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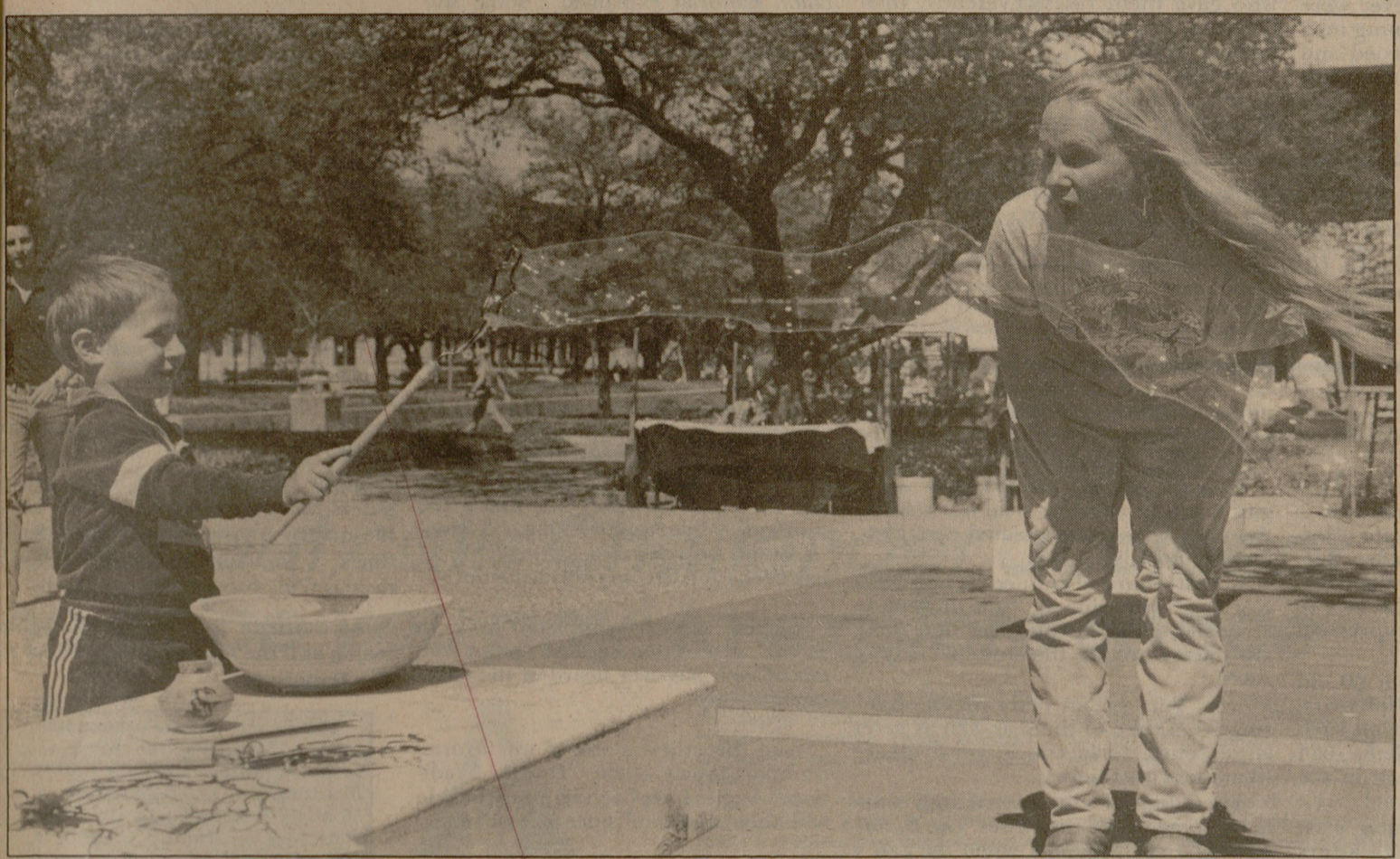


Photo by Tracy Staton

Mr. Bubble

Nadine Clements, right, teaches three-year-old Phillip Brooks how to blow bubbles with a star-shaped bubble wand at the MSC Crafts Fair

Tuesday. Clements is selling the wands at the fair, which continues through today between the MSC and Rudder Tower.

Judge decides Baby M lawsuit in father's favor

Surrogate contract upheld; Whitehead vows to appeal

HACKENSACK, N.J. (AP) — A judge awarded custody of Baby M to her father Tuesday and stripped surrogate mother Mary Beth Whitehead of all parental rights to the child she bore under a \$10,000 contract.

In the nation's first judicial ruling on surrogate parenting, Bergen County Superior Court Judge Harvey R. Sorkow upheld the validity of the contract on the grounds that just as men have a constitutional right to sell their sperm, women can decide what to do with their wombs.

Immediately after William Stern won custody in the landmark case, his wife, Elizabeth, adopted the year-old baby, whom they call Melissa. The child has been in their care while the case was argued.

Sorkow ordered Stern to pay Whitehead the \$10,000 agreed to in the contract. That money had been held in escrow since the contract was signed.

