

The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for FRIDAY:
Arctic cold arrives. Partly cloudy,
windy and very cold. Slight
chance of showers.

HIGH:45

LOW:29

Senator: UT board nominees will be rejected

AUSTIN (AP) — A black senator said Wednesday he has the votes to reject Gov. Bill Clements' three recent University of Texas regent nominees, which would make the nine-member board all-white and all-male.

"The issue is how can the University of Texas stand alone in this state as a white, male bastion?" said Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston. "It has no right to be that."

"The UT board belongs to all those people of the state of Texas — an institution that you as a taxpayer and I as a taxpayer

have to support, and I think a majority of the people of the state of Texas are dissatisfied with those nominees," he said.

Washington spoke with reporters the day after the Senate Nominations Committee questioned for three hours regent nominees Robert Cruikshank of Houston, Tom Loeffler of Mason and Chester Upham Jr. of Mineral Wells.

Most of the criticism was directed at Clements' failure to name a woman or minorities, not at the qualifications of the three nominees.

Committee chairman Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, postponed a vote on the nominees so committee members and other senators could read a transcript of the hearing. Edwards also said he was writing Clements for a list of women and minorities that the governor has appointed to boards and commissions.

Washington said, however, he thought Clements had done "an excellent job in other appointments. I don't have any quarrel at all."

"In fact, this governor has the best re-

cord of any governor ever in appointing women and minorities to boards and agencies," he said. "But there is nothing different, there is nothing special about the University of Texas board of regents that puts it beyond the pale of the average citizen."

Washington said he had 14 votes to block the nominees. Senate confirmation requires two-thirds approval of those senators present, or 21 votes, if all 31 members answer the roll call.

"It doesn't have anything to do with any of the individuals or their qualifications,

they are eminently qualified," Washington said.

"My issue is, if we confirm these three people, we will go back 27 years — 27 years ago was the last time that the University of Texas board was all white male," Washington said. "We're not going to go back 27 years, we're going to go forward 27 years."

"I think it's time for us to take a stand as a body," he said. "You don't have to be a rich, white male to serve on the University of Texas board, and I'm going to prove that on the floor of the Senate."

Texas congressmen want chance to vote on salary increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — Only a handful of Texas congressmen would support raising their salaries by \$45,000 if House Speaker Jim Wright brings the sizzling hot proposal to a vote.

Most of their colleagues from the Lone Star State, however, say they want a chance to vote on the 50 percent pay raise and want to vote it down.

Although the heat may be white hot, Reps. Marvin Leath of Waco, Charlie Wilson of Lufkin, Mickey Leland of Houston and Jack Brooks of Beaumont say they support the raise.

Wright, a Fort Worth Democrat, had planned to allow the increase to become law Feb. 8 without a vote in the House. But now he says members can have a vote if that's what they tell him they want in a confidential survey circulated this week.

The speaker said he expected members to tell him what they already communicated privately: They want the raise without a vote, even if the Senate defeats the pay hike as expected this week.

Both houses of Congress must vote it down to keep the raise from taking effect.

"I think we'll get a vote on the pay raise," Rep. Jack Fields, a Humble Republican, predicted Wednesday, while calling the whole process "convoluted and deceptive."

In answering Wright's survey, Fields wrote: "My constituents are outraged not only with the excessive amount of the pay raise but also the process by which it is being implemented."

Other Texas congressmen also are frustrated with the process and the size of the raise. A presidential commission recommended the increase and former president Ronald Reagan put his stamp of approval on it before leaving office.

"It's just a little zinger from the president to Congress that he left us with," Rep. Ralph Hall, a Rockwall Democrat, said. "It's just an albatross around the neck of Congress as we

start with a new president."

Hall said the commission's recommendation has caused "more animosity and more acrimony from the people who elected us to those of us who are elected."

Congress is not only wrestling with the pay raise but is considering a ban on honoraria — the fees members of Congress receive for speaking to special interest groups — and closing a loophole that allows members of Congress in office before Jan. 8, 1980, to convert stockpiled campaign funds to personal use when they retire.

Eleven Texas House members would lose their right to convert thousands of left over campaign funds if the loophole is closed.

Rep. Bill Archer, a Houston Republican, has the greatest surplus in campaign funds in his war chest among the 11 — \$637,810 — and favors doing away with the loophole.

