

In Advance

Regents expected to confirm Moshier Defense Institute

By Richard Williams
Staff Writer

The Moshier Institute for Defense Studies at Texas A&M is expected to be approved officially by the Texas A&M University Board of Regents during their meetings Sunday and Monday in the Board of Regents Meeting Room in the Memorial Student Center.

The first meeting will start at 2 p.m. Sunday.

President Frank E. Vandiver announced early this year that he will resign as president and assume the directorship of the institute. His resignation is effective Sept. 1.

Vandiver's assumption of the directorship is subject to the approval of the Moshier Institute by the regents and Vandiver's official appointment as head by A&M Chancellor Perry Adkisson.

In an interview with *The Battalion* earlier this week, Adkisson confirmed that he would appoint

Vandiver as head of the institute. Edward J. Moshier, Class of '28, has said he will fund the Moshier Institute for 10 years at the rate of \$150,000 per year. The contribution will be used for operations rather than endowment, according to the proposal.

In other action, the Board is expected to:

- Award the bid for renovation of the Corps-style residence halls Crocker, Moore, Davis-Gary and Moses.

- Act on bids for dormitory modules for four new modular residence halls at A&M.

- Act on appropriation for the preliminary design for the \$17,500,000 University Center Expansion.

- Act on appropriation for the preliminary design for a satellite utility plant.

- Act on appropriation for the preliminary design of the Commons Dining facility addition and renovation.

Exotic animals guard livestock from predators

AUSTIN (AP) — Surrounded by dogs, donkeys and llamas, State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower announced a program emphasizing guard animals, including exotic ones, to solve the centuries-old problem of protecting livestock from predators.

"This is a dog and donkey show that is going to work for Texas," Hightower said.

Texas leads the nation in the number of sheep and goats, and in wool and mohair production, reaping annual sales of more than \$150 million, Hightower said.

"Unfortunately, Texas sheep, goat and lamb producers also lose more than 190,000 animals, valued at over \$9 million, every year to predators — many to coyotes," Hightower said.

He said the predator control program developed by the Agriculture Department and others "emphasizes the proven success of guard animals, such as dogs, donkeys and llamas, to reduce livestock losses."

Owners and handlers delivered testimonials for their particular

guard animals, which included three breeds of dogs, a donkey and a llama.

Durwood Kelley of Lampasas, a rancher, said predators, mostly coyotes, put him out of business in the late 1970s, when he discovered Great Pyrenees dogs from France.

"When we got the dogs, all at once our predator problem ceased right then," Kelley said. He now breeds the dogs and has over 300 in 11 states. "I know the dog works," he said.

Jean Ebeling of Marble Falls, a goat rancher, breeds Anatolian Shepherds, which come from Turkey. "We know we have to have dogs or we can't raise goats anymore," she said.

She described the shepherds as "extremely intelligent, lovable dogs who are perfectly safe with children. They will protect and love and try to nurture a baby of any species," she said.

Joyce Reavis, a sheep rancher who breeds Komondors, said the large dogs from Hungary are "very loyal and devoted, and they protect whatever is entrusted to them — sheep, goats, cows, turkeys, chickens, children."

David Carson of McDade, a cattle and donkey rancher, said donkeys are inexpensive to maintain and will keep pastures free of coyotes, wolves or feral dogs.

The president of the South Central Llama Association, Ken Craig, said llamas are naturally curious, "and because they follow that curiosity with an investigation, it creates an amount of pressure that a coyote just can't stand."

Craig, who also raises goats, said llamas will paw with their front feet, can kick with their hind feet and "can be provoked to spit" on predators.

Hightower said the Agriculture Department had been notified that Texas would be the third state to be allowed to use toxic collars to protect sheep and goats, but licensing procedures would be very restrictive.

Commissioner Hightower is to be commended for trying to use animals first, instead of chemicals, in predator control, Carson said. "Animals work. They're effective."

Company's effort to collect \$600 debt costs it \$625,000

(AP) — A company's efforts to collect a \$600 debt from the wrong man will cost the firm more than 1,000 times that amount, thanks to a jury's verdict.

Johnny W. Russell and his wife, Sharon, were awarded \$625,000 by a state court jury in their wrongful garnishment suit against Morgan Building Systems Inc.

