



WEATHER

FORECAST for WEDNESDAY:
Mostly cloudy with rain continuing through midday, clearing and cooler by evening.

HIGH:78

LOW:55

Regents pick site for Corps of Cadets Center

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Texas A&M Board of Regents Planning and Building Committee Monday selected Spence Park South as the site for the proposed \$2 million Corps of Cadets Center.

The decision must be finalized when the regents meet today.

Site proposals were presented by architect Chartist Newton of Austin and Gene Shackle of Arlington. Shackle is in charge of developing the Master Plan for A&M's campus.

Both Newton and Shackle recommended the Spence Park South site.

University President William Mobley and Corps Commandant Thomas Darling agreed, saying they are "comfortable" with the site.

Newton used a numerical system to rate each site on a scale of zero to 10 for several different criteria. The Spence Park South site scored highest on this scale, followed by Spence Park North and a site on the northwest corner of Duncan Field.

Newton and Shackle agreed that locating the center at the south end of the park would leave an area of "green space" for future use.

When planned construction in the area is completed, the park will be surrounded by the Corps residence halls to the east, the Corps Center to the south, a proposed 1,500-car parking garage to the west and a renovated utilities plant to the north.

Shackle said leaving the park would allow a needed recreation area near the Corps Quadrangle, something he said has been decreasing during A&M's rapid growth. The Master Plan was initiated to control the University's growth and retain some green spaces, he said.

"What we don't build is at least as important as what we do (build)," Shackle said.

The Board postponed a decision on the location of the center at the

January meeting, although it narrowed the choice to three principal locations.

The Board also heard a report from Mobley on the quality of undergraduate instruction, which continued a discussion from the January meeting on the quality of English spoken by A&M instructors.

The report showed 1 percent of all lecture courses and 5 percent of both lecture and lab courses are taught by foreign teaching assistants. But Mobley and the regents agreed there is no causal relationship of students having difficulty understanding material because a foreign TA teaches a class.

Mobley said the Center for Teaching Excellence and English Proficiency Certification all are being used to promote better classroom communication for teaching assistants. He said all foreign students are required to be certified for their communications skills. Department heads also are responsible for making certain there are not faults in the system, he said.

In other action, the Board's Committee for Academic Campuses:

- Approved increasing the student services fee from \$67 to \$73 per semester beginning with the 1989-90 academic year. This item was recommended by the Student Senate at the March 8 meeting.
- Approved increasing the shuttle-bus use fee to \$50, an increase of \$4.
- Approved increasing semester room fees for all residence halls by 5 percent.
- Approved increasing board fees for all meal plans by 5 percent.
- Approved increasing rental rates for student apartments by 3 percent.
- Approved changing the Student Identification Card Fee to the Student Verification Fee. Under the current system, students are charged

\$5 each year for an original identification card and \$8 for each replacement card. The revised system would charge \$5 for the original card and a \$4 annual maintenance fee. Replacements cards would cost \$12 under the revised system.

• Approved a resolution authorizing Mobley to enter a contract agreement for the A&M-Koriyama Pilot Program. This program would establish a 10-week English language instruction in Koriyama, Japan, beginning in late May.



From left, Regents Vice Chairman Wayne Showers, A&M System Chancellor Perry Atkisson, and new Board Chairman William McKenzie.

University News Service

Board members select McKenzie as chairman

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M regents Monday unanimously elected William McKenzie to serve as chairman.

A Dallas resident and eight-year member of the Board, McKenzie succeeds Houston businessman David G. Eller as chairman. Eller's term expired Feb. 1.

The Board also unanimously elected Wayne Showers as vice chairman.

In his acceptance speech, McKenzie said titles mean little in terms of power once on the Board.

"I always have maintained that each Board member has the same strength and power as the chairman or vice chairman," he said. "Whether someone sits in the chairman's chair, the vice chairman's chair or is chairman of a committee — any member of the Board of Regents speaks with the same authority as any other member."

McKenzie took the opportunity to chastise the anonymous source quoted in a story in Sunday's *Bryan-College Station Eagle*.

An unnamed source said Mobley typed a letter of resignation after his control of the A&M Athletic Department and the Jackie Sherrill investigation was questioned, according to the *Eagle* story. The story said regents had discussed firing Mobley when he refused to back down over the Sherrill conflict.

McKenzie said the story was "reprehensible" and "totally calculated to harm."

"Whoever is the 'unknown' ad-

ministration 'source' should be severely reprimanded or perhaps discharged," he said.

Prior to electing the chairman, three new regents were sworn in: Billy Clayton, Raul Fernandez and Ross Margraves Jr.

