



Clements defends A&M regent nominations

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements defended Wednesday his nominations of two new regents for Texas A&M University, although some legislators complained that all of his recent appointments mean neither A&M nor the University of Texas board will include a black member.

Clements this week named two men, one Hispanic and one Anglo, to the A&M board. One of those being replaced is John Brady Coleman, the only black on the A&M board that also oversees the predominantly black Prairie View A&M.

"On a nine-member board, there really is no reason why there is not room for the

kind of diversity (where) you could have blacks and browns and women on the board," Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, who chairs the House Higher Education Committee, said.

Delco, D-Austin, said the failure to nominate a black sends a poor signal at a time when Texas universities are trying to recruit more black students.

"It seems to me amazing that when we are seeking diversity in our student population . . . that our boards of governance for those institutions would not reflect that concern," she said.

But Clements, during a brief news con-

ference, adamantly defended his two nominees as the best people available.

"I want to make one thing clear: the choice is mine," Clements said. "I found what I believe to be the two most-qualified people that I could find to fill this particular situation."

Clements said he did consider black candidates for the A&M openings. But he said no one should criticize the abilities of the two men he did nominate.

"I have had no one criticize their qualifications," the governor said. "And I stand by the appointments. I think they're excellent appointments."

Dr. Percy Pierre, president of Prairie View, was not available for comment Wednesday. Prairie View released a statement Tuesday saying there would be no official comment on the matter until after the Senate confirms the nominations.

But Clements again finds himself under fire from lawmakers, many of whom criticized him earlier when he nominated three Anglos to the University of Texas board.

The barrage was so heavy then that one of the three withdrew his name from consideration, thus giving Clements the chance to appoint a Hispanic. Dr. Mario Ramirez of Rio Grande City to the UT board.

Some state senators said at that time they hoped Clements would name a black to fill one of the A&M vacancies.

"The fact that the governor has seen fit not to nominate a black to the Texas A&M system would mean that both major universities . . . would be without representation of a black," Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi, said.

Noting that Clements' earlier UT nominations sparked such an outcry, Truan added, "This is not acceptable. It would have seemed that the governor would have seen the wisdom of avoiding another confrontation with the Senate."

Student Senate approves funding for sports facility

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

When students pay their fees next year, they might find themselves paying an additional \$35 to fund a proposed recreational sports complex.

The Student Senate approved a referendum Wednesday night that reaffirms the results of a 1987 referendum supporting the creation of a recreation sports facility use fee. The referendum will be presented to the state Legislature for approval.

Dennis Corrington, director of Recreational Sports, said 62.7 percent of the student body was in favor of such a project in 1987, even though the fee then would have been \$50. The referendum went to the Texas Legislature, but didn't get through in time.

"Two years later President William Mobley wants to make sure the student body is still for this," Corrington said. "He doesn't want anyone to think the administration is forcing this on them."

Leanne Rogers, Rules and Regulations Committee chairman and author of the endorsement presented to the Senate, said it's not just another fee but a facility that is needed by the University.

"There is not enough recreational space anymore," Rogers said. "You have to make reservations if you want a racquetball, basketball or volleyball court and it turns into a big hassle. This facility is long overdue."

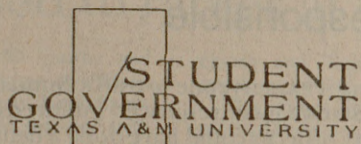
Brian Banner, Judicial Board chairman, has worked with the issue since 1987.

"I've given speeches to classes and have received positive feedback for the facility," Banner said. "People want it — it will be like a sports club, not just a gym."

Several students expressed dissent, saying the students who pay for it now won't be here to use it.

Corrington said there is no alternative in situations like this. "People don't always get to see the completion of things they help build," Corrington said. "We have to look to the future and help them out."

If it is approved, Corrington said



it's likely that plans will begin in September and the construction will take at least four years.

An ad hoc committee on the recreational sports complex will be formed with student representation.

In other action, the Senate approved a general election bill setting the new polling sites for the March 30 general election at the Academic Building, the MSC, the Blocker Building and Kleberg.

Student Body President Jay Hays vetoed the general election bill the Senate passed at the Feb. 8 meeting because, he said, the logistics of the polling sites were not feasible.

