

The Battalion

WEATHER

FORECAST for FRIDAY: Partly to mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.
HIGH:50 LOW:31

UT regent nominee withdraws name

AUSTIN (AP) — A possible all-or-nothing showdown over three University of Texas regent nominees was averted Wednesday when Chester Upham Jr. of Mineral Wells, a UT graduate and former state Republican chairman, withdrew his name.

Gov. Bill Clements quickly appointed Dr. Mario Ramirez of Rio Grande City, who was honored in 1975 as a distinguished alumnus of UT, to fill the new vacancy.

Clements said Ramirez, 62 and a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, had been on his "short, short, short" list all along.

Upham was caught in the crossfire of legislative criticism over Clements' appointments, which would have left the regents with nothing but white male members.

"We cannot allow the educational debate to focus on political issues," Upham said. "Instead, we must put all our energy and efforts into improving the quality and accountability of education."

Clements, who 24 hours earlier had predicted all three of his initial nominees would win Senate approval, accepted Upham's request.

"This is Chet's decision," Clements said. "I explained to him this morning that I

wanted him on that board and was prepared to take it to the Senate floor."

He said he felt no pressure to make the regent change and was ready for all his original nominees to be presented to the Senate for confirmation. He said, however, Upham did not like "tone and tenor" of Senate opposition.

"If Mr. Upham had wanted to take it to the (Senate) floor, he had my total support," Clements said. "He knows that." Clements adding that neither of his other nominees had offered to withdraw.

The withdrawal of Upham, 63, leaves pending as UT regents former U.S. Rep.

Tom Loeffler of Mason and Robert Cruikshank of Houston.

Several senators had said the original appointments sent a signal that minorities were not welcome for such important appointments.

Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, said, "I'm grateful to Mr. Upham for having the sensitivity to withdraw. I think he is a very fine citizen for doing so."

"It does give the governor the opportunity to replace his nomination with a minority, and I'm grateful for that opportunity, as well," said Johnson, who is black. Another black senator, Craig Washing-

ton, D-Houston, said, "I'm saddened for Mr. Upham, because he got in the middle of something that obviously he didn't have much to do with. I'm also relieved that he averted a showdown between the governor's office and the Senate."

Washington had said 14 senators — or more than enough — were prepared to reject all three regent nominees if they came to a vote.

"Mr. Upham knew that I was behind him all the way," the governor said. "The only thing that happened here was that one of my candidates decided that he would withdraw . . . Therefore, I had an opening and Dr. Ramirez was my next choice."

Drop-out rate, tuition drive down number of college applicants

NEW YORK (AP) — A drop in the number of high school graduates and mounting concern over tuitions are driving down the volume of applications to some of the nation's most prestigious colleges for the first time in years.

Harvard University spokesman Peter Costa estimates a 5 percent to 10 percent drop in applications compared with a year ago, the first such decline in at least two decades. Nearly all other Ivy League schools are reporting declines in that range.

The application deadline for next fall's freshman class was Feb. 1 at many selective schools around the country.

Stanford University's fall applications have dropped about 6 percent, from 15,828 to 14,869, according to Lynne Madison, assistant dean of undergraduate admissions.

At highly competitive University of California at Berkeley, applications are also down, from 21,944 to 20,835 for next fall's entering class.

"It's really got to be the decline in the number of high school graduates," said Linda Davis Taylor, dean of admissions at Amherst College, in Amherst, Mass., where fall applications have dropped about 4 percent.

"I've been calling around myself, and most of the colleges I've talked to are experiencing declines at least as great as ours," she said.

"I consider this a yellow light," said Bradley Quin, admissions director of Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., where applications are down about 5 percent. "We all kind of anticipated this. I don't mean to imply that we're not concerned. This is a competitive business, and it's going to make it that much harder to increase the quality of our classes."

School officials say it's too soon to

draw hard conclusions, but they cite several factors in explaining the sudden reversal.

In effect, they said, higher education has been defying gravity for most of the 1980s. To the surprise of many, college enrollments have grown from 12.1 million to 12.5 million since 1980, and are up at 54 percent of the nation's colleges and universities, according to an annual survey by the American Council on Education.

An increase in the ranks of older students and higher percentages of high school students attending college helped offset a steady decline in the number of graduating high school seniors.

But the current drop in applications may be the first sign that population changes may finally be taking their toll. Roughly 3 million 18-year-olds attended college in 1980; but the high school class of '88 has shrunk to an estimated 2.76 million, and is expected to bottom out at 2.44 million by 1992.

Students also may be cutting down on the number of schools they apply to after a decade in which multiple applications increased sharply.

An annual survey of entering freshmen by the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles found that a record 37 percent applied to at least three colleges last fall, compared with 26 percent in 1980.

That increase has generally been attributed to students wanting to improve their odds of getting into a top school, and also to shopping around for the best financial aid deals as tuitions have soared.

But students are apparently starting to think twice about submitting a dozen or more applications now that application fees have hit \$50 and more.

