

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 81 No. 214 USPS 045360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

September 27, 1985

Committee will review Austin lawyer and panel

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The new Select Committee on Higher Education must take a close look at the state panel chaired by the Austin lawyer who has also been named chairman of the select committee, says a state lawmaker.

Gov. Mark White Tuesday made Larry Temple chairman of the special committee. Temple is chairman of the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board.

"I hope that he can divorce his duties as chairman of the committee from his duties as board chairman. I think the role of the coordinating board needs close examination," said Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur and a member of the select committee.

The coordinating board oversees operations and program offerings at state-supported universities.

Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, also expressed concern about Temple's dual roles, but the senator said, "I have to give him the benefit of the doubt."

Temple said Thursday the coordinating board would undergo full review by the select committee.

"I don't have any proprietary interest in the status quo in higher education. I think I know how to be objective as a citizen," he said, adding he does not consider himself an "insider" in the higher education system.

The 19-member committee, appointed by White, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis, will report to the 1987 Legislature on possible improvements to the state's colleges.

White picked the chairman. Several committee members, including Parker, were guaranteed spots on the panel because of their legislative offices.

Parker is chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Barrientos said he was "disappointed" that no students were picked for the committee.

"It is very important that they listen to that body . . . after all, who goes to the schools?" he said.

Meg Brooks, co-director of the Texas Student Lobby, said she was pleased with Temple's selection as chairman. She said Temple's experience in higher education would prove valuable.

Rep. Terral Smith, R-Austin, said the committee would have to close some state colleges to strengthen the overall system.

"Frankly, some institutions should be closed," Smith said. "But the politics of closing colleges is very difficult."

Temple said the committee would consider closing schools.