Whitehead, who had vowed to appeal, awaited the ruling at her home after visiting with the baby earlier in the day and then stopping at a church to light a devotional candle.

The Sterns held hands in the crowded, locked courtroom throughout the 2½ hours it took the judge to read his ruling.

They clutched each other when the custody decision was announced.

Sorkow said the Sterns had shown a stable, secure, loving relationship, the ability to provide financially and psychologically for the future needs of the baby and "an ability to make rational decisions in the most trying of circumstances."

"The Sterns live a private, unremarkable life," the judge said. "Mrs. Whitehead seems not to have found the time for family therapy sessions while making herself and her children available to the media."

Sorkow also said the Sterns would better be able to explain to the child her unusual beginnings in the years to come.

The judge said the Whiteheads' life has been marked by domestic and marital instability and that Mrs. Whitehead has been shown to "impose herself" on her two other children.

"Too much love can smother a child," Sorkow said.

The judge, who made no provision for Whitehead ever to see her daughter again, condemned her as impulsive and exploitive and said she either selectively omitted information or lied outright during testimony about aspects of her life.

"This inability to tell the truth establishes a tarnished . . . environment" for raising the child, the judge said.

Whitehead, who was artificially inseminated with Stern's sperm, said she realized during the baby's birth March 27, 1986, that she could not give up her daughter.

She refused her \$10,000 fee and fled to Florida with the infant when the Sterns obtained a court order

giving them temporary custody. For 87 days she moved from relative to relative, until authorities tracked her down and returned the chubby, blue-eyed girl to the Sterns.

The couple — he a 41-year-old biochemist and she a pediatrician — sued for permanent custody, setting the stage for Tuesday's landmark decision.

The precedent set by the judge's ruling applies only in New Jersey, but will have implications for other courts, religious leaders, politicians considering laws on the issue, adoption advocates, potential surrogates and childless couples.

Since the first birth under a surrogate contract in 1976, about 500 babies have been born under similar circumstances, but no state has regulated the practice.

The child's court-appointed guardian, attorney Lorraine A. Abraham, recommended that the Sterns get custody and that Whitehead be denied visitation rights for at least five years.

The three-month trial stirred up a worldwide debate over surrogate parenting.

Opponents maintain the practice amounts to baby selling and exploits women, while supporters endorse it as one way for childless couples to become parents.

The Vatican condemned surrogate motherhood last month, saying it "offends the dignity of the right of the child," and feminists picketed at the courthouse to support Whitehead, saying that no mother should be forced to give up her baby.

Attorneys for the Sterns contended the surrogate agreement reached Feb. 6, 1985, was valid because all involved knew what they were signing.

But Whitehead testified she did not read the contract until after the custody battle began.

Candidates relinquish their records

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

All nine student body presidential candidates turned in preliminary spending records by 7 p.m. Tuesday, an election commissioner said, and the actual reviewing process will start after Wednesday's election.

Derek Blakeley, one of the two election commissioners, said that while all candidates did not get their records — photocopies of receipts and a list of unused materials — in by the 5 p.m. deadline, all had complied with the commission's decision and submitted material by that evening.

After six candidates filed an over-spending complaint against candidate Miles Bradshaw Monday afternoon, the commission required all candidates to prepare and submit preliminary spending reports by Tuesday evening to prove they are under the \$300 campaign expenditure limit.

Because of the time involved with running the election, Blakeley added, the actual investigation will probably not be in full swing until Thursday, at which time the commissioners will call printing shops and lumber stores to check on the prices listed on the receipts.

Questions had arisen about a clause in the election guidelines which states that reported expenditures must be "consistent with accurate local retail values as determined by the Election Commission." Some candidates felt that all materials used must be judged by local costs.

However, Blakeley said the rule was used to judge the value of material acquired as gifts, not all material used in the campaign. "Local retail value is not intended to mean that people can't buy things in their home towns," Blakeley said. "That rule has never been that strictly interpreted in the past, and it isn't now."

Telephone preregistration to begin; students warned to check for blocks

By Daniel A. La Bry
Staff Writer

Touch-tone telephone preregistration for fall will begin Monday and continue through April 24. Preregistration for the first summer term and the 10-week semester will be from April 27 to May 15.

To prevent unnecessary delays, all students preregistering for fall and summer classes are encouraged to go by the Pavilion starting today to make sure they aren't blocked.

Lists will be posted in the Pavilion by social security numbers in descending order with the department that has the student blocked.

Donald Carter, associate registrar, said students on the block lists won't be allowed to register. Since students have only one day in which they can preregister, he said, blocks not cleared before a student's designated day will result in waiting until the open registration period.

Students have from today until their designated registration day to clear blocks to avoid the delay.

Starting Monday, pictures for student I.D. cards will be taken in the Pavilion from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the student's convenience, Carter said.

Although I.D. card pictures will be taken throughout the entire summer, Carter said students taking them early would avoid the lines in August. I.D. cards taken early will be mailed during the summer.