According to Federal Election Commission records, other "grandfathered" Texans and their totals:

Leath, \$486,033; Brooks, \$439,347; Rep. Martin Frost of Dallas, \$252,418; Rep. Kika de la Garza of Mission, \$174,778; Rep. Charles Stenholm of Stamford, \$146,801; Rep. Jake Pickle of Austin, \$140,496; Wilson, \$94,837; Wright, \$83,843; Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez of San Antonio, \$15,346; and Leland, \$13,916.

Sens. Phil Gramm and Lloyd Bentsen also are covered by the grandfather loophole. However, Bentsen, a Democrat who was just re-elected, ended his campaign with a debt of \$11,718, FEC records indicated, and Gramm, a Republican who has \$1.94 million, is up for re-election next year.

Lining up against a pay raise that would boost their salaries from \$89,500 to \$135,000 are both senators, Democratic Reps. Pickle, Stenholm, Hall, de la Garza, Frost, John Bryant of Dallas, Michael Andrews of Houston, Jim Chapman of Sulphur Springs, Greg Laughlin of West Columbia, Albert Bustamante of San Antonio and Bill Sarphalis of Amarillo, and Republican Reps. Fields, Archer, Dick Army of Copper Canyon, Lamar Smith of San Antonio, Joe Barton of Ennis, Larry Combest of Lubbock, Steve Bartlett of Dallas and Tom DeLay of Sugar Land.

Wright personally supports a 30 percent pay raise tied to a repeal of honoraria, a spokesman said.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Now, how did that get there?

Walter Riggle, construction superintendent from Spaw Glass Construction, stands next to a tree on the 8th floor of the new

petroleum engineering building. The tree, which was put up by the workers, stands as a symbol of the building's completion.

Alaskan cold front spreads 'big chill' over large portion of lower-48 states

Associated Press

The Alaska-born blast of cold air that struck like a hammer blow to the balmy Lower 48 pushed southward and eastward Wednesday, stretching the big chill from the Pacific to Oklahoma to the Great Lakes.

"February is going to be quite different from January," said Bob Snider, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Midwesterners who chuckled at the weather in Alaska over the weekend while polishing their golf clubs saw the winter storm come in with a

vengeance. Folks in the normally rainy Pacific Northwest coped with a rare snowfall, and Easterners counted the waning hours of springlike weather as the cold front moved their way.

As the cold pushed into the country Wednesday, temperatures fell 18 degrees in one hour at Ardmore, Okla., the National Weather Service said. Russell, Kan., which shared the nation's high of 84 degrees Tuesday afternoon, had readings in the lower teens a day later and wind chills in the 30-below-zero range.

Not counting Alaska, Cut Bank, Mont., was

the nation's icebox at midday Wednesday, with a reading of 31 below zero, and temperatures in the state were forecast to dip below 40 below by Thursday morning. Electric power in Great Falls, a city of 57,000, and several smaller towns in north-central Montana was knocked out for nearly an hour Wednesday morning when the Black Eagle hydroelectric dam broke down.

"We don't know what caused it," said Cort Freeman, Montana Power Co. spokesman. "There's a lot of things that can happen in weather like this."

Comptroller predicts 90,000 new jobs in '89

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's economy is rebounding toward health and a measure of that recovery is that 90,000 new jobs should be created in 1989, Comptroller Bob Bullock's office reported Wednesday.

Such a jobs gain would set a record of 6.7 million Texans gainfully employed by year's end, the comptroller said.

"Texas has weathered the oil-bust years well," Bullock said. "We've regained most of the ground we lost, and the state's outlook continues to improve."

The latest edition of "Fiscal Notes," published by the comptroller's office, reported that since the recession's low point in spring 1987, the state has gained 176,000 jobs and recovered 80 percent of the jobs lost during the bleak 1986-87 period.

Unemployment has fallen nearly three percentage points, to about 7 percent by the end of 1988.

"Assuming the U.S. economy remains healthy and oil prices are relatively stable in the current range, Texas' economic growth will continue through 1989," the publication said. "By the end of the year, recovery will turn into expansion as statewide employment surpasses its late-1985 peak."

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series of two stories on changes in the Athletic Department since the resignation of Jackie Sherrill in December. Today's story will focus on Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum.

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After a tough year both on and off the field, Texas A&M's football program is taking a new direction — one of "integrity first, winning second." Leading the way is Head Coach R.C. Slocum.

Slocum was named coach on Dec. 12 by University President William Mobley, after Jackie Sherrill resigned his position as football coach and athletic director. Slocum has been an assistant coach at A&M for 16 years. Mobley named John David Crow athletic director.

At the Dec. 13 press conference announcing Sherrill's replacements, Slocum made clear that integrity, not the Cotton Bowl, is the goal of the A&M football program.

"We're not kidding about the direction we're going," he said. "We're serious about it. I hope we can speak to other people across the country and without

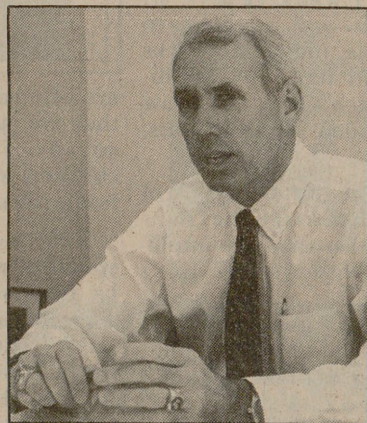


Photo by Jay Janner

R.C. Slocum

blinking an eye, tell them exactly what we're going to be about at Texas A&M."

But if actions speak louder than words, Slocum's directions have been a bullhorn. Assistant coaches George Pugh and Joe Avezzano and Strength and Conditioning Coach Keith Kephart were released from their duties in December.

Pugh and Avezzano allegedly lied to NCAA Infractions Committee investigators. Kephart was mentioned in a *Sports Illustrated* article in connection to ram-

pan use of steroids while he was a strength coach at the University of South Carolina.

Slocum also asked for a clause to be put in his contract calling for his automatic dismissal if anyone on his staff intentionally violates NCAA rules. Since his hiring and the Athletic Department dismissals, other changes have been made by President Mobley and himself, Slocum said.

"President Mobley has hired Larry Dixon as a full-time compliance officer," he said. "He will answer only to John David Crow and (Vice President for Finance and Administration) Robert Smith."

"We have installed a chain of command and a system of checks and balances. He (Dixon) oversees and monitors everything we do. He has access to all of our records and he reports only to Robert Smith."

"Dr. Mobley has sent a letter to all alumni asking them not to contact recruits or players. At all speaking engagements I attend, I tell both Aggies and friends that we need their support, but we need their support in an appropriate manner."

Slocum also has taken steps to prevent illegal contacts with players, he said. "Beginning this fall, we will close off

the locker room to alumni after all ball games," he said. "Parents will be allowed in, and recruits will be allowed in with a name tag. But there will be no alumni. It's a violation for an alumnus to even talk to a recruit."

"I'm not saying there was a problem before, but we just don't want to create a situation where there could be a problem. We're cutting it off before it becomes a problem."

One problem Slocum must deal with is this year's recruiting. A&M was guaranteed to be slow out of the blocks when the NCAA handed down its penalties in September, putting the Aggies on a two-year probation, cutting the University's scholarships from 25 to 20 and banning A&M from post-season play in 1988. The Aggies also were limited to seven assistant coaches who could recruit prospective student-athletes.

Just as the clamor was dying down after the penalties, a story in the *Dallas Morning News* quoting former player George Smith emerged. The November story opened A&M up to the possibility of the NCAA's "death penalty," even though Smith said he had lied in interviews with the *Morning News*. Sherrill resigned at the end of the fall semester.

Last week A&M reported the findings of its internal investigation to the

NCAA. The investigation found that Sherrill paid money to Smith, but it uncovered no evidence that it was "hush money," as Smith originally said.

The result of the past five months' roller-coaster ride has been a crippling of A&M's recruiting efforts. National signing day is Wednesday and A&M has eight non-binding commitments; but the University didn't receive its first until mid-January.

"All the hoopla in December didn't help us much," he said. "We were thrown in with (the University of) Oklahoma, (the University of) Houston and Oklahoma State (University). We've spent most of our time trying to defend ourselves."

But Slocum said A&M is not alone in its recruiting problems.

"No doubt it's a conference-wide problem," he said. "After our and UH's problems (with the NCAA), the Southwest Conference has a serious problem."

With those problems in mind, he said, all nine of the conference's football coaches got together to produce a video tape for recruits, spelling out that the SWC is committed to abiding by NCAA rules.

Other problems facing Slocum and the

See Slocum/Page 5