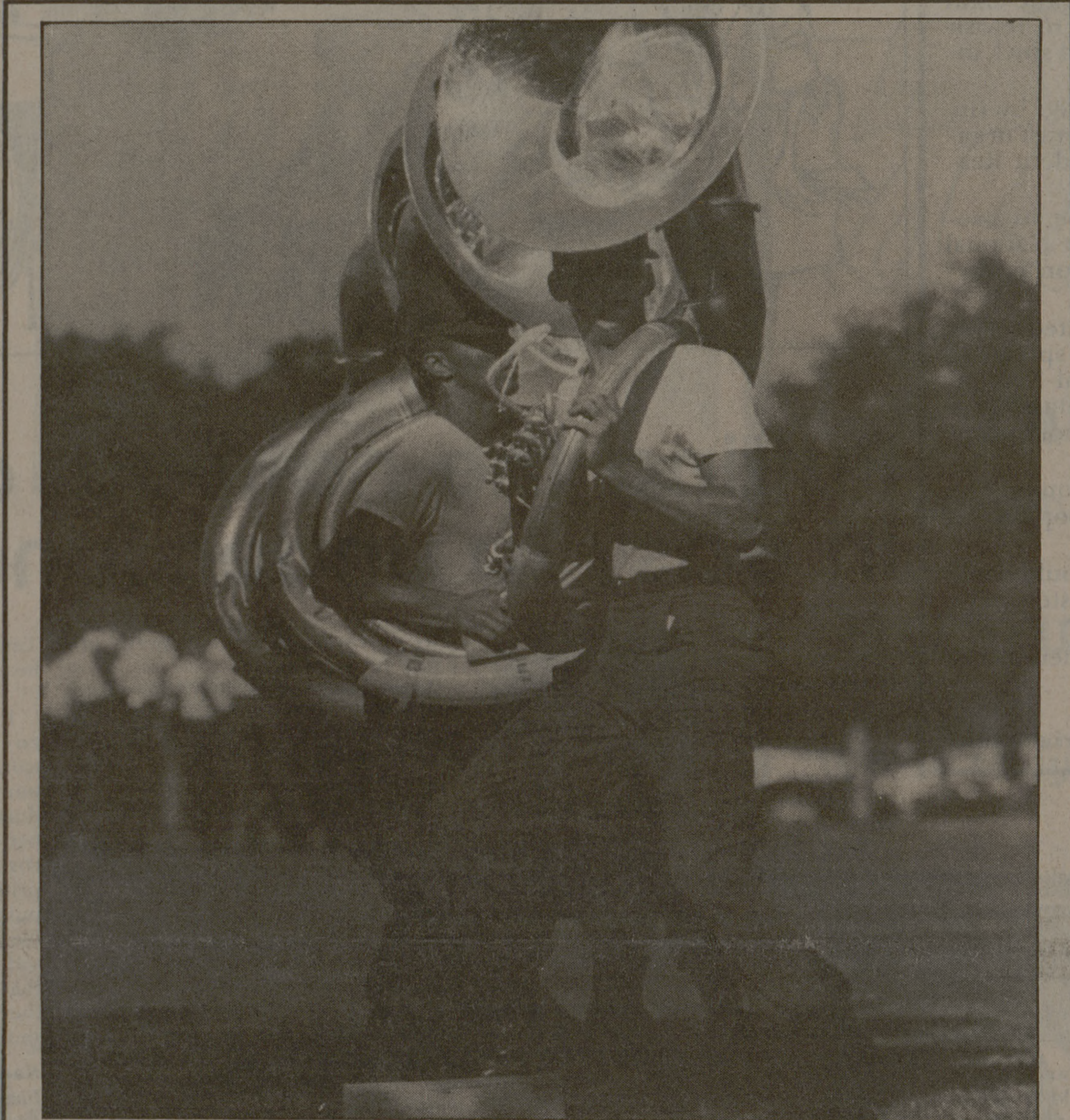


Photo by DEREK BERCHER

Caution: Wide Load

Freshmen bass players Steve Pless (front) and Kent Thomas sharpen their marching and precision skills in turning at their daily practice of the Aggie

Band. The band practices on the General Ormand S. Simpson Drill Field near Underwood Hall Monday through Thursday.

Less students seek degrees in agriculture

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

The farmers are still fighting at Texas A&M, but because of national farm problems and the publicity surrounding them, fewer undergraduates are opting for agriculture degrees.

Since 1977, undergraduate enrollment in agriculture programs across the country has dropped 21 percent, a recent article in the Wall Street Journal reported. Within the same time frame, A&M's agricultural student population has fallen 23 percent, or down to less than 3,300 students.

Dr. H.O. Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture, said he is aware of a downward slide in the number of agriculture students. Kunkel said the promising trends of the 60s and early 70s initially were reversed because students' perspectives changed.

The issue of the troubled farm economy has simply accentuated the enrollment drop in the last three years, Kunkel said.

"The main reason (for the change in '77) is people decided they wanted jobs," Kunkel said. "They didn't want to help people."

He added that students were no longer as interested in solving such problems as world hunger. "The dreams and heroes all died in 1977," he said.

The Placement Center reports that it placed one-fourth less agricultural majors in 1985 than in the preceding year. On the national scale the results are bleaker.

A survey by the College Placement Council states that compared to 1980, 66 percent fewer jobs were offered this year. But Kunkel said the jobs are out there, students just need to keep looking.

"Those that want to be placed are placed," he said, but many don't want to leave home, and consequently come up empty handed. Also, agriculture majors usually start trying to find jobs later in their academic careers than those students "well-tuned to the corporate world," he said.

A study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture not only backs up Kunkel's belief that jobs in agriculture are plentiful, but predicts a shortage of students to fill those jobs.

Agriculture schools will be able to supply only 65 percent of the 59,000 people yearly needed in agriculture employment, the study reports.

Kunkel said the College of Agriculture has no more than 10 percent of its majors in agriculture production management, such as farming, ranching, feed lots and poultry science, and this is where the student decrease has hit hardest.

Agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, animal science and biochemistry are on the upswing, Kunkel said, adding that not enough students consider food sciences or entomology.

He said the curriculum for agriculture students has been gradually updated to meet today's technical need.

"The vast majority of our students do take some computer courses," Kunkel said, adding that a one-hour computer introductory course is required for freshmen. Calculus is also a staple now for agriculture majors.

With regard to recruiting students for A&M's agriculture programs, Kunkel said, "I'm not sure we're very successful." Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo provides one of the University's largest endowments.

See Agriculture, page 16

Gloria

More than 100,000 flee homes to escape hurricane's wrath

Associated Press

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. — Hurricane Gloria raced toward shore Thursday, menacing every coastal hamlet and big city along a 750-mile swath from the Carolinas to New York and New England with 130 mph winds, pounding surf and torrential rain.

More than 100,000 people fled their homes in the face of Gloria,

one of the most powerful Atlantic storms this century, vacating resort bungalows in North Carolina's barrier islands and high-rise condominiums in Ocean City, Md.

In New York City, authorities closed down the twin 110-story towers of the World Trade Center, gambling was halted Thursday night at casinos in Atlantic City, N.J., and flights were canceled at Newark, N.J., International Airport.

Hurricane warnings flew from Little River Inlet, S.C., on the North Carolina border, northward to Plymouth, Mass. The center of the 300-mile-wide storm, which awed forecasters with its size and gale-force winds extending 200 miles north from its center, was due to hit land early Friday.

