

WEATHER

FORECAST for TUESDAY:
Mostly cloudy and turning cooler during the day with winds becoming northerly.

HIGH:65 LOW:48

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MEMBERSHIP

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PIES
TALION



There she is . . .
Dr. John Koldus presents the Miss TAMU trophy to Amy Hopkins Saturday night in Rudder auditorium. Hopkins is a sophomore elementary education major from Hurst.
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A&M leads state rates in minority retention

By Ashley A. Bailey
STAFF WRITER

This year marks the fourth that Texas A&M's minority retention rates led those of other public institutions in the state.

As reported by the University's Office of Public Information (OPI), A&M had 86.4 percent of its undergraduate black students who enrolled for fall classes in 1986 return for Fall 1987 classes. The figure was 87.4 percent for Hispanic undergraduates.

Edwin Cooper, director of the A&M office of school relations, said in a July article in *The Battalion* that A&M has been involved actively in minority recruitment since 1979 and has made great progress.

Recruiting is important as an initial endeavor, Cooper said, but retention is actually the key to A&M's recruiting success.

Donald Carter, the University's registrar, said A&M, along with every other state school, just completed a five-year Office of Civil Rights desegregation plan with public higher education students in Texas. The plan ran from 1983 to 1987.

"Required reports prepared for the Coordinating Board compare enrollment of blacks and Hispanics against the enrollment of white students from one fall semester to the next fall semester," Carter said.

"Provided the information that's called for in those reports, A&M did have one of the higher retention rates of blacks and Hispanics as compared to other schools."

Carter said, however, that the plan and its results are not representative of following the students from enrollment through graduation.

"The way they're doing it, in my opinion, is not a true retention study," he said. "To me, a true retention study is where you take a group of students as they enter the program as freshmen and you follow that group for five years to see how

many actually graduate."

Enrollment is a relatively easy step, he said. It's graduation that should be focused on — for all students.

"Our purpose is to get all students out of the system with degrees," he said. "Graduation goes hand-in-hand with retention of students. If you have a higher retention rate, then there's a valid assumption that if they (students) stay in the system they are progressing and will graduate."

Carter said the good base of minority students at A&M is a positive influence on getting other minority group members to attend the University.

A&M President William H. Mobley said in an OPI statement, "We are obviously pleased to continue to have the state's best record for student retention — overall in both the black and Hispanic student categories."

"I attribute that success to our

ability to attract well-qualified and serious students and high-quality, caring faculty and support staff who work closely with the students in attainment of their educational and leadership-development goals," Mobley said.

Carter said that with the completion of the fifth year of SIMS (Student Information Management System), he will do a true retention study — from enrollment to graduation.

Black retention rates of state institutions with the next-highest rates are the University of Texas, 81.9 percent; East Texas State University, 76.3 percent; and the University of North Texas, 67.2 percent. Hispanic retention rates were UT, 81.1 percent; UNT, 76.8 percent; and ETSU 74.7 percent.

The statewide average for black retention of undergraduate students was 63.6 percent, while the average for Hispanic student retention was 68.8 percent.

Bentsen suggests plan for prison 'boot camps'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen says he is drafting legislation to set up a pilot program of "boot camps" within the federal prison system in an attempt to ease overcrowding without the high costs of building standard prisons.

Bentsen said Saturday the proposed boot camp prisons would be for young, first-offenders of non-violent crimes, and would be modeled after boot camps used by the military.

As many as 1,224 offenders admitted to federal institutions in 1986 fit the criteria for boot camp eligibility, he said.

"They would require long hours, hard work, but the sentence would

be somewhat shorter," Bentsen, a Texas Democrat, said. "Clearly our federal prisons have inmates who could benefit from the boot camp approach."

Bentsen said the federal prison system is "severely overcrowded" and the inmate population could triple over the next eight years, prompting him to seek low-cost solutions to provide additional prison beds.

"The problem you're running into is you have about 50 percent more prisoners than you really have room for in federal institutions today," Bentsen said. "So this would be a means of trying to cut down on the cost, try to provide some additional facilities."

