

# State and Local

Aid available to pay student loans

## Program to help new physicians

By JEANNE ISENBERG  
Reporter

The first few years after the completion of medical school can be tough ones, especially for the physician who has student loans to repay.

Not only is he challenged by the stresses of his new job, but he also may have to deal with the debts incurred by his education.

Now, with the aid of the Physician Student Loan Repayment Program, newly-licensed physicians can pay off debts while practicing medicine the same time.

The Texas College and University System Coordinating Board is inaugurating a new program designed to pay up to \$3,000 in student loans every year spent working in Texas rural and inner-city areas with

health care shortages, or with patients of designated state agencies.

Deborah Bay, director of public information for the Coordinating Board, says the program was set up by the Texas Legislature last spring to encourage physicians to practice in underserved areas or with state agencies in need of their services.

The board hopes this program will deal with the problem of uneven distribution of physicians by providing good incentives to work in these areas and agencies, Bay says.

Mack C. Adams, assistant commissioner for student services for the Coordinating Board, says the yearly loan repayments are an option for up to five years, providing the student with up to \$15,000 in aid.

The amount of money issued to the physician each year by the state,

he says, depends on the amount of the individual debt and on how much of the debt normally would be due that year.

Applicants must be licensed graduates of accredited medical or osteopathic schools who finished their postgraduate work after May 1984, Bay says. They may apply for acceptance during their final year of training or when employment in the underserved area begins.

The rural and urban areas in Texas included by the program are designated by the state for those physicians who wish to go into private practice, Bay says.

The designated state agencies of the program include the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Texas De-

partment of Corrections and the Texas Youth Council.

The loans to be repaid must have been used for graduate or professional education, and the payments are made by the Coordinating Board to approved lenders such as banks, credit unions, universities and medical schools.

Bay says the Coordinating Board, which consists of about 37 universities, 49 community college districts, several public medical schools and a technical institute, saw final approval of the program in January and now is waiting for applications to start coming in.

To participate in the program or receive more information, Bay says, potential applicants can go to the financial aid office at their school or write the Coordinating Board in Austin.

## In Advance Regents to consider raising fees for Fall 1986 semester

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will consider proposed increases in parking permit fees, bus fees, student service fees and modular style dorm fees during two days of meetings which begin today.

A report from A&M President Frank E. Vandiver's office says a 5 percent increase in parking permits will be necessary for the 1986 fall semester. This increase is recommended in order to meet the funding requirements for the multi-level parking garage, scheduled for completion in late 1988.

Users of the off campus bus service can expect a 3.4 percent increase to \$46 per shuttle pass if the board accepts the proposal in Vandiver's report.

The report also proposes an increase in the maximum student services fees from \$54.50 per semester to \$61 per semester.

New modular dorm fees also may be raised by 4.3 percent, according to the report. The dorms affected include Haas, Hobby, McFadden, Clements, Neeley and Underwood.

The current fee for modular dorms, \$791, would be raised to \$825 if the increase is approved.

Also being considered is the establishment of an international student fee of \$21 per semester.

If approved, all fee increases would be effective for the Fall 1986 semester.

## Faculty Senate to debate change in A&M regulations

The Faculty Senate will hold a special meeting today at 3:15 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower to continue amending the core curriculum proposal and to consider changes in the University rules and regulations.

Also, the Senate will hear three resolutions from the Personnel and Welfare Committee, one urging state legislators to maintain and, if needed, increase the state contribution to retirement programs in Texas in order to achieve equality with comparable institutions.

The second resolution asks that President Frank E. Vandiver seek action by the Legislature to

provide free tuition for A&M employees and their dependents at state universities in Texas.

Another resolution asks that all campus classrooms have signs clearly displayed, stating a University regulation prohibiting the use of tobacco in classrooms and laboratories.

In other business, the Senate will amend and vote on the remaining two requirements of the core curriculum proposal. The remaining sections are cultural heritage and social science. Following the amendment process, which may be completed at this meeting, the Senate will vote on the core curriculum document as a whole.

## Congressmen say Texas city may get more Navy ships

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI — This Gulf Coast city's Homeport, to be located on Ingleside Point, could benefit from political debate over the Navy's plan to establish new battlegroups on the nation's three coastlines, two congressmen say.

Rep. Mac Sweeney, R-Wharton, and Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, said Corpus Christi stands to gain more ships in addition to the battleship USS Wisconsin and its four support vessels scheduled to arrive by 1990.

Congressional critics have criticized Homeport proposals at Everett, Wash., and Staten Island, N.Y., as politically motivated, unstrategic and costly.

Sweeney said it is only a question of when more ships will arrive at the expense of ports elsewhere.

"I see only the beginning of a buildup along the Gulf Coast," Sweeney told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "Without a doubt, Corpus Christi walked away with the big prize and, right now, the only prize that is secure."

Ortiz confirmed press reports quoting unnamed congressional sources that the House Armed Services Committee in a secret, 20-14 vote on Thursday, authorized spending \$412 million to renovate the Wisconsin.

Ortiz said Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and others could defeat funding for other ports in crucial test votes at various intervals over the summer.

Goldwater wrote Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger March 7, saying the homeport proposals were motivated by "unadulterated politics" and that he would not "take any

positive action on it in my committee."

A General Accounting Office report said earlier the homeport dispersal plan is costlier than stationing ships in existing ports.

But Sen. Phil Gramm, a leading Senate homeport advocate as Republican senator from Texas, said last week that Goldwater supports the Corpus Christi Homeport as the most economical.

As a result, spending for various ships and harbor facilities in the USS Iowa battleship group at Staten Island and at Navy facilities elsewhere, including Norfolk, Va., may be in trouble, said Ortiz, a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

"If that doesn't pass, this doesn't mean that we're going to get it for Corpus Christi, but it becomes a situation where it becomes doubtful whether they will have a homeport," Ortiz said in a telephone interview from Brownsville.

He said the Navy may have to consider stationing ships elsewhere at a time when the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico are the least protected yet the most threatened because of a Soviet presence at Cuba and Nicaragua. Corpus Christi would be a likely place for those ships, Ortiz said.

Sweeney, also of the House Armed Services Committee, said political considerations were apparent in the decision to put homeports at Everett and Staten Island. Major bases at San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk already protect those coasts, he said.

He said fleets anchored at San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk are victims of the "Pearl Harbor syndrome," while the Gulf Coast proposal is well-dispersed and less vulnerable to attack or a single knockout blow.

## Hearing on needs of state transportation to be held

University News Service

COLLEGE STATION — A hearing on state transportation needs will be conducted by the Texas House of Representatives Committee on Transportation March 25-26 at Texas A&M in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Texas Transportation Institute's Advisory Committee.

Testimony during the two days

will come from advisory committee members who are leaders in the state's transportation community. Speakers representing aviation, highway facilities, railroad, water, safety, and urban transportation agencies are expected to outline current status and the needs of their industries.

The hearing convenes at 2:45 p.m. March 25 in 301 Rudder. Leg-

islators expected to attend include Texas Sen. John Traeger, Sen. Kent Caperton and Rep. Richard Smith of Bryan.

TTI, judged by its peers to be the nation's top transportation research organization, is a University-based research organization that was created to serve all forms of transportation in the state.

Dr. Charley Wootan, director of

TTI, said, "The institute is charged to serve as a focal point for transportation research for various agencies of state government so that each agency does not have to develop and maintain its own research staff."

"We're looking forward to meeting with the House Transportation Committee once again to exchange ideas and information about issues that are so vital to our state."

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