By Thursday night, the surge from the hurricane battered North Carolina's Outer Banks with 59 mph

gusts at Cape Hatteras, while high tides washed waves over Route 12, the main road along the islands. Waves 8 to 12 feet in height were breaking against the 3,000-pound sandbags surrounding the 114-year-old Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

One tornado touched down in Beaufort County, N.C., said Joe Dean, state secretary of crime control and public safety, but no injuries were reported. Authorities did not

know if the twister caused any damage because no law enforcement personnel were in the area.

At least 30,000 people had been evacuated on the North Carolina coast from Carolina Beach to the Virginia border, said Chrystal Stowe, spokeswoman for the state Emergency Management Division. Traffic was bumper-to-bumper on U.S. 74 west of Wilmington.

Texas schools to get new AIDS guidelines

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Guidelines being developed by state health and education officials will tell school districts there is no reason to ban AIDS victims from classrooms.

"It would be based on the knowledge that casual contact does not spread the disease," said Dr. Robert Bernstein, state health commissioner.

Bernstein and Texas Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby met privately Wednesday to discuss the guidelines. When completed, the guidelines will be sent to school districts as recommendations and information only.

"I don't think we have the authority to just go out and set rules on this thing, unless it becomes a serious problem," Bernstein said.

State health officials are unaware of any AIDS victims in Texas public schools, according to the commissioner.

"I am unaware of any problems, but I don't think we should wait for problems," he said.

Children stricken with AIDS have caused dilemmas in several states. Thousands of New York City parents kept their children at home after it was disclosed that, somewhere in the city, an elementary school student with AIDS was attending classes.

In Indiana, Kokomo school officials barred an AIDS victim from classes.

AIDS — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome — breaks down the body's ability to fend off disease. The illness is usually fatal, and no cure has been found.

Bernstein said parents in other states have over-reacted to AIDS victims in the schools.

"We should get the word out to districts and parents and the pub-

See AIDS, page 16

Group to review Corps' administration

By TAMMY KIRK
Staff Writer

A select committee has been chosen to meet with Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver to discuss restructuring the administration of the Corps of Cadets.

"In order to understand what the committee will be looking at in terms of the Corps, you've got to understand that we're (the administration) working through two channels," says Col. Donald Burton, commandant of the Corps of Cadets and a member of the select committee.

The administration deals separately with the Reserve Officers Training Corps program, which represents the academics of the Corps, and with the Corps as a student organization, says Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services.

The reason for the different channels is that not all cadets are involved in the Corps ROTC program. As freshmen and sophomores, cadets must be involved with the ROTC, which includes taking mili-

tary science classes. But when cadets become juniors, they have the option of deciding whether they will take ROTC contracts or stay with the Corps as the student organization.

There are three departments of the school of military science, Burton says. The departments are air science, headed by Col. Joe Byrd; naval science, headed by Col. Richard McPherson; and military science, or army, headed by Burton.

"As instructors, we are all equal," Burton says. "We're all officers on active duty. Anything we do with the Corps (student service-wise) is in our spare time."

Koldus says that these officers are not employed by the University, but by their respective military branches. As far as the academic administration is concerned, Burton, Byrd and McPherson report to Howard Perry, associate vice president of student services and acting head of the school of military science.

But as far as the non-ROTC administration is concerned, Koldus says Burton reports to him, and Byrd and McPherson are deputy

commandants under Burton. Burton says he is responsible for "Corps life," which includes providing housing, clothing and food for the cadets. His job also includes administering corps activities and programs through the Corps Staff.

When Lt. Gen. Ormond Simpson was employed by the University as assistant vice president of student services, he was both the head of the military science program and the Corps student services program. So, whether it was academics or non-ROTC, the Corps administration reported through Simpson to Koldus. But Simpson announced his retirement at the end of August and the position has not been filled.

"The nice thing about Simpson's position was that it tied it (both academic and student services) all together," Burton says.

The committee is set up to discuss certain things, Burton says. First, the committee will examine the Corps administration's relationship to the University. For example, what is the status of the commandant and the staff? Does the University need to

expand the staff, for example, replacing Simpson's position? Does it want to employ a payroll commandant?

And the committee will discuss any other matters concerning ROTC and non-ROTC programs.

The other five members of the select committee are

- Edward Aldridge, undersecretary of the Air Force.

- Rear Admiral George M. Furlong, Jr.; U.S. Navy; Deputy Chief, Naval Education and Training Command.

- Gen. P.X. Kelley; Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

- Mr. Fred McClure; Special Assistant to the President for Senate Liaison.

- Mr. James H. Webb, Jr.; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

- Brigadier Gen. Myrna Williamson; U.S. Army; Commanding General, 3rd United States Army ROTC Region.