every weekend or who don't run their air-conditioners."

Jerry Smith, associate director of business services says the proposal will raise rent in the fall of 1984 by 3.2 percent.

"The increase is due to a state mandate to raise salaries of the crews and simply to maintain the apartments," Smith says.

Rent for married student apartments now runs from a low of \$160 a month for a one-bedroom unit up to \$252 for a two-bedroom, the average is about \$230 per month. The 3.2 percent increase would add five to seven dollars to the bill. McCullough says if he adds in the electric bills he might as well be living in a regular apartment.

McCullough says several commercial apartments offer comparable units at prices ranging from \$225.

They also offer swimming pools, Jacuzzis, trips and prizes which married student housing does not.

"We aren't saying we want a swimming pool or carpet or any of the other amenities offered by other apartments," he says, "since we need to hold costs down. But when making a comparison, these things must be considered."

"Student housing is just not competing with the local market," he says. "Other apartments are offering bonuses and their rent is actually falling. But ours went up last year and it's going up again next year."

Frank Nicolas, the manager of student apartments, says married student housing is not in competition with commercial apartment complexes so the fluctuations in their rents do not affect it. Married student apartments are run on a break even basis, he says, and rents are set so that income just covers the cost of their operation.

"It's like apples and oranges," Nicolas says, "we're not the same. These are fine apartments but there are no frills."

There are five complexes located around campus to provide low cost housing for married students, including the Southside complex located behind the police station, and the College Avenue, College View, Hensel Terrace, and Avenue "A" apartments, all located on the corner of College and University Drive

across from Skaggs Alpha Beta. Seven hundred and nine units are contained in the complexes.

Nicolas says electricity meters were installed at the beginning of September to reduce the costs to students and to help cut down in the amount of energy used. Since the meters were installed, consumption of electricity has dropped by 10 percent. But costs to the students are another matter, says McCullough.

"Sure, they cut the rent by \$15 or \$20," McCullough says, "but when you add in a \$50 or \$60 electric bill, it's a pretty substantial rent increase. The 3.2 percent proposed rate hike for the fall of '84 seems small, but I fail to see the need after the whopper last year."

McCullough says rent was cut by about \$20 in September, supposedly the amount of the average electric bill. But utility bills rang upward of \$50, actually increasing the rent, he says.

Nicolas says that from figures he has compiled, the average utility bill is from \$15 to \$73, depending on the complex. Any additional increases, he says, are necessary to cover the rising costs of labor and maintenance.

"We're completely self-sufficient," he says. "We have to pinch pennies in every fashion we can. If I have to pay for something it has to come out of someone's pocket, and it's the one of the tenants."

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Ballot crisis corrected

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff Writer

Voter turnout for the student body elections has been good so far despite a near catastrophe — a shortage of the correct computer forms fewer than 24 hours before the elections were to begin.

But, thanks to some fast talking and a lot of phone calls on the part of Student Government election commissioners, the worst did not happen.

"Monday morning we received 12,000 ballots — computer forms, actually — from IBM in Houston," Pat Wood, election commissioner, said. "We were sent red forms, though,

and our computer program needed the green form.

"So we started calling every department on campus, checking to see if they had any of the green forms we needed. Those forms are the same kind that are used in teacher evaluations, so we managed to scrape up about 10,000 of them by Monday afternoon."

If they had not been able to get enough ballots, Wood said, they would have had to drive to the IBM office in Houston Monday night to get the computer forms.

Now that they had the ballots, all they needed were the voters. No problems there either, Wood said.

"Just guessing from the stack of ballots we have from Tuesday's elections," he said, "I'd say about 4,500 people voted. We are shooting for about 9,000 to turn out overall, so we're hoping that as many people show up to vote today."

About 6,700 students voted last year.

With the exception of the ballot crisis, things seem to have gone "very smoothly," he said.

"The ballot is correct this year, we've had lots of outside help in keeping the voting lines short," he said. He also said there have not been any complaints about the limited number of polling locations.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• Texas A&M has begun a program to improve the management skills of construction managers. See story page 3.

State

• A 62-year-old employee with American Airlines is suing the company for age discrimination. See story page 11.

National

• A recent, widely-publicized Massachusetts gang rape may be made into a TV dramatization. See story page 9.

Regents pass proposed fee increases during Board's final day of meetings

By STEPHANIE M. ROSS
Staff Writer

Twenty-seven agenda items, including the proposed fee increases, were passed without further discussion at the final day of the Board of Regents meetings Tuesday.

Seventeen fee increases, eight of which affect the main campus, were passed. Those fee increases include increases in dormitory and married student housing rates, parking permit rates, board plan rates, shuttle bus rates, student service rates and fines for parking in handicapped spaces.

Resident hall increases will be 6 percent, or about \$35, and the increase in married student apartments will be 3.2 percent. The in-

crease is attributed to operating costs — electricity and phone service.

The rise in parking permits is the most noticeable rate increase, with red permits going from \$36 to \$78 and blue and green permits going from \$36 to \$60. Faculty reserved numbered permits will go from \$72 to \$114 and faculty reserved lot permits will go from \$48 to \$78. Random street permits will go from \$36 to \$60 and basement garage permits will go from \$96 to \$150.

Before the increase was passed, Vice Chairman William McKenzie said that he approved of the increases, but that in the future the Board should try to find ways to decrease the fees, because they were always being raised.

Planning for the new special

events center soon will be underway. Regents authorized the chancellor to negotiate for the preparation of the center's design. The Crane Anderson Company was selected for the architectural engineering of the center.

The Board also gave the official go-ahead for fundraising to begin for construction of 48 suites at the north end of Kyle Field.

Regents OK'd the creation of a Department of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts and a bachelor of arts in speech communication. The department and the degree must be approved by the state Coordinating Board for colleges and universities.

Funds also were appropriated to complete the Texas Plan for minority recruitment at Texas A&M. The plan includes recruitment of mi-

nority faculty, undergraduate and graduate students. \$987,270 was appropriated to the plan.

Four plaques were presented to regents donating money to the Sul Ross scholarship fund by Corps Commandant Col. Donald L. Burton. They were presented to Chairman H. R. Bright, Royce E. Wisenbaker, David G. Eller and Joe C. Richardson.

In lighter business, a resolution was presented to Bright in appreciation of his recently acquiring the Dallas Cowboys football team.

The regent who presented the resolution told Bright that he expects to have the January meeting at the Super Bowl.

"After we've been to the Cotton Bowl," Bright replied.