

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 162 USPS 045360 8 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, June 16, 1987

Regents favor access fees for computers

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

Students will pay a computer access fee beginning Sept. 1 to be used to upgrade and maintain Texas A&M's computer facilities, the Texas A&M Board of Regents decided Monday at its regular meeting. The University will charge students \$3 for each semester credit hour during the fall and spring semesters and \$1.50 for each semester credit hour during the summer terms. Students who register in absentia or for a course to be taken off campus are exempt from the charge.

The proceeds from the fee will be used "exclusively to provide students with access to computing and computing services for instructional purposes," according to a report issued by A&M President Frank E. Vander.

Student use of computing facilities doubled during the 1985-86 school year, another report to the Board states, causing an increase of \$1.8 million in total costs to provide the services.

In a study by the University of Washington, 52 universities nationwide were surveyed on their practice regarding student computing fees. Of the 43 universities which responded to the survey, 12 of the surveyed universities, including A&M, or 28 percent, said they were considering or planning to implement a fee. Fifteen, or 35 percent, already impose a fee and 16, or 37 percent, don't plan to charge students a computing fee.

At the end of the meeting, A&M Chancellor Perry L. Adkisson told reports that a broader-based support for appropriate education funding must be generated before the Texas Legislature convenes its special session Monday. The 70th Legislature ended without agreeing on an appropriations bill for the next biennium.

Since 1985, biennial operating general revenue appropriations to higher education have been reduced by \$645 million, a reduction of \$77 million for A&M, he said. These cuts have caused the nation's academic and economic communities to question Texas' commitment to education, Adkisson said.

"Recruiting of top scholars today

is more difficult than in 1985," Adkisson said. "Retention of our bright and mobile young faculty is less certain. It is clear that the morale of our faculties is declining. Unless the perception of abiding and sustained commitment to education is clearly resurrected by the special session of the Legislature, the momentum generated during the past 25 years will be lost."

To adequately fund higher education, Adkisson said, the state must increase its revenue base, most likely by raising taxes.

In other business, the Board:

- Awarded a \$16.2 million contract for a five-story biochemistry and biophysics facility. The building, the first dedicated almost exclusively to biotechnology studies, will include 60 specialized laboratories, growth rooms, environmental chambers and two lecture halls.

- At the same time, the regents authorized the issuance of \$25 million in taxable Permanent University Fund bonds to build a companion building in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. The measure marks the first issuance of taxable bonds by a public Texas university. The building will be used by the Institute of Biosciences and Technology, which A&M recently established.

- Authorized the development of a plan to tear down the Southside Apartment complex south of Kyle Field. The 15 wood-frame buildings, built in the late 1930s, house married students and graduate students.

- Appointed Dr. Michael Martin McCarthy as dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, effective Jan. 1. He currently is the Elisabeth Murdoch Professor and associate dean of architecture and planning at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

- Appointed Dr. A. Benton Cocanougher as dean of the College of Business Administration, effective July 1. Cocanougher currently is provost and senior vice president at the University of Houston.

- Renamed the Meat Science and Technology Center the E.M. Rosenthal Meat Science and Technology Center. Rosenthal, Class of '42, is the president of Standard Meat Company in Fort Worth.