Mobley approves co-ed honors dormitory

By Sherri Roberts
STAFF WRITER

An honors coeducational dormitory will be among the new residence halls opening to students in Fall 1989 at Texas A&M.

A&M President William Mobley approved a resolution to designate the newly constructed modular hall near McFadden and Haas halls as an honors residence hall.

Eighty percent of the hall's 202 spaces will be allocated to freshmen recipients of either the President's Endowed, Lechner or McFadden scholarships, Dale Knobel, director of the University Honors Program, said. The remaining 20 percent of the spaces will be assigned to upperclassmen recipients of these scholarships.

The procedure for freshmen and upperclassmen to apply for residency in the hall will be announced later this semester, he said.

The hall will be operated by the Residence Hall Association and will differ from other residence halls only in its programming, which will be coordinated through the Honors Program office, Knobel said.

Academic programs relating to expected topics of interest to the honors students, such as study skills, will be sponsored by the hall. In addition, faculty members will advise residents on an informal basis, he said.

"These students will not be coddled," Knobel said. "They will be challenged by the activities in the hall."

Though the hall's programming will be geared primarily to its residents, it also will sponsor programs which will be open to the public, he said.

Representatives of the Honors Program are planning to have the hall sponsor informal meetings between students and various speakers, dignitaries and artists visiting campus, he said.

Minor modifications will be made to the hall to accommodate its programming. At an estimated cost of \$7,500, the third floor study lounge will be converted to a meeting/seminar room, and the first floor storage room will be converted to the Honors Student Council/Hall Council office.

Knobel said response to the hall has been

positive from honor students at A&M, as well as from high school students who have been extended scholarships to attend A&M.

It is expected that 165 of the 400 high school students who have been offered scholarships at A&M for 1989-90 will choose to live in the hall, he said.

This number is based on 1987 figures, which indicate 164 scholarship holders accepted non-Corps of Cadets hall assignments, while 28 chose to live off campus.

Scholarship recipients will not be required to live in the honors hall. Some may opt to live in a less expensive hall, Knobel said.

Like other modular halls, the cost of living in the honors hall in Fall 1989 will be \$909 a semester per student.

Although scholarship recipients are guaranteed on-campus housing for four years, those choosing to live in the honors hall will be guaranteed a space in that particular hall for their freshman year only. After their freshman year, they must apply for one of the select spaces in the hall allotted to upperclassmen.

Knobel said the hall will be an effective tool

to recruit scholarship recipients to A&M. In 1988, 60 percent of those offered scholarships to attend A&M accepted.

It is difficult to attract these students because they usually receive numerous scholarship offers, he said.

If the honors hall is successful in attracting an increased number of high-achieving students to A&M, the entire University will benefit indirectly, Knobel said.

"It enhances Texas A&M's reputation," he said.

This, in turn, will attract more recruiters and faculty to campus, in addition to making a degree from A&M more valuable in the job market, he said.

Mobley approved the resolution to have a co-ed honors hall at A&M based on a report compiled by a 13-member Honors Program committee, which he appointed in Fall 1988. Committee members included various student and faculty members connected with the honors program, representatives of RHA and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

FBI agents protect research in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — FBI agents are quietly fighting a large-scale counterespionage battle in Houston against spies for foreign governments.

The agency has made the effort its top priority, fearing these spies are monitoring technological, medical and energy research in Houston, said Andrew J. Duffin, special agent in charge of the Houston office.

Guarding against secret foreign infiltration of the massive superconductor project at the University of Houston has been one of the agency's efforts, the project's director, Paul Chu, told the *Houston Post*.

An FBI spokesman, Johnie Joyce, called the foreign intelligence effort the "No. 1 priority" of the local office.

"Our commitment in terms of agents and other resources committed to foreign counterintelligence is far and away greater than what is committed to any other single priority program," Joyce said.

He declined to say how many of the bureau's estimated 200 agents work on spy cases, but Duffin said the number represents less than 50 percent of the force.

Duffin cited several of Houston's high-profile industries as likely targets of foreign spies. They include NASA, the Texas Medical Center, the oil industry and local universities. He also pointed to the large number of foreign consultants and the exchange student population as potential sources of foreign agents.