Morgan had garnished Russell's checking account at Texas Commerce Bank for a \$600 debt, but the money actually was owed by another Odessa with the same name.

Meanwhile, the Russells found themselves embarrassed by hot checks, having their gas cut off and

Mrs. Russell being arrested.

Because the company made an attachment to the Russells' checking account, all checks they wrote for three weeks last October bounced, although they had money to cover them, said their attorney, John Green.

"As a result, they had eight or nine hot checks" circulating in the area and their credit rating was damaged, Green said.

The Russells sued Morgan and the bank for \$1.8 million, claiming the defendants were negligent in harming their character and reputation. State district Judge Joe Connally dismissed the bank from the suit.

The Russells said they didn't know the bank wasn't honoring their checks until their gas was shut off and Mrs. Russell was arrested on a charge of writing a hot check to a department store, Green said.

Morgan attorney Miles Nelson argued that the company made an honest mistake, but Green convinced the jury the company made more than an honest mistake because it refused to stop garnishing the account after Russell told the company's Dallas office that he owed no money.

A spokesman for Nelson said Monday the company planned to appeal.

Southwest Airlines stops serving free alcohol

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines Co. has made its last call on free alcoholic drinks, ending an era for a carrier once known as one of the busiest bartenders in Texas.

Earlier this year, Southwest corked the free booze on weekday flights during peak hours as a belt-tightening move, airline spokesman Charlotte Goddard said this week.

The Dallas-based company some time ago had stopped serving free alcoholic drinks on off-hour and weekend flights.

Goddard said she expected some adverse reaction, but not much. That's in part because she said offers will remain to frequent business travelers — the original targets of the free alcohol — for some drinks either discounted or on the house.

"We think our customers will understand that this was a business decision" to maintain competitive rates, she said. She also said Southwest's prices, \$2 for cocktails and \$1 for beer and wine, are similar to other airlines' menus and a bargain.

Still, it's a far cry from the past, when free-flowing alcohol was as much a part of the Dallas Love Field-based airlines' image with stewardesses clad in hot pants and the sexy

"Love" advertising campaigns.

As a fledgling intrastate commuter, Southwest had used booze to battle the big boys, Goddard said.

She said in the early 1970s, Braniff Airways and Texas International offered fares between Houston and Dallas for \$13. The corporate attitude at Southwest, where the same trip cost \$26, was

"No one's going to shoot Southwest out of the air for losing \$13," she said.

So Southwest gave Dallas-to-Houston passengers a choice — they could pay \$13, or \$26 and get a free premium bottle of liquor.

"Since many of the businessmen were on expense accounts, they paid

the higher fare and got the liquor," she said.

The offer became one of the most popular promotions at Southwest. In company lore, Goddard said, Southwest became the largest liquor distributor in the state.

Wynell Rafkin, a travel consultant with Travel Arrangements in Dallas, said she hasn't heard of any complaints from customers.

Mayor behind gasoline wars in McAllen

McALLEN (AP) — Gasoline prices have dropped by 10 cents or more at some stations around town since last week, and Mayor Othal Brand says he's responsible.

For two years, Brand has accused gas station operators of charging motorists in his city too much.

Then last week, the mayor, who heads a huge agribusiness firm, opened his company's gas pumps to the public at about 10 cents per gallon below the prevailing prices around town.

"There was some restraint of trade that was hindering competition," Brand said.

So he started selling the fuel for 76.9 cents per gallon for regular and 75.9 cents for unleaded. At the time, the median price for unleaded in the city was about 85.9 cents, while regular cost about 81.9.

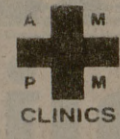
"I just decided that something had to be done about it," Brand said. "It didn't matter how cheap it got elsewhere, it never got cheap here."

All dealers appeared to be charging the same prices, he said. Since he opened to the public the

pumps previously reserved for the Griffin and Brand Inc. business vehicles and his company employees, Brand says many gasoline stations in the city have matched or beaten his prices.

The mayor's price war appears popular with many McAllen residents, but gasoline retailers think the mayor is wrong, said Malcolm Welch, district director of the Texas Oil Marketers Association.

"If he's going to pay his man and pay his rent," Welch said, "there's no way he's going to make a profit."



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