Carter said the telephone registra-

tion system, used for the first time last semester, worked well and had just a few minor problems. For a university the size of A&M to implement a system that worked so well the first time is impressive, he said.

To increase the efficiency of the system, the phone company changed the exchange of the registration number from 845 to 260. Last semester's 845 exchange caused an unexpected overload for the phone company because it is the same exchange as University telephones. Carter said the 260 exchange should give better access to the telephone registration system for all students — both on- and off-campus.

At the suggestion of the phone company, Carter said, the University also has broken up the registration schedule alphabetically to decrease the number of calls per day and cut down on the waiting time.

For summer registration, a limited number of terminal operators will be available in the Pavilion from June 3-11 for students having problems with the touch-tone telephone registration and drop-add or who have "raise limits." Terminals will be available from Aug. 24 to Sept. 4 for problems with fall registration.

Detailed telephone registration instructions can be found in the class schedules for fall and summer. Schedules are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Heaton Hall.

Preregistration schedule

1987 Fall Telephone Registration

Seniors
 • April 6 A-G 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 7 H-O 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 8 P-Z 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Juniors
 • April 9 A-G 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 10 H-O 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 • April 13 P-Z 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sophomores
 • April 14 A-G 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 15 H-O 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 16 P-Z 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Freshmen
 • April 17 A-G 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 • April 20 H-O 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 21 P-Z 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Graduate students
 • May register at any designated time from April 6-24.

Fall 1987 Open Registration and Drop/Add

• April 22-23 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • April 24 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

1987 Summer Telephone Registration (First Term & 10-week)

• Graduate students April 27 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • Seniors April 28 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • Juniors April 29 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • Sophomores April 30 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • Freshmen May 1 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Summer Open Registration and Drop/Add

May 2-15
 • Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
 • Friday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 • Saturday 7 a.m. - noon
 June 1-4
 • Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.

A&M salaries below national average

Coordinating Board figures say faculty pay gap has risen since 1984-85

By Amy Couvillon
Staff Writer

Faculty salaries at Texas universities for 1986-87 are almost 9 percent lower than the national average, a difference that has increased substantially since 1984-85, according to figures released by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

Texas faculty members, along with the rest of the state, are feeling the negative effects of the budget crisis begun by the decline in oil and gas prices.

"It certainly is a serious problem," said Don Brown, assistant to Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth.

As a whole, Brown said, other states are paying their faculty more and increasing their salaries faster than Texas.

And the gap is widening. The figures, released last week, show that for 1984-85, the average Texas salary in all faculty levels was only 1.7 percent behind the U.S. average. In 1985-86, however, the

Texas salaries were 4 percent behind the average, and according to the 1986-87 figures, Texas lags behind by 8.9 percent.

Texas salaries are not getting lower; in fact, the report shows an

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— Don Brown, assistant to Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth

increase of 1.3 percent from last year. But compared to the last year's average increase of 6.9 percent across the United States, Texas is not keeping up.

"Our ability to bring better faculty members to Texas — and hold on to the best and the most mobile faculty members — will be hurt quite severely," Brown said, "if the faculty salaries in Texas do not catch up, not

only with the national average, but with the states that we're most often competing with."

Texas competes for quality faculty with the 10 most populous states, he explained. The Coordinating

Board's figures show that these states are even further ahead of Texas in faculty salaries. Texas' first four levels of faculty (professor, associate professor, assistant professor and instructor) are earning an average \$33,572 annually, compared with \$36,850 nationwide and \$39,817 in the 10 most populous states.

Dr. Clinton Phillips, Texas A&M

dean of faculties and associate provost, said the problem of faculty members leaving A&M for economic reasons is worse than in past years, but added that A&M has been able to reduce the number of losses this year by using some of the \$3.3 million allocated from the Available University Fund last fall.

"We still have money that we can use if a faculty member gets an offer, to match it or try to do something," he said. "Some people have called it shark repellent."

The AUF money was allocated by the Board of Regents after last summer's two special legislative sessions to supplement faculty salaries and counteract offers from out of state.

"The ideal way to handle these matters is to not let salaries get too low," Phillips said. "That causes people to start looking elsewhere."

"And so when we got the AUF money, we did put a significant part of it into just raising the salaries of people that we were trying to retain."

Some of the AUF money is still

available, he said, and is being used to supplement salaries.

"It's helped us keep from losing more than we would otherwise have lost," he said.

Brown said Texas faculty salaries were equal to and above the national average in the early 1980s, which helped to bring faculty to Texas.

"But that ability that we had during that period to attract fine faculty members here has clearly been harmed," Brown said.

Brown said A&M and the University of Texas have traditionally paid their faculty more than the Texas average.

But Phillips said he doesn't think A&M's faculty salaries are above the Texas average, mentioning that UT and the University of Houston, in the last figures released, ranked above A&M in average faculty salaries.

In a March 9 speech to the Faculty Senate, A&M Chancellor Perry Adkisson expressed concern about fac-

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