SCONA begins with glimpse of Japanese culture, outlook

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Participants in a four-day international conference were given an introduction to Japan's culture, economy and psychology Wednesday night at Texas A&M.

The opening speech at the MSC Student Conference on National Affairs, titled "The Power of Japan's Changing Economy," was presented by William Piez, the U.S. State Department's deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Piez, who has more than 30 years experience at the State Department, said a major difference between the cultures of Japan and the United States is that Japan is more people-oriented.

This is apparent, he said, in the way retail outlets are geared to their customers.

There are lots of small shops in Japan, he said, and the owners have intimate knowledge of their products.

They promote the products to the customers, because they are aware of its qualities.

The problem with this, he said, is that consumers pay greatly inflated retail prices.

One of the main items Japanese consumers pay inflated prices for is food, he said. Japan imports most of its food, because of its low food production.

The government is restrictive on food imports so that local agriculture interests will be protected.

Competition to get into college is another problem Japanese society creates, Piez said.

Because there is a greater demand to go to college than there are openings, many Japanese youth commit suicide because they are unable to compete suc-

cessfully, he said.

Another difference between U.S. and Japanese society, he said, is that Japan spends relatively little on its military.

"There is a strong aversion in Japan to anything that smacks of militarism," he said.

Japan's disastrous defeat in World War II is one of the reasons militarism is not strong in Japan, Piez said.

Japan has been successful in the post-war era by relying on the United States for defense, he said.

He said if Japan became a regional military power, it would cause great instability in the region, because other countries would remember Japan's World War II record.

However, Japan will increase its aid to developing countries, Piez said, and it will outspend the United States in foreign aid this year.

All speeches at the conference are free and open to the public, and will be in Rudder Theater at the following times:

• Today, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

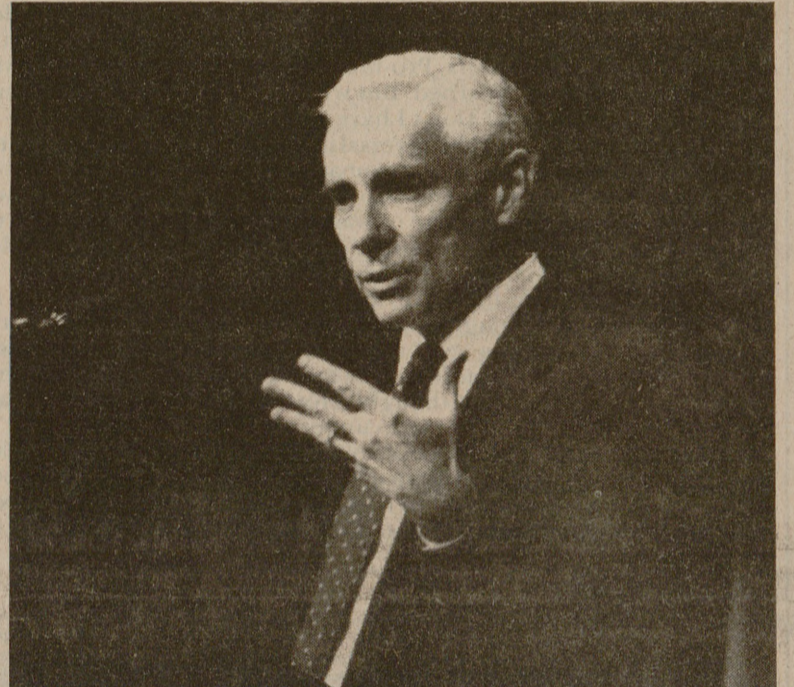
There will be a three-member panel discussion about increasing aid to developing countries both inside and outside of Asia.

The panel will include: Hideo Kagimi, ambassador and permanent representative of Japan to the United Nations; U. Alexis Johnson, vice chairman of the Atlantic Council; and Dr. James Auer, director of the Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Betty Unterberger, an A&M history professor, will moderate the discussion.

The panelists will compare the advantages and disadvantages of Japan increasing its military expenditures.

They also will look at the possi-



William Piez

Photo by Ronnie Montgomery

bility of Japan taking over part of the United States' role as an economic benefactor to underdeveloped countries.

Today, 7:30-9 p.m.

Dr. Edward Lincoln, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Foreign Policy Studies Program, will talk about "A Convergence of American and Japanese Consumer Societies."

Friday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

There will be a two-member panel discussion about "U.S. and Japanese Bilateral Businesses."

The panel will include: Steve Levy, senior advisor for the chief executive officer of Motorola, Inc.; and Dr. Kiichi Mochizuki, president of Nisshin USA, Inc.

Dr. Kerry S. Cooper, director of the Center for International Business Studies at A&M, will moderate the panel.

The panel will look at the difficulties that U.S. and Japanese companies have entering each others markets, and will compare the styles of operation of companies in both countries.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Dr. Robert C. Christopher, administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes and adjunct professor of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, will give the closing address on the future of Japan's world economic power, world role, and domestic scene.