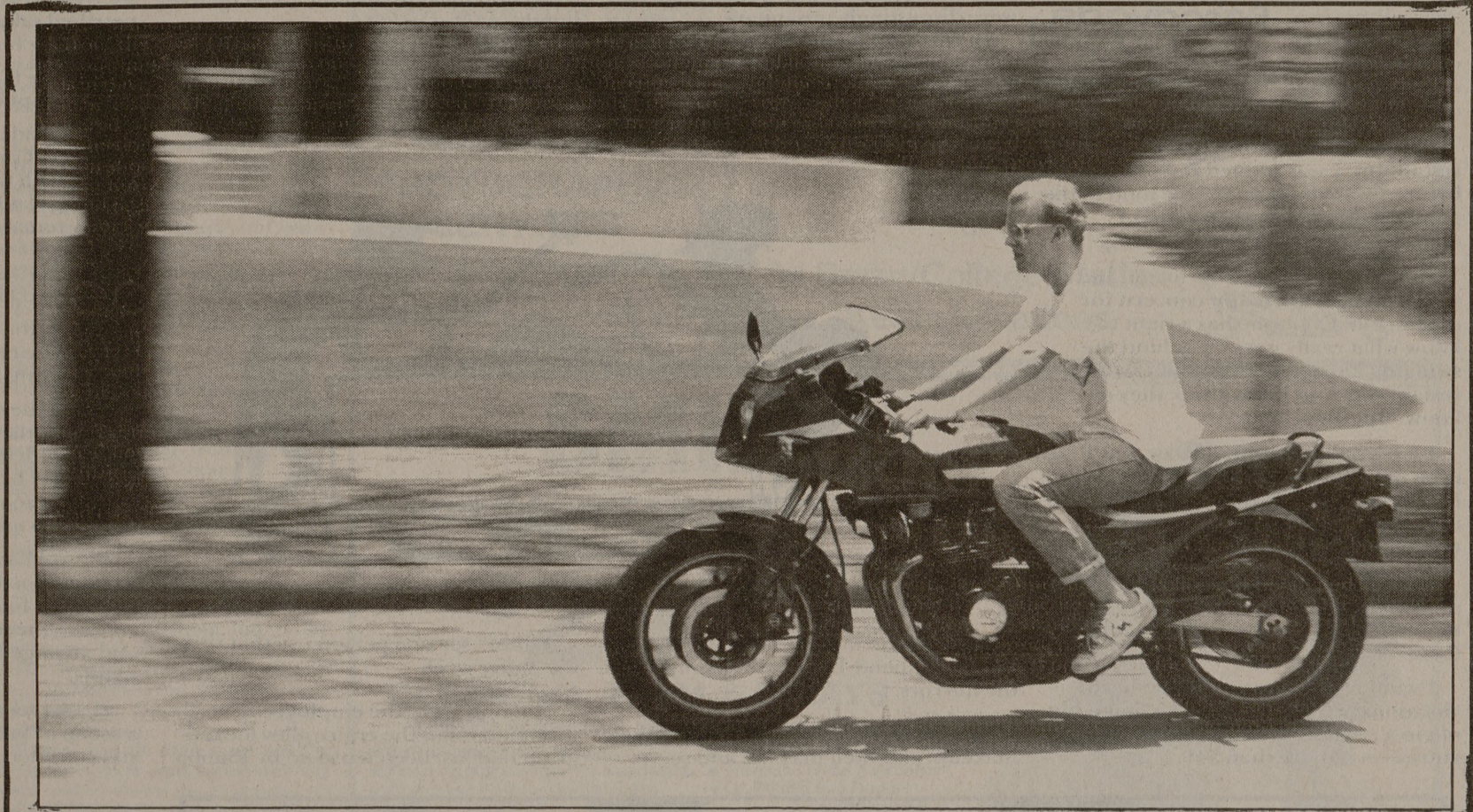


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Let The Good Times Roll

With rain out of sight for a while, some students are capitalizing on the opportunity to get out in the sunshine and ride around on two wheels. This student rides his motorcycle through the University cam-

pus near the Fermier Building. Monday's high was 96 degrees. Fair skies are expected to continue through the end of the week, with chances for evening showers.

Reagan: U.S. presence needed to cut action by Soviets in gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, trying to persuade a wary Congress that American warships must protect oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, warned Monday night that "if we don't do the job, the Soviets will."

"Our role in the gulf is vital," he said in a nationally broadcast address from the Oval Office. "It is to protect our interests and to help our friends in the region protect theirs."

Reagan also said allied support has cleared the way for a major arms-reduction agreement with the Soviets on short- and medium-range missiles in Europe. The next step, he said, could be a 50-percent cut in the superpowers' strategic forces.

On the domestic front, the president also chastised Congress for failing to come up with a deficit-reduction plan and called anew for a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and legislation permitting him to veto specific items in comprehensive appropriations bills.

Reagan reported to the nation on last week's seven-nation economic summit in Venice, a meeting that produced reaffirmations of economic agreements but no new initiatives. Summit partners gave the president diplomatic support — but no military muscle — for his policy in the gulf and complained about America's huge budget deficits.

"You've been hearing and reading reports that nothing was really accomplished at the summit and the United States in particular came home empty-handed," Reagan said. However, he said, the truth was that he achieved "everything we had hoped to accomplish."

Members of Congress, including some of the president's fellow Republicans, have complained that the administration is embarking on a risky course in agreeing to protect tankers owned by the tiny gulf nation of Kuwait by placing them under American flags and providing escorts by U.S. Navy warships.

Reagan's critics think the administration should have gotten a commit-

ment from America's allies in Western Europe, who depend far more on gulf oil than the United States, to help protect the Kuwaitis.

Noting the controversy over the reflagging of 11 Kuwaiti ships as U.S. vessels, the president declared, "We will accept our responsibility for these vessels in the face of threats by Iran or anyone else."

"If we fail to do so, simply because these ships previously flew the flag of another country — Kuwait — we would abdicate our role as a naval power," he said.

"And we would open opportunities for the Soviets to move into this chokepoint of the free world's oil flow."

2 admissions employees receive promotions

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

For over two decades the registration policies of Texas A&M have been influenced by the decisions of two men. Earlier this month their efforts were rewarded.

Long-time A&M admissions and records employees Robert Lacey and Donald Carter received promotions, after each having served the University for more than 20 years.

Former registrar Lacey replaces Ed Cooper as executive director of admissions and records. Cooper now is A&M's director of school relations.

Carter, who served as associate registrar under Lacey, was promoted to registrar following a total of 21 years of service in the office of admissions and records.

A new associate registrar hasn't yet been selected.

"Right now it is not a vacant position; it's just

that we have not filled it," Carter said. "We've done some reorganization here in the office and it's possible that someone will be named associate registrar later on, but we're not sure right now."

Carter also said registration policies won't be drastically affected under his leadership.

"I think that our registration system and our procedures in office, which I have been a part of for all the time I've been here, will not be affected," he said. "I don't foresee any drastic changes at all."

Destiny of Fraternity Row uncertain; financing houses may prove difficult

By Rosaline Aguirre
Reporter

Although a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday kicked off the grand opening of the new Fraternity Row, its destiny is shaky.

There was a previous development on Dartmouth Road called Fraternity Row which dissolved, resulting in several fraternities losing their deposits.

Robert Lane, marketing director for Area Progress Corporation, said he feels the University's recognition of the fraternities will cause growth which might give the fraternities a better chance at financing a new house.

"I would hope to have all the lots sold within five years," Lane said.

"From just seeing the growth of Texas A&M University right now, I think that you will see more growth in the fraternities."

But some fraternity members have mixed emotions about the advantages and disadvantages of the second Fraternity Row.

Tau Kappa Epsilon President Britt Terrell said there will be a tendency for each fraternity to

lose its individuality if all the fraternities are together.

"But, even if the disadvantages outweigh the advantages, you have to go with it because it's going to happen," Terrell said.

"And I know in five years there will be at least five fraternities out here, and they'll be the ones growing."

Tim Sweeney, associate director of student activities and interfraternity council student advisor, said that the development will be an advantage as well as a disadvantage for the fraternities who elect to move into a fraternity-row-type community.

"By being close to one another, communication will be better between fraternities, but they'll still be close enough to irritate one another," Sweeney said.

Bill Alston, a Kappa Sigma member, said the financing seems to be the key issue as to the success of a development like this.

And, he said, some fraternities just don't have the amount of money that it takes to finance a new house.

Financing for the houses is dif-

icult for many of the fraternities, and this is what will delay immediate construction, he said.

Although many of the fraternities' national charters will help in the financing of a new house, the initial money up front must be produced by the fraternities themselves.

The A&M fraternities could be faced with shelling out at least \$200,000 per house before the national chapters will even consider helping them get the rest of the financing needed, Alston said.

And, he added, raising the money will be difficult.

Lane said the fraternities are becoming stronger and more recognized by their national charters, and this will in turn help in the financing of their own houses.

Also, many of the fraternities presently own, rent or are obligated to long-term leases, so building a new house isn't their main priority.

This brings about another problem — that of moving to the new development.

High court: Jurors to ignore impact of killing on family

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a major setback for the victims' rights movement, the Supreme Court ruled Monday that the impact of a murder on the victim's family may not be considered when a convicted killer faces a possible death sentence.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices overturned the death sentence for a Maryland man who was convicted of brutally killing an elderly couple.

The court said the jury that sentenced the man to be executed may have been inflamed by evidence that the couple was dearly loved by family members who said they were devastated by the murders.

Gene Patterson, who is representing a coalition of victims' rights groups, said the decision "is a slap in the face to all victims of violent crime."

"It's a major setback to our movement because in essence the ruling says the rights of convicted murderers take precedence over the rights of innocent victims," Patterson said.

Victims' rights organizations argued unsuccessfully that society has a vital stake in meting out the harshest penalties in retribution for the harm done to families of those killed.

Monday's ruling applies only to capital punishment cases.

In the case, John Booth was sentenced to die for robbing and killing Irvin Bronstein, 78, and his wife, Rose, 75, at their Baltimore home on May 18, 1983.

Each victim was stabbed in the

chest 12 times and was bound and gagged.

Police said Booth and an accomplice were looking for money to buy heroin.

The jury that sentenced Booth to die heard evidence of the impact the crime had on the Bronsteins' son, daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter.

In two cases involving free speech, the court:

- Unanimously declared unconstitutional a sweeping Los Angeles International Airport ban on free-speech activities aimed at preventing distribution of leaflets and solicitation of contributions inside the terminal.

- Ruled that cities may not make it a crime to "interrupt" police officers in their work. The 8-1 decision struck down a 1956 Houston ordinance.

- Agreed to hear a Reagan administration appeal aimed at making it easier for people to file charges against employers in cases of job-bias.

The court said it will consider reviving a Colorado sex-discrimination case dismissed because deadlines for filing the complaint were missed.

- Let stand a ruling that police may require motorists suspected of drunken driving to submit to breath tests without first letting the motorists consult a lawyer.

The court, without comment, rejected the appeal of a New Jersey man who was not allowed to talk to a lawyer before taking a "breathalyzer" test to measure alcohol in his bloodstream.