"There would have to be 200 volunteers working two days at six polling places," Hays said. "And I don't see that working out smoothly."

The bill that passed Feb. 8 was not the bill the election commissioners recommended.

Election commissioners Kristin Hay and Perry Liston asked at that meeting that the polling places be Kleberg, the MSC, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Academic Building and Blocker Building. However, after a 45-minute debate the Senate approved the following polling places: the Quad, Sbsa, the Academic Building, the MSC, the Blocker Building and Kleberg.

Before the Senate voted on the issue last night, Hays asked the senators to be objective and vote for the good of the student body.

Also during the meeting, Rhonda Walls, a Ward I senator, and Ty Clevenger, an agriculture sophomore senator, introduced three resolutions, all of which were approved.

One of the three resolutions formally rejected the concept of giving the A&M Board the power to set undergraduate tuition levels. The Senate wants the state Legislature to

continue its current procedure of setting tuition.

Clevenger said tuition for the undergraduate students at A&M is determined by the Texas Legislature, and he'd like to do everything he can to keep it that way.

The resolution states, "Giving the power to the Board of Regents to raise tuition levels is known as flexible tuition, and the regents are not necessarily accountable to voters or sensitive to needs and interests of the A&M population."

The Senate also passed a resolution calling on the Legislative Study Group to express to the Texas Legislature the Senate's support of House Bill 111, which allows students to register to vote when registering for college.

Clevenger said most students don't go to the trouble to pick up a voter's registration card, and this process could easily increase the number of eligible voters at A&M and other universities.

Clevenger and Walls also called for increased funding for faculty and staff.

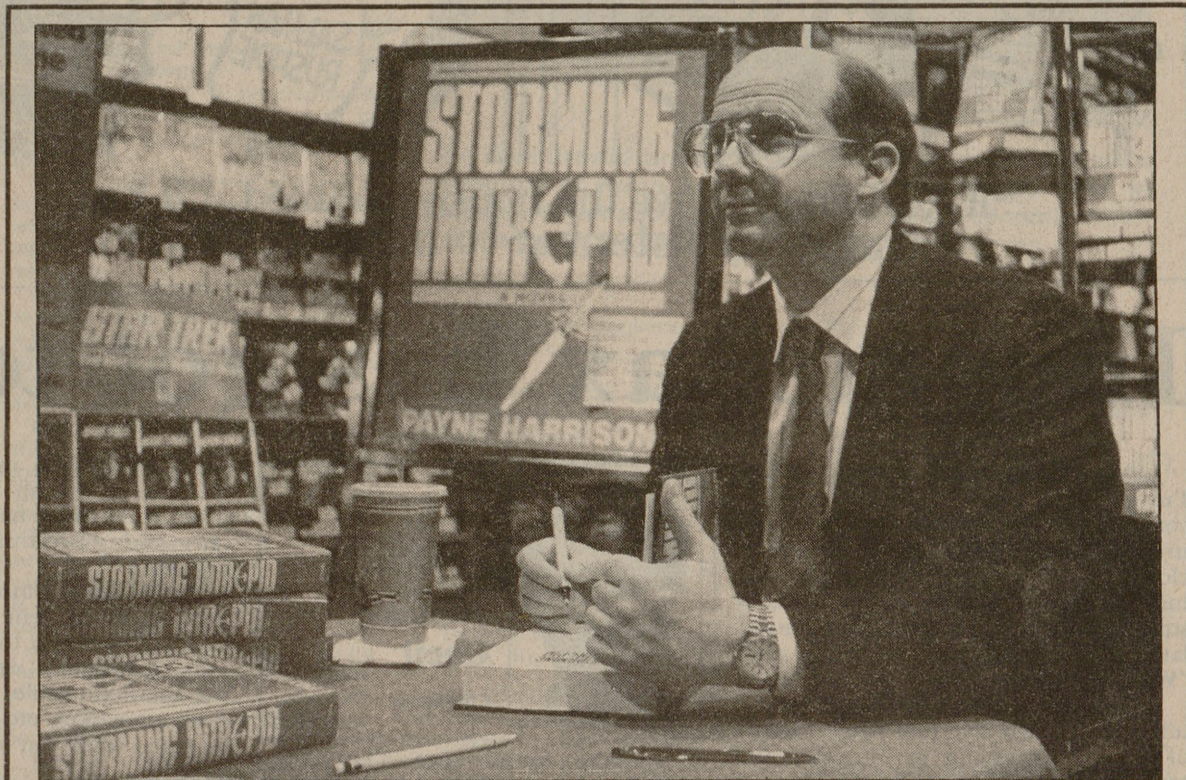
The Senate passed a resolution stating the LSG will inform the Texas Legislature of their support for the increased funding.

