

STATE AND LOCAL

Regents to begin 5-day conference

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will hold a five-day meeting beginning this afternoon. Among the items to be considered is the fee assessment for the installment payment of student tuition.

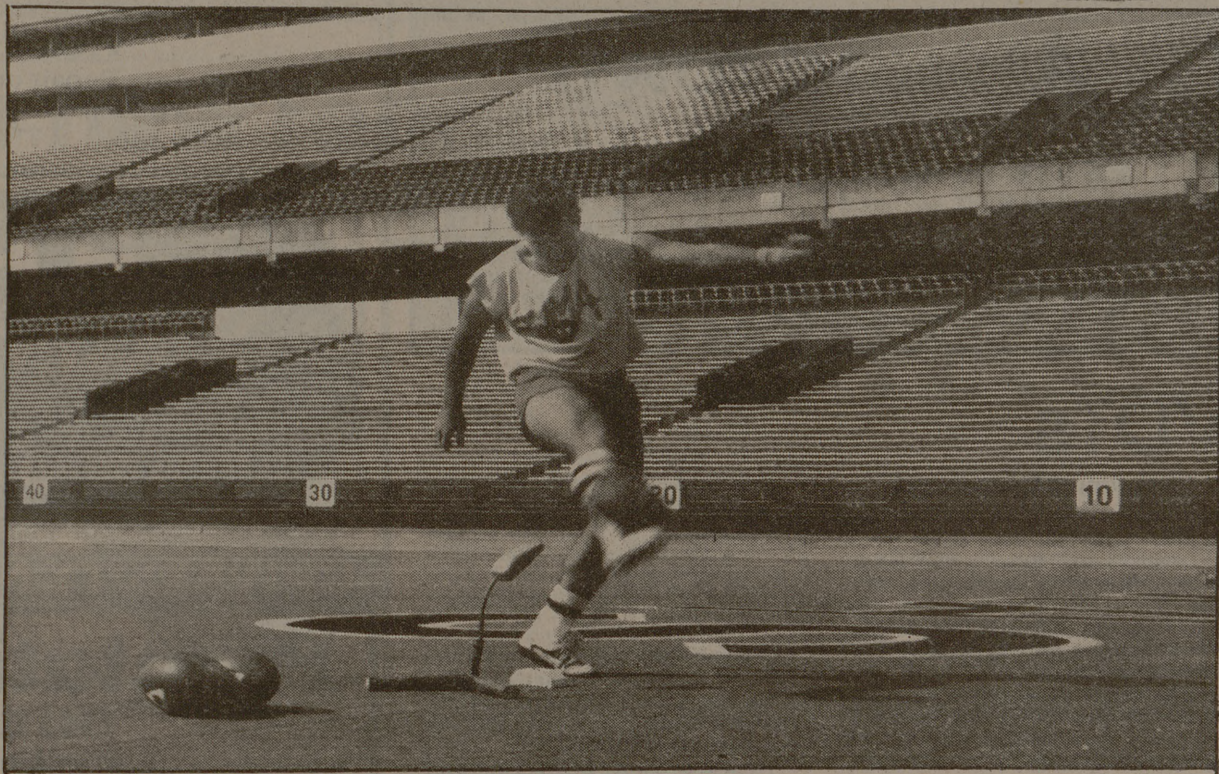
The Board will consider the imposition of a \$10 fee for students opting to pay their fees in installments. Also, a \$10 late fee for each payment deadline not met will be discussed.

The installment plan was outlined by the Legislature after it passed the tuition increase bill. The plan requires universities to allow students to pay their tuition in one, two or four payments.

The Board also will consider a plan that would make an emergency fund available to students who are unable to pay their tuition and fees.

A proposed budget for 1985-86 and the rewording of a construction contract will be reviewed by the Board.

The Board will meet today and Saturday at a Robertson County Ranch. The remaining meetings will be held on campus. Sunday's discussions begin at 3:15 p.m., while Monday and Tuesday's meetings convene at 8:30 a.m.



Kicking It Around

Jim Cole practices his field goal kicking skills at Kyle Field Thursday morning. Cole, a transfer student from the University of Texas, is getting ready for this year's football walk-on tryouts. Cole is from Plano and is planning to major in Business Administration.