Clayton was appointed after former vice chairman Joe Reynolds resigned Dec. 12. Fernandez and Margraves were appointed Feb. 21, replacing Eller and Dr. John B. Coleman. The Senate confirmed the three nominees last week.

McKenzie announced his selections for several Board subcommittees. None of the new regents were appointed chairman of a subcommittee, but each was named to at least four.

The subcommittees are:

- Planning and Building Committee, chaired by Royce Wisenbaker of Tyler.
- Committee for Academic Campuses, chaired by Douglas DeCluit of Waco.
- Committee for Service Units, chaired by Showers.
- Audit Committee, chaired by John Mobley of Austin.
- Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired by Lowry Mays of San Antonio.
- Presidential Selection Committee for Prairie View A&M University, chaired by McKenzie. Former regent Coleman and A&M System Chancellor Perry Adkisson also will sit on this committee.
- Committee for Art and Statues, chaired by DeCluit.
- Executive Committee, chaired by McKenzie.

Yeltsin, other reformers win big in Soviet election

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris N. Yeltsin and other anti-establishment candidates rode a wave of popular discontent to victory in parliamentary elections that gave Soviet voters their first real choice, according to incomplete results Monday.

The candidates chosen in nationwide elections Sunday will join those picked earlier by the Communist Party and other organizations in a new 2,250-member Congress of People's Deputies.

The parliament is still certain to be dominated by the ruling party and an entrenched Kremlin leadership that assured itself of seats without having to face opposition at the polls.

But Yeltsin's landslide victory and the triumph of other independent-minded candidates indicated widespread dissatisfaction with chronic shortages of food and consumer goods, rising prices and the bureaucracy's control over Soviet life.

Yeltsin, the tough-talking, 58-year-old former Moscow party boss, had campaigned to cheering crowds against the special privileges afforded the party elite at a time when most

people can find practically nothing in the stores.

Igor N. Orlov, chairman of Moscow's election commission, said the burly, one-time Gorbachev protégé amassed 89.4 percent of the vote against Yevgeny Brakov, a factory director, in a race for a seat to represent all of Moscow.

Brakov, 51, who also campaigned for improvements in the food supply but whose factory makes the ZIL limousines that symbolize privilege, received just 6.9 percent of the vote, Orlov said.

Voters had the option of voting against candidates by crossing their names off the ballot.

Yeltsin's win marked a stunning political comeback following his dramatic fall from grace in 1987, when he was ousted as Moscow party chief and later fired as a non-voting member of the ruling Politburo. He was accused of political mistakes and personal ambition after he criticized his fellow leaders and complained that perestroika, Gorbachev's re-

form program, had not fulfilled the people's needs.

"It's hard to say what my spirit is more full of, joy or concern, about what I realistically can do to help Muscovites," Yeltsin told hundreds of workers at the State Construction Committee, where he still holds ministerial rank despite his ouster from the party's top ranks. The workers applauded warmly.

But Yeltsin's victory carries little power. The congress to which he was elected will meet just once a year to elect a president and a fraction of its own membership to a full-time legislature, the Supreme Soviet.

Despite the victory of other congressional candidates with non-traditional views, Yeltsin is not assured of a seat in the legislature, whose members may exercise more power than the larger Congress of People's Deputies.

The congress will be made up of 1,500 deputies elected in Sunday's territorial balloting and 750 members chosen earlier by various party, social and professional organizations.

In the Baltic republics, candidates from grassroots movements that have tapped popular dissatisfaction with Moscow's control over their economies, cultures and politics generally fared well in the election.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler praised the Soviet elections as a "move in the right direction." She said that although the elections "were neither free nor democratic by Western standards," they do represent a change from past practices.

Nationwide figures on turnout were not available, but Orlov said 83.5 percent of Moscow's 6.9 million eligible voters took part. That represents a drop from the 99.9 percent turnout usually reported in Soviet elections in which volunteers go into neighborhoods to force people to vote.

Yeltsin had expressed fears that ruling party officials would steal the election after the polls closed by stuffing ballot boxes or throwing out opposition votes; but no complaints of fraud surfaced Monday.

Finance panel approves hike in faculty pay

AUSTIN (AP) — Senate budget writers Monday approved a proposed \$400 million increase to public higher education that includes a 7.1 percent faculty pay raise for each of the next two fiscal years.

"We have recommitted this state to two more years to have a forward looking approach to higher education," said Sen. Kent Caperton, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

Caperton, D-Bryan, said the funding level, approved by the finance panel without dissent, was not as much as higher education officials wanted, but is enough to keep "the momentum going."

If approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Bill Clements, the Finance Committee proposal would increase faculty salaries at public colleges and universities by 7.1 percent for each year of the 1990-91 biennium.