The resolution stated that in a 1988 comparison of average faculty salaries, it was indicated that Texas is still 10.8 percent below the average of the ten states with populations nearest Texas and 4.1 percent below the national average.

According to the resolution, current faculty funding has limited the availability of course offerings.

701Furthermore, since it is necessary to maintain adequate funding for faculty and staff to ensure quality instruction, they are entitled to more money, the resolution said.

The population of the Senate increased Wednesday night when 13 senators were sworn in. They are the following: Kelly King, Diane Purinton, John Albers, Ricardo Gonzales, Brian Kingston, Perry Liston, Doug Steele, David Hartman, Bruce Minchey, Gina Lyn Mertz, Anneene French, John Hubert and Brent Adams.



Farmers Write!

Payne Harrison, a 1971 A&M journalism graduate, signs copies of his book "Storming Intrepid" Tuesday at Waldenbooks in Post Oak

Mall. The book, about the Soviet takeover of an American space shuttle, was placed on the *New York Times* best seller list last week.

Figures show spring enrollment down at A&M compared to fall

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

Spring enrollment figures show 36,704 students enrolled at Texas A&M, an increase of 256 students from Spring 1988. The figures, compiled after the 12th class day, also show enrollment dropped 2,459 students from Fall 1988.

"Historically there are 2,000 to 3,000 less students enrolling in the spring semester than in the fall," Registrar Donald Carter said. "The majority of our new students enroll in the fall and summer."

The spring total includes 29,763 undergraduates, 6,272 graduate students, 477 veterinary school students and 192 medical school students.

A&M enrolled 6,062 more males than females. Male enrollment is higher in seven of the 10 colleges includ-

ing Engineering, Business Administration and Agriculture. More women than men are enrolled in the colleges of Liberal Arts, Education and Veterinary Medicine.

The 10 colleges show only slight enrollment variations from Spring 1988, with the exception of the College of Liberal Arts, which had an increase of 605 students from Spring 1988.

Minority enrollment is up, especially among Hispanics and international students. More than one-third of the 1,850 international students are enrolled in the College of Engineering.

Enrollment at A&M peaked in Fall 1988 at 39,163 students. That same semester, the University had implemented new admission requirements for entering freshmen.

Military panel appoints Corps commanders

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

Corps Sgt. Maj. Matthew Poling was chosen Texas A&M Corps Commander and Corps Advocate Sgt. Scott McLean was chosen deputy Corps commander for 1989-1990, Corps Commandant Thomas Darling announced Wednesday.

"The Corps will continue in good hands," Darling said as he gave Poling the four diamonds signifying his rank of Cadet Colonel.

Poling, a junior biomedical science major from Bryan, said, "This is an exciting time to lead the Corps and I'm looking forward to the opportunity."