Photo by ANGELA ATKINS

Unique program aids freshmen

2,600 fish expected to attend camp

By D'ANNA HEIDEMAN
Reporter

Fish Camp isn't a camp for fish — it's a camp for new Aggies.

It began in 1954 when Gordon Gay, director of YMCA Activities, took a small group of students camping in Mexico.

Today, Fish Camp is still a Student Y Association project, but it now convenes at Lakeview Methodist Assembly near Palestine.

One Texas A&M tradition that dates back to the days when the school was an all-male college, is to call freshman "fish."

"At Fish Camp one has the opportunity to not only be infected with the 'Spirit' of Aggieland, but also to learn about the various services and agencies of the University that can help smooth the way to a successful academic experience," writes Dr. Garland E. Bayliss, director of academic services.

Fish Camp is a unique orientation to help incoming freshmen make an easy transition from high school to A&M.

Most universities just have a regular freshman orientation program

that encompasses schedule planning and registration, says Student Y secretary Janie Metzger. A&M also has such a program.

"But Fish Camp is much more," she says. "It is a lot of fun."

The four-day camp begins when campers meet on campus and head for East Texas on buses. Camp activities include informal discussion sessions with upperclass counselors, intramural sports activities, dances and evening campfires.

Free time also is provided so the freshmen may enjoy two lakes, two swimming pools and other recre-

ational facilities at Lakeview Methodist Assembly.

Approximately 600 volunteer upperclass counselors help the freshmen learn about the origin and importance of Aggie traditions, develop study habits, develop leadership qualities, share their own college experiences and get a head start on the fall semester.

The 32nd annual Fish Camp sessions are scheduled for Aug. 13-16, 16-20, 21-24 and 25-28 and cost \$65. Close to 2,600 "fish" are expected to attend this year.

5-year sentence for 2 men convicted of slavery upheld

Associated Press

TYLER — A lawyer for two men convicted of enslaving Mexican workers on an East Texas farm says he will appeal a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling affirming their five-year prison sentences.

Steven Crawford, 22, and Randall Waggoner, 23, both of Nacogdoches, were convicted in 1983 on 21 counts of slavery, conspiracy and transporting illegal aliens.

Tyler lawyer Weldon Holcomb said Wednesday he will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the circuit court decision.

"We feel the defendants were placed in a position of double jeopardy," he said.

Crawford and Waggoner were

first given five-year probated sentences by U.S. District Judge William Steger, who called the Mexican workers "wetbacks" during the trial and accused the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization of flooding the Southwest with illegal aliens.

"I don't want to hear anything you have to say," Steger told Assistant U.S. Attorney Chriselda Ortiz when she tried to reply, "I don't care what the rules of courtroom procedure are."

The Justice Department appealed Steger's sentence, claiming he violated court rules by refusing to let Ortiz speak.

The case was transferred to the court of U.S. District Judge William

Wayne Justice, who ordered the defendants to serve five-year prison terms.

This week, the appeals court upheld Justice's sentence and ruled that Steger's sentencing was illegal.

Aliens testified at the trial that they were starved and threatened at gunpoint while planting pine trees on Crawford's farm near Center.

According to testimony, Waggoner, acting under orders from Crawford, packed 19 workers into a U-Haul truck and drove them 400 miles from the border to Crawford's farm near Center.

Federal investigators said the workers were forced to sleep in a 10-by-17-foot shack without beds, running water or a toilet.

General Accounting Office critical of Navy's Gulf Coast homeport plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The General Accounting Office has questioned the Navy's decision to station dozens of battleships along the Gulf Coast, saying \$1 billion could have been saved by locating them in existing ports along the east and west coasts.

But Assistant Navy Secretary Chase Untermeyer said a GAO

briefing paper "does not make any sense at all."

The GAO, which is conducting a full audit of the Navy's decision, circulated a preliminary report to the House and Senate committees on armed services and appropriations.

The agency questioned the Navy's reasoning that the dispersal of its fleet would make the ships less vul-

nerable to attack than leaving them clustered in older ports.

Navy Secretary John F. Jehman Jr. and Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger announced last month that 29 warships will be scattered among nine Gulf Coast areas, including a battleship, training aircraft carrier, cruiser and destroyer and guided-missile frigates and minesweepers.

Mattox's plane fills with smoke enroute to Austin

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The cabin of Attorney General Jim Mattox's twin-engine airplane lost air pressure and filled with smoke while en route to Austin early Thursday, but the plane landed safely and no one was injured.

"It was a frightening experience," Mattox said. "In light of the other airline disasters that have recently taken place, I must admit I uttered a little prayer."

An aide said it was the second time this year the cabin of the state-owned, 1967 Beechcraft King Air had filled with smoke.

The latest incident occurred shortly after midnight as Mattox, an aide and the pilot were returning to Austin from Huntsville. Mattox had been in Huntsville for the scheduled execution of Jay Kelly Pinkerton, who obtained a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court just before midnight.

"Five to seven minutes out of Huntsville, the seal around the doors that, in effect, maintains the pressurization of the cabin went out," Mattox said.

There was "a loud, whistling, air-escaping noise around the doors, plus it makes your ears hurt," he said.

Three to four minutes later, Mat-

tox said, "The cabin within a matter of just a couple of seconds filled up with a very dense smoke, smoke that smelled like it was from an electrical fire."

"I was sitting about four feet from the pilot, and it was so dense you could just barely see him."

As they readied to make an emergency landing at Bryan, Mattox said, the pilot shut down some electrical systems. The plane began to descend and as it neared the ground, the pilot opened cabin windows, clearing out some of the smoke.

The plane was able to continue to Austin, landing about 12:45 a.m.

"It takes a good while to get an airplane on the ground, and you don't know how long you're going to be able to go without oxygen if that's what it takes," Mattox said. "My first thought was that we were not going to be able to get the thing on the ground quick enough. I was afraid that the plane was on fire."

Elna Christopher, Mattox's press secretary, said the same plane caught fire this spring while on a flight to San Antonio.

"As we started to land, smoke came out from under the control panel," said Christopher, who was aboard the plane with Mattox and others of his staff. "It turned out to be a short in the control panel lighting."

Crashes Airline mishaps mean big losses for insurers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A series of major aircraft crashes this year is bringing heavy losses to the international aviation insurance business and probably higher premiums for airlines, industry officials said Thursday.

"They're in big trouble writing airline insurance," said Sean Mooney, senior vice president and economist at the Insurance Information Institute.

The Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 that crashed in Japan on Monday was the third jumbo jet to go down with heavy loss of life in less than two months.

The JAL accident killed 520 people, while 133 died 10 days earlier when a Delta Air Lines Lockheed L-1011 crashed in Dallas, and 329 died when an Air-India 747 crashed into the Atlantic on June 23.

At least 376 people died in other commercial aircraft accidents this year, not including one in China and two in the Soviet Union.

In 1984, 224 people were killed in 15 accidents involving airplanes belonging to the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Montreal-based United Nations agency, which has 155 members, said that was the best year in four decades.

The impact on insurers of this year's fatalities, injuries and damage to aircraft is difficult to pin down with accuracy, said Peter O'Grady, president of the Aviation Office of America, an insurance consortium based in Dallas.

But in terms of increased premiums, he said, "I would think that at least 20 percent would be required" by the end of the year.

O'Grady estimated that airlines paid \$800 million for insurances coverage for planes and injury liability this year.

Mooney and O'Grady estimated that coverage of aircraft and equipment and liability payouts for the three latest major accidents alone would total about \$450 million.

An estimated \$300 million may be needed to pay for the earlier crashes.

Thus, O'Grady said, "what we're looking at is \$750 million in just major losses and \$800 million in premiums. So you don't have any money left to pay for partials."

"Partials" are smaller losses, including such things as lost baggage and partial damage to an aircraft.

Also putting pressure on the airlines' insurance premiums is the state of the large insurance consortiums.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Aug. 14.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

• Four bicycles were stolen from various locations on campus.

• A wallet was stolen from the Memorial Student Center lobby.

• A pair of camouflage pants, a shirt and assorted underwear were stolen from a campus laundry room.

• Someone stole \$80 from a cash register in the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

• Someone stole \$300 from a wallet in East Kyle.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:

• Someone stole \$208 from 202 Langford Architecture Center.

EMPLOYEE OPENING MAIL:

• A Texas A&M Mail Services employee was caught removing between \$30 and \$40 from letters addressed to A&M.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

• A woman reported seeing a man exposing himself in front of Fowler Hall.

• Someone reported seeing a man exposing himself in a Harrington Tower elevator.

• A woman reported seeing a man wearing only sunglasses step from the bushes in Hensel Park.

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