



Clements seeks funds from PUF

From Staff and Wire Reports
AUSTIN — Gov. Bill Clements unveiled his long-awaited state budget Wednesday, proposing to finance it in part with \$276 million of the capital gains earnings from the Permanent School Fund and the Permanent University Fund. Lawmakers sharply criticized the idea of raiding the PUF and PSF when it was proposed last year.

A University of Texas official who manages Permanent University Fund assets reacted negatively to the Governor's proposal to use PUF and PSF funds to finance the budget.

"We think it is unacceptable and we plan to oppose it," said Michael

Patrick, UT executive vice-chancellor for assets management. "It would reduce the income generated by the PUF. It would impair the bonding situation of the two schools (Texas A&M University and the University of Texas)."

Patrick said he knew no details of the Governor's plans, such as what share of the \$276 million would be drawn from the PUF.

"This is basically no different than any of the other efforts to draw money out of the fund that we've seen in the past," he said. In August, House Speaker Gib Lewis proposed drawing \$1.1 billion from the two giant trust funds.

The proposed budget in general featured a "hold-the-line" spending plan and acknowledged the need to keep \$2.9 billion from temporary tax increases approved last year. Clements said his budget reflects the mood of the Texans who elected him over Democratic Gov. Mark White last fall.

"The time is past for business as usual, for the old politics of tax, tax, spend, spend, spend," Clements said in his State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature.

"The simple fact is that this budget holds the line on government spending while we get our economy moving again," Clements said.

Clements proposed total spending for 1988-89 of \$36.87 billion, an increase of \$766 million over current levels.

In presenting his plan to the Legislature, Clements also endorsed keeping the higher level of tax revenues that began Jan. 1 when "temporary" sales and motor fuel tax increases took effect.

Those hikes — passed by lawmakers last fall and signed by White — raised the sales tax rate from 4½ percent to 5¼ percent and lifted the motor fuel tax from 10 cents per gallon to 15 cents. They are scheduled to expire on Aug. 31.

But Clements said in his 35-min-

ute speech and at a subsequent news conference that the extra \$2.9 billion raised by those temporary levies still will be needed after Aug. 31.

He said he would sign legislation to keep that additional money flowing into the state treasury.

Clements said he favors restructuring the sales tax system to lower the rate — to perhaps 4 percent or 4.5 percent — while expanding the base to include services not now taxed. He also voiced support for lowering the fuel tax to 13 cents per gallon.

The extra \$2.9 billion is the limit for any tax bill sent him by the Legislature, Clements said. "I will veto

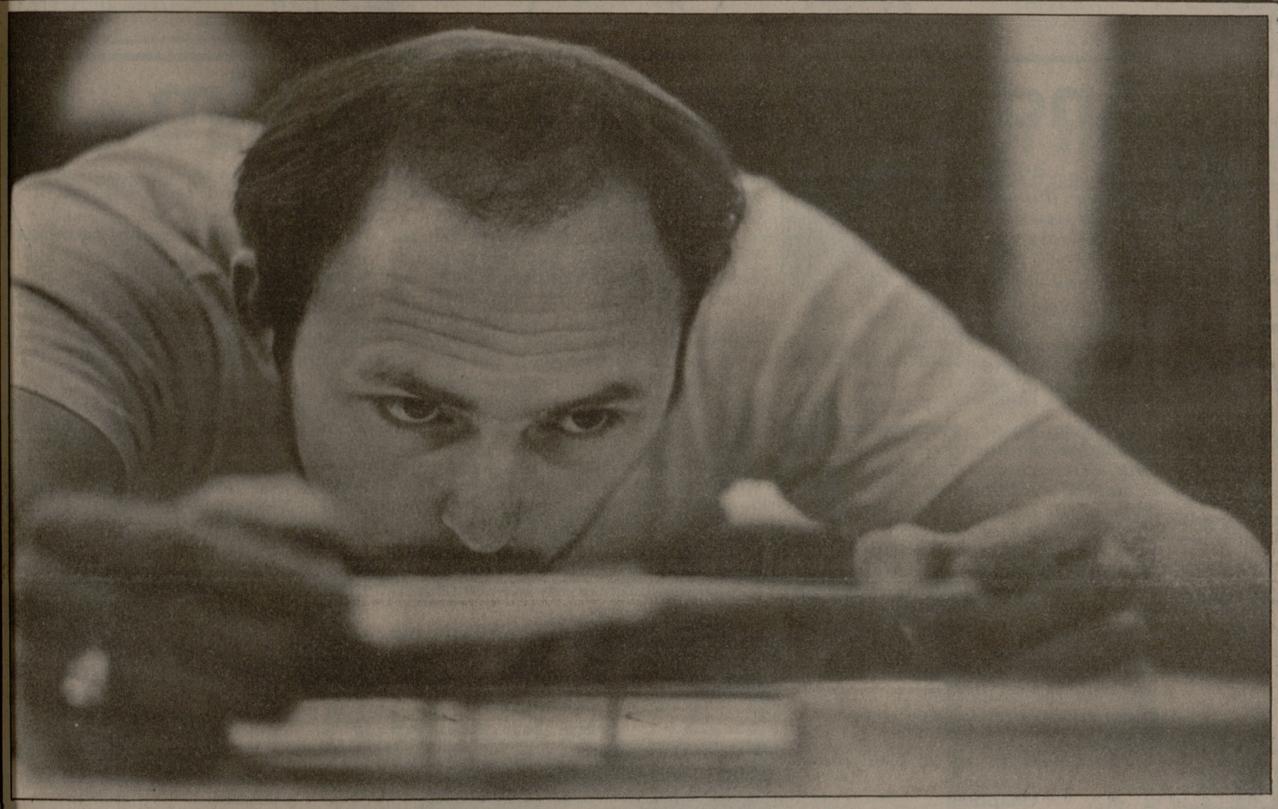
any plan that increases revenues above current levels. . . I will veto a \$5.8 billion tax hike."