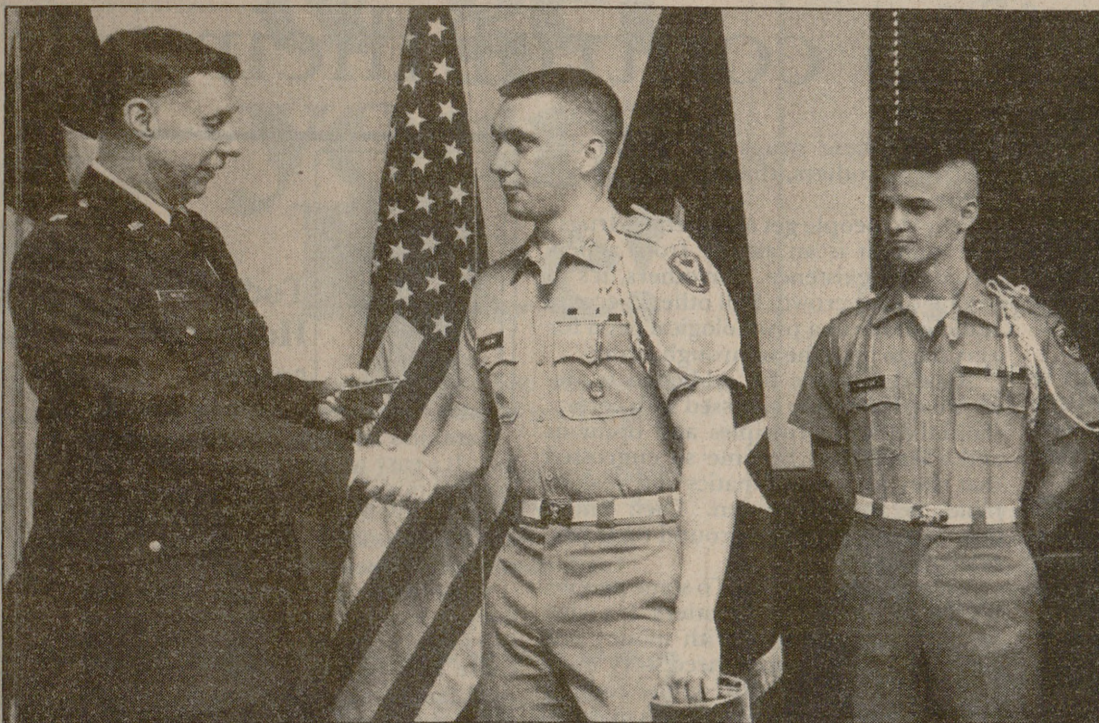
McLean is a junior industrial distribution major from Charleston, S.C. He said he was a bit surprised but honored by his selection.

They were chosen from five candidates by a panel of military advisors. The three other candidates were juniors Robert Magee, Don Parker and Clay Whitaker.

Darling said it was tough to choose between the five cadets.

"But there is a key place for all five in the Corps next year," Darling said.

"A&M has produced fine leaders and we're very proud of Matt and his accomplishments. He's outstanding at everything."



Gen. Thomas Darling (left) awards the four diamond cluster, signifying the rank of Cadet Colonel, to new Corps Commander Matthew

Poling, a junior biomedical science major from Bryan while new deputy Corps Commander Scott McLean looks on.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Accents may present challenges for students

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

Some individuals believe a communication deficiency exists between foreign-born teaching assistants and English-speaking students.

Many say the fault for such a communication gap lies in a student's poor attitude, while others cite a teaching assistant's speech as suspect.

Texas A&M regent Lowry Mays said he doesn't know if it's a serious problem at the University, but students have complained to him about the quality of their teachers' English.

"I'm one of those people who believes that whether it's one, two or five students that can't understand or communicate with the teacher because of his accent or whatever then the student's been robbed academically," he said.

"We can't lose sight of the fact that this is a teaching institution based on communication."

President William H. Mobley said in a Jan. 24 article in *The Battalion* that 6.7 percent of undergraduate lecture classes and 21 percent of undergraduate labs are being taught by teaching assistants at A&M.

Susan Bernhard, a junior horticulture major, was in one of those labs, and experienced a communication problem with her teacher's assistant. Bernhard said the assistant had about 60 percent proficiency in English.

"He had problems getting the point across because of his accent," Bernhard said. "It was hard to understand him, so I was spending most my time feeling sorry for him, and straining just to decipher what he was trying to say."

Mays said something is wrong with a system that allows that type of situation to happen.

"If a teacher or teacher's assistant lacks effective communicative skills — whether it's due to his accent or even if he has beautiful command of the English language but just can't communicate well — these teachers should not be placed in the classroom," he said. "It's that simple."

Mays said he realizes some students try to use a foreign-born professor's accent as an excuse for poor classroom performance.

"They say a teacher has poor knowledge of English after not getting along with a teacher or getting poor grades," he said.

Sandra Burke, of Dublin, Ireland, is a teacher's assistant in education technology.

Although she has received few complaints because of her accent, she is aware of the grievances other teaching assistants have received about their accents.

"It seems like in America, everyone is brought up with the philosophy that they only need to know English and the whole world will

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