"These make for fertile areas for . . . representatives of foreign governments not all that friendly with the United States," Duffin said.

Duffin agreed a "spy vs. spy" situation is being played out in Houston. He said his agency is fighting against known or suspected foreign agents, foreign agents in Houston illegally and, hypothetically, double agents who could be working for both sides.

Tower: If confirmed I will not take a drink

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary-designate John Tower said Sunday he is not an alcoholic and issued an extraordinary pledge not to take a single drink if he is confirmed by the Senate to head the Pentagon.

As Tower defended his reputation in nationally televised interviews, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., accused the White House of leaking information from the FBI report on Tower and threatened to reopen the hearings on the nomination and subpoena anonymous witnesses quoted in the agency review.

The committee voted 11-9 along party lines last Thursday to recommend that the full Senate reject Tower's nomination, with Nunn citing allegations of excessive drinking by the nominee.

In his first interview since the vote, Tower denied he was an alcoholic, and with his unusual promise sought to allay fears among his former colleagues and remove the obstacles to his confirmation.

The full Senate is expected to take up the nomination on Wednesday.

"Noting the principal concern of Senator Nunn and other members of the Senate relative to my confirmation as secretary of Defense, namely the extent to which I may engage in excessive use of beverage alcohol, let me state that I have never been an alcoholic nor dependent on alcohol," Tower said in a statement he read on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley."

"I hereby swear and undertake that if confirmed, during the course of my tenure as Secretary of Defense, I will not consume beverage alcohol of any type or form, including wine, beer or spirits of any kind," he said.

Tower distributed copies of the statement after reading it on the air. It was signed by Tower and witnessed by his doctor at Baylor University, Dr. Warren Lichter, and Department of Transportation Secretary Samuel K. Skinner.

Tower also vowed that if he broke his pledge not to drink, he would step down.

"I think I'd be obliged to resign if I broke the pledge," the former



John Tower
Texas senator said. "I've never broken a pledge in my life."
In the interview, Tower read a portion of a letter from Lichter that said tests conducted prior to his surgery to remove a colon polyp found normal liver functions and that there was no evidence of alcohol withdrawal following the operation.
"Based on this fact that can be stated with relative certainty, Senator Tower shows no evidence at all of alcoholic impairment or alcoholism," the letter said.

Khomeini calls for ties with Moscow to increase

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said Sunday he wants strong ties with Moscow to help fight the "devilish" West, and Iranian legislators reportedly agreed to consider breaking ties with Britain.

Khomeini's overtures to the Soviet Union, which he previously condemned for its atheist ideology, came during a one-and-a-half hour meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

It was believed to be the first private meeting between Iran's 88-year-old revolutionary patriarch and a foreign minister, according to Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

IRNA said Shevardnadze did not ask Khomeini to withdraw his order for Moslem zealots to assassinate British author Salman Rushdie because of his book "The Satanic Verses." Britain reportedly asked Shevardnadze to press Khomeini to give a reprieve to Rushdie, whose book has been denounced as insulting to Islam.

"There was no mention of the affair in Shevardnadze's speech," said IRNA, monitored in Nicosia.

The meeting with Shevardnadze

came two days after Khomeini declared Iran does not need relations with the West. This issue has divided the Tehran hierarchy between so-called pragmatists, who favor more relations with the rest of the world, and hardliners, who favor continued isolation.

Rushdie has been in hiding since Khomeini's Feb. 14 execution order, and Iranian religious leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on his head.

In protest, Britain withdrew all its diplomats from its embassy in Tehran, which had been reopened in December after an earlier rift of more than a year. It also asked Iranian diplomats to leave London.

The 11 other European Community countries as well as Norway, Sweden and Canada, recalled their top diplomats from Iran, and Tehran brought its ambassadors home.

No diplomatic ties have been formally broken. But religious leaders in Tehran last week called for a break with Britain.

The English-language *Tehran Times* said Sunday hostile relations with the West stemming from the Rushdie novel opened "all doors" to improving ties with Moscow.