Comptroller Bob Bullock has estimated that lawmakers face a \$5.8 billion deficit over the next 30 months.

During his campaign, Clements criticized White for signing the temporary tax increase into law.

On Oct. 1, one day after White signed it, Clements campaign manager George Bayoud — now the governor's executive assistant — said Clements wanted Texans to "fully realize Mark White gave them the tax increase and Bill Clements is the

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Sizing It Up

Pedro Samaniego, a senior environmental design major from Laredo, carefully fits a piece of the roof onto his model of a gas station at Lan-

ford Architecture Center Wednesday night. Samaniego's model was part of a design class project.

Photo by Dean Saito

A&M research leads company to new product

Firm provides 'yes or no' test for dangerous mycotoxins

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

For the past six years the Maryland-based firm Diagnon Corp. has occupied its time and energies with medical research. But when the firm decided to branch out into agricultural and veterinary research it headed to Texas A&M.

Bill Gordon, Diagnon vice president for research and development, read an article about three A&M researchers developing a system for the simplified identification of almost 200 toxic chemicals and decided A&M was the place for his firm.

The company got in touch with Dr. Melvin DeGeeter, coordinator for research development with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and the wheels for a joint agreement for manufacturing the product began to spin.

The development that caught Gordon's eye was pioneered by Timothy Phillips, Beverly Clement and Norman Heidelbaugh, also with TAES.

The trio found a way to transform complicated laboratory techniques and tests into a "yes or no type test" for discovering mycotoxins, DeGeeter said.

Mycotoxins, or mold toxins, are poisonous chemicals produced by several types and combinations of fungi that can cause disease in both humans and animals who consume contaminated agricultural products.

The test operates on a similar scale with "any of the at-home pregnancy tests you can buy," Gordon said. "It simply reads either yes or no."

The real advantage of the test, Gordon said, is that it can be performed outside of a laboratory and the tester is not exposed to any toxic or hazardous substances. The only thing the tester touches is the sample taken from the fruit or grain being checked.

The test, in part, involves placing

the sample inside the testing canister and shining an ultraviolet light at it, DeGeeter said.

The test was developed in part by \$33,000 in assistance from the Texas Advanced Technology Research Program and should bring at least \$2.4 million.

Gordon said the test will benefit any manufacturers of fruit or grain products. This includes companies like Kellogg's, General Mills, and pet food companies, he said.

"The poultry industry has seen a big result in the elimination of mycotoxins from the feed given to chickens in the form of larger eggs and such," Gordon said.

Not only do the chickens, dogs and people of the world benefit from this advancement; A&M and Diagnon benefit as well.

DeGeeter said the arrangement is a "very nice partnership approach." "When they manufacture (the test) A&M gets up front a license fee and then royalties," he said.

DeGeeter said A&M is in the research business, not in manufacturing, but is quick to see potential.

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Five cadets sentenced for assault at bonfire

By Curtis L. Culberson
Staff Writer

Five of the six freshman cadets charged with Nov. 18 misdemeanor assault of a female cadet at the bonfire site were sentenced Wednesday to six months deferred adjudication, while the sixth cadet had his case dismissed.

Defense attorney Henry C. Paine said the most important condition of deferred adjudication is that the five cadets don't violate any state laws. The cadets also must fulfill a community service requirement, to be decided later, Paine said.

Justice of the Peace Wesley Hall

will delay judgment on the case for a six-month probationary period. If all conditions are met, the judge will not find the five guilty and the offense will not become part of their records.

Brian MacManus, James L. DeRose, Andrew C. Cooper, Cody Scogin and William Paul Miller all pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor assault of Simone Weaver. Clinton D. Taylor had his case dismissed because the case against him was weak, Paine said.