Faculty members at public senior colleges received an average 6.7 percent increase in the 1987-88 budget year, said Randy Wallace, director of financial planning for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Lobbyists for the Foundation for Higher Education had requested a \$1 billion increase, including a 10.1 percent faculty pay raise for each year of the 1990-91 biennium.

Texas Democrats oppose cuts in Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Proposed Medicare budget cuts would intensify the grave rural health care crisis in Texas and cripple more of the state's marginally healthy rural hospitals, two Democrats say.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. John Bryant, a member of the House Budget Committee, are asking President Bush to reconsider his recommendation that the Medicare budget be cut by \$5 billion.

"While some Medicare reductions are likely, we cannot allow the administration to take a sledgehammer to the program," said Bentsen, whose committee has jurisdiction

over Medicare, the government's primary health insurance program for 32 million elderly and disabled Americans.

Thousands of hospitals rely on Medicare reimbursements for their elderly patients to stay in business. Rural hospitals, which have many older patients, often rely on Medicare for up to 80 percent of their annual income, said Bentsen.

Bentsen said the financial strain on many hospitals would not withstand the proposed \$5 billion Medicare cut, of which some \$3.3 billion would come from reduced Medicare payments to hospitals.

Activists remember date of nuclear disaster

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Anti-nuclear activists marked the 10th anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident with renewed warnings Monday that the health effects were hidden and the lessons forgotten.

Scientists and nearby residents held news conferences at the state Capitol and a vigil was planned outside the plant late Monday and for 4 a.m. Tuesday, the time the accident began.

"The so-called accident at TMI was an act of violence against mankind, an act of violence against the unborn," said Jane Lee, an activist from nearby Ebers, referring to the March 28, 1979, incident.

The nation's worst nuclear accident occurred when a series of human and mechanical errors allowed the plant's 150-ton radioactive core to lose cooling water. Half the core melted and 20 tons of molten material raced to the bottom of the re-

actor before it was held in check by a remaining pool of water. Radioactive gas was released to the atmosphere.

"This marks a decade of false denials and outright lies on the part of the utility that owns and operates Three Mile Island . . . and on the part of the state of Pennsylvania, which has systematically hidden any real statistics about the deaths that have occurred in the wake of the accident at TMI," said Harvey Wasserman, who wrote a book, "Killing Our Own," about the health effects of nuclear power.

He said 75 percent of the nation's commercial reactors haven't completed modifications required in the wake of the accident.

A spokesman for the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission said he could not immediately respond to Wasserman's charge.

Ernest Sternglass, a University of Pittsburgh radiation physics professor, reiterated claims that

the federal and state governments are covering up the true health effects of the accident.

He said information has been suppressed that would show radiation from Three Mile Island increased infant mortality in Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland and caused thousands of other excessive deaths by lowering people's immunity.

"This needs to be investigated by Congress," he said. "We have a scandal here of incredible proportion."

"His allegations are not new," George Tokuhata, research director for the Pennsylvania Health Department, said. "They are absolutely untrue. It's ridiculous. We don't have an ax to grind. We're trying to report what we find."

About 2,000 damage claims are still pending against the plant owner, General Public Utilities Corp.

Committee backs expansion of A&M system

AUSTIN (AP) — The House Higher Education Committee on Monday endorsed making three South Texas universities part of the Texas A&M System after university officials said there is a need to expand educational opportunity in the region.

The bill sent to the House would add Texas A&I University at Kingsville, Corpus Christi State University and Laredo State University to the A&M University System.

"As our population grows, the state must provide better educational opportunities to the Hispanic population that prepare them for future leadership of the state," A&M Chancellor Perry Adkisson said.

"One thing we do well in the Texas A&M University System is train students to be leaders, and we want to be fully involved in the training of the leaders of the next century," he said.

Blas Martinez of Laredo, president of the University System of South Texas board of directors, said, "There must be a commitment to the youth of South Texas and opportunity for a college education made available."

"No longer can South Texas be categorized as a group of second-class citizens headed down a dead-end road."

The University System of South Texas includes the three universities that would be merged.

Bills to change Corpus Christi State University from an upper-level to a four-year institution and create a law school at Texas A&I also were sent to the House.

A measure to merge Pan American University at Edinburg and Brownsville with the University of Texas System was sent to a subcommittee, along with bills that would upgrade Pan American at Brownsville, an upper-level institution.

Measures merging the five South Texas institutions with the A&M and UT systems, and a bill to make CCSU a four-year school have been approved by the Senate.

Sen. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, expressed disappointment that the Pan American merger proposal was sent to subcommittee.

Among those speaking on the A&M merger plan were two professors from A&I who said they had encountered discrimination at that school.