Rule could put evolution in all textbooks

AUSTIN (AP) — A proposed rule that would require publishers to explain the theory of evolution for the first time in all Texas high school biology books is being criticized by fundamentalists.

Education Commissioner W.N. Kirby approved the rule, which will be considered this week by the State Board of Education.

Texas is the second-largest bulk purchaser of textbooks in the nation. Because of that, books that pass inspection in Texas generally are marketed in other states.

"What happens in Austin this week will dictate whether evolution has a central role in science in this country for the next decade," said Mike Hudson, a state director of People for the American Way, a civil liberties group. "This is truly a national battleground."

Fundamentalists and conservative textbook critics charge that requiring publishers to explain the theory of evolution would undermine the Christian beliefs of many children.

"I think it is unfair to force that theory on a child who believes in creationism," David Muralt, state director of Citizens for Excellence in Education, said Tuesday.

"The height of bigotry is to allow only one point of view," Muralt told the Dallas Morning News.

Wiatt settled in at A&M after FBI exploits

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

They called him "Mr. FBI."

He fired the shot that killed the escaped convict portrayed in the movie "Sugarland Express" and was shot twice in 1974 while leading the assault on three prisoners during their bloody escape attempt from the Huntsville penitentiary.

A former hostage, he has solved the murder of a federal judge and was responsible for thwarting the Ku Klux Klan's attempts to organize in the Brazos Valley.

And after 30 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, retired FBI agent Bob Wiatt still finds himself in the media spotlight as director of security and campus police at Texas A&M.

The 62-year-old ex-agent said he's enjoyed his exciting career, most of which he spent based in Bryan, although he's unhappy with being portrayed as a trigger-happy sharpshooter in "Sugarland Express."

The movie, which stars Goldie Hawn, is based on an actual incident in which an escaped convict and his wife kidnapped a highway patrolman and led a 125-car caravan of police and news vehicles on a 300-mile chase through Texas.

Wiatt said he was able to discover the identity of the convict's wife during the chase and that her two children were at her mother's house in Robertson County, just north of Brazos County.

"It was just a fluke that a sheriff from up there and I went into the



Bob Wiatt

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

house," Wiatt said. "About two hours later, we heard helicopters flying overhead."

"We looked out, and on this dirt road were hundreds and hundreds of cars with all the dirt and dust and everything. Coming right to the house was the patrol car that the

captors were in with the highway patrolman."

Wiatt said he was hiding by the kitchen doorway when the convict entered the house with the patrolman in front of him. When the patrolman walked through the doorway, he saw Wiatt and took a quick step to the side.

The fugitive then walked through the doorway and saw Wiatt.

"He sees me and starts swinging his shotgun right at me, so I just shot him with my pistol," Wiatt said. "The sheriff was over in the living room behind the couch, and he shot at him with his shotgun. But it was my one shot that hit him in the neck — drove him out the back door."

Wiatt called the movie a "bastardization" of the facts.

The only similarities between the movie and the true incident, Wiatt said, are the caravan and the hostage-taking.

"In the movie I was identified as a sharpshooter brought in from Austin," Wiatt said. "We had about 300 rounds of ammunition, machine guns, hand grenades — we just shot and shot and shot and shot . . ."

"This poor guy. All he was doing was wanting to see his kids. Awww . . . It was pitiful."

Wiatt also played a minor role in a case on which another movie is based.

The recently released movie, "Mississippi Burning," is based on the FBI investigation into the disappearance of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964.

Wiatt said he played no significant role in the investigation but merely went to supplement the FBI's manpower.

Hundreds of agents were involved in the case, he said, and most of them helped in trying to locate the civil rights workers' bodies. He said the agents would be rotated about every two weeks.

Wiatt said he doesn't know how accurately the movie portrayed real

life because he hasn't seen the movie.

Although he played no major part in the Mississippi investigation, Wiatt was involved in several civil rights investigations near Brazos County.

The Mississippi investigation was significant, Wiatt said, because it was one of the first cases that permitted the FBI to get involved legally in civil rights investigations.

"Before this case they didn't have the Civil Rights Act of 1964 giving the FBI jurisdiction to investigate these matters," Wiatt said. "Prior to that time, we had no authority to investigate civil rights violations as a federal crime."

Wiatt said there were numerous instances of obvious civil rights violence, racial hatred, protests, and confrontations in the early 1960s, but until 1964 the FBI had no jurisdiction.

It was 1964 when the first major civil rights protest in Texas occurred in Huntsville. Wiatt got directly involved with enforcing the civil rights laws there because Huntsville was in his jurisdiction.

"A group of local blacks, supported by blacks from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, came to Huntsville to protest the segregation laws that existed in that city and throughout the state," he said.

"I lived in Huntsville off and on for over three months. I marched with the blacks every night in order to make sure that nobody would come from the crowd to do anything in violation of their civil rights."

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