Interim Corps Commandant J. Malon Southerland would not reveal what, if any, disciplinary action the

University had taken against the cadets, saying that information was protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

The charges stem from a Nov. 18 attack in which five men knocked Weaver off the 55-gallon drum she was standing on to direct traffic. When she got back onto the barrel, she said, the five returned and forcibly dragged her from the bonfire perimeter.

Southerland said that male-female relations in the Corps are not a problem and that the case was an isolated incident.

Southerland said he thinks the ca-

detts involved have realized that they made a mistake and that anyone should be able to work on bonfire, regardless of sex.

Southerland's sentiments were echoed by bonfire adviser William Kibler.

"Women are equally entitled to participate in all the activities of bonfire as much as men," he said.

Kibler said University policy clearly prohibits behavior such as the assault against Weaver and said measures to prevent such an incident were already in place.

Financial aid director: Pell Grants, GSLs to suffer

By Audrey Cardenas
Reporter

If Reagan's proposed 1988 fiscal budget is passed by Congress, many Texas A&M students may find that some of their current financial aid opportunities will become nonexistent in future semesters, said Taft Benson, A&M student financial aid director.

According to the proposed budget, domestic spending will decrease while revenues for Reagan's defense programs will increase. The decrease in domestic spending will affect higher education and, more specifically, federal financial aid, Benson said.

To A&M students, this means reductions in the number of Pell Grants and Guaranteed Student Loans awarded and possible elimination of the College Work-Study program and the State Student Incentive Grant, he said.

"I was surprised," Benson said. "It was more drastic than I expected."

In October 1986, Congress reviewed, changed and reauthorized the existing financial aid services, and now is eliminating these same programs.

The Pell Grant, which is the largest federal supplement, would experience a drop from \$3.8 billion in 1987 to an estimated \$2.7 billion in 1988. It would then decrease in 1989 to \$2 billion, where it would remain.

Since the largest amount of federal grant money comes through Pell Grants, most students relying on financial aid receive these grants, Benson said.

"There are 3000 students that receive Pell Grants," he said, "and more than one-third will lose those grants altogether."

The federal government will also reduce its support for the GSL program by an estimated \$1.1 billion in 1987.

To help cover shortfalls in the Pell program, Benson said, \$2.7 million will be transferred from

GSL funds, which will aid in the reduction of the GSL program. Also, students will be unable to receive a GSL through the short-



needs test, Benson said. Under this test, a student's family shows that their adjusted gross income does not exceed \$35,000 per year. In 1988, students seeking a GSL will be denied this short-cut method and will have to fill out a Financial Aid Form, he said.

According to the budget, those students who do receive GSLs would be required to pay an insurance fee to cover the costs of defaulted loans, and would also be subject to higher interest rates than in the past.

Drastically affected by the financial-aid cuts will be the College Work-Study program, which currently receives \$582 million from the federal government. After the revisions, the program will receive zero funding and will be eliminated, Benson said.

"College Work-Study provides money and job experience for the student and inexpensive labor for the University," Benson said.

He added that the University's budget is being severely tested right now and when cuts are made, the first thing eliminated is student jobs.

The 1988 budget also calls for reductions in the SSIG. This grant receives half of its funding through the state, and the federal government funds the remaining 50 percent.

However, according to the budget, in 1988 the government will eliminate its financial assistance to this program, which

leaves the state to finance it entirely.

This is unlikely to happen because of the poor state of the Texas economy, Benson said. He believes that the federal reductions will in effect kill the program.

But a new program that may help make up for some of the budget cuts is being tested by the Reagan administration.

The Income Contingent Program allows students to receive loans that could be paid back after graduation. The interest could also be deferred until after graduation, but as Benson points out, the interest rates will increase because they will be based on the student's income.

This program, receiving \$5 million in government funding, is currently underway at 10 universities across the nation, he said.

Bob D. Piwonka, manager of student financial services in the

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Waite tried by Shiites, TV reports

LONDON (AP) — Missing hostage negotiator Terry Waite has been taken before a drumhead court of radical Shiite Moslems and ordered "detained," the Independent Television network reported Wednesday.

Correspondent Brent Sadler said from Nicosia, Cyprus, that "a usually reliable Moslem source" reported that several Shiite fundamentalists appeared in the unofficial proceeding as witnesses against Waite, the personal envoy of Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie.

There was no corroboration and the Church of England said it had no confirmation that Waite, who dropped out of sight in Beirut on Jan. 20 to negotiate with kidnappers of foreign hostages, had become a captive himself.

The West German cable station SAT 1 said Waite was being held in the Lebanese capital by Hezbollah, or Party of God, and the radical Shiite group intended to try him. SAT 1 gave no sources and did not specify the charges.

It said Waite was being kept in Bir al Abid, a southern suburb of Beirut, and had never been taken to the Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon, as has been reported.

Hezbollah is believed close to, or synonymous with, the Islamic Jihad group that holds American and French captives.

Among the captives are two Americans for whom Waite was said to be negotiating: Terry A. Anderson, 39, chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press, and Thomas Sutherland, 55, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut.