

Engine trouble

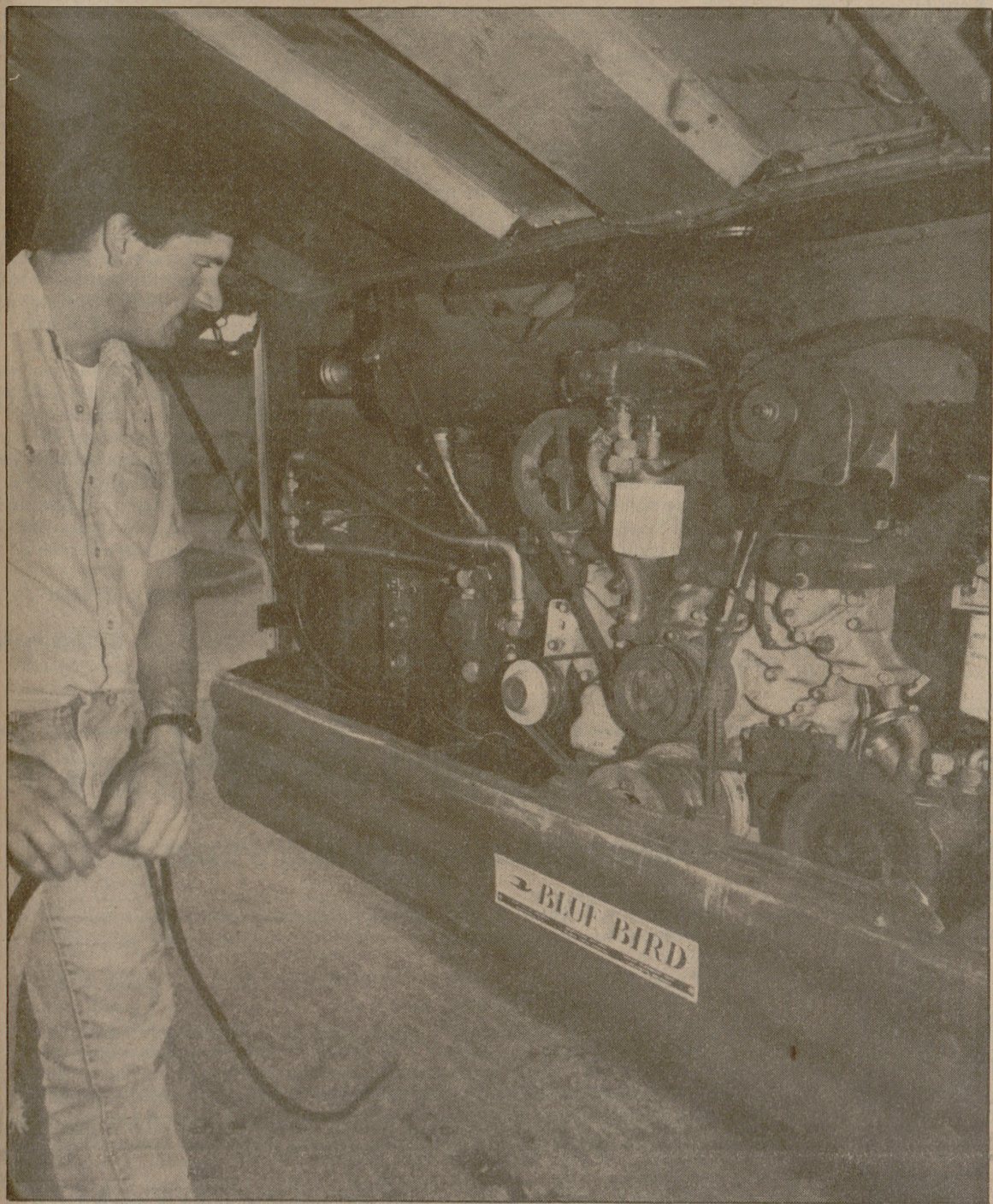


Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Scott Hendry, a bus operations employee, checks out one of the large shuttle buses at the stop on Ireland Street Monday. Hendry's inspection revealed that the water pump was broken, and the bus had to be towed. Its driver said bus malfunctions are rare.

Tenure for assistant prof denied by Pres. Mobley

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M President William Mobley denied tenure last week to Dr. Lynn Lamoreux, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology who has contested her tenure denial since 1988.

Lamoreux contested the denial based on what she called age and sex discrimination, retaliation and a violation of her due process. According to a report by the Tenure Advisory Committee (TAC), Lamoreux based her charge of denial of due process on her feeling that the equipment, resources and support necessary to carry out her job were withheld. The report said she claimed she was retaliated against by "some person" for filing or threatening to file an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charge.

Following a recommendation for tenure by the TAC in June, Mobley referred the case to another campus committee, the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and

Tenure (CAFRT).

The CAFRT concluded that Lamoreux's progress toward tenure had been impeded unfairly, and that she should be awarded tenure and provided the opportunity to pursue her research with an equitable allocation of resources.

However, in a Feb. 6 letter from Mobley to Lamoreux, Mobley said the lack of extramural research funding as well as the findings of the CAFRT and the TAC were reasons for not awarding her tenure.

"Both the Tenure Advisory Committee and Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure have found no illegal basis for the tenure decision in your case," the letter said. "Their findings include no evidence of retaliation, sex discrimination or age discrimination."

The TAC found no evidence to support sex discrimination specifically directed at Lamoreux and also found no evidence to substantiate the charge of age discrimination.

However, the committee did state in its report that the amount, nature and credibility of the evidence examined did support Lamoreux's charge of retaliation.

Lamoreux's charge of denial of due process also was supported by the TAC.

In addition to the recommendation that tenure be awarded, the TAC recommended that Lamoreux be given three things: restitution for her damaged research program; renewed and unbiased consideration for candidacy for membership on the genetics faculty; and the opportunity and support needed to develop appropriate upper-level and graduate courses.

The CAFRT also found no evidence of direct sex or age discrimination against Lamoreux, nor did they find compelling evidence of retaliation.

In addition, CAFRT did not find enough evidence to constitute an
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Officials cancel project planned to withhold benefits from poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials on Monday night reversed their decision that would have allowed a pilot project to deny new Medicaid and child-care benefits to several hundred poor people in Texas.

"No person receiving welfare in the state of Texas has been denied or will be denied benefits to which they are entitled under federal law," Louis Sullivan, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said in a statement released by his office.

Sullivan was unaware of the provisions of the project until officials began receiving calls about a Dallas Morning News story that ran Sunday.

When told of the project, he made it clear "he does not want this type of provision included in any of our programs," Martin Gerry, assistant secretary for planning and evaluation, said. Gerry said he knew of no current HHS programs that deny benefits entitled by federal law.

HHS approved the demonstration project last summer and it was to begin April 1, when a new federal law will expand transitional Medicaid and child care bene-

fits for 12 months after a recipient finds a job or enters a job training program.

However, about 800 Texas Medicaid recipients in the project would continue to be eligible for only four months — the current limit — of free medical care and child care after they get a job or job training.

The purpose of the study was to see whether the added benefits helped keep people off the welfare rolls. Officials wanted to see if extended benefits encouraged people to take and remain in entry-level jobs that are unlikely to offer medical insurance or child care benefits immediately.

This kind of experiment has long been used in science, medicine and industry as a tool of evaluation, and has been used for more than 20 years in social research to measure the effectiveness of social policies.

However, such social experiments usually are set up so that the "experimental group" is getting added benefits while the "control group" gets the level benefits that are already offered, said Sidney Trieger, director of the federal division of health systems and special studies in the Health Care Financing Administration.

Regents say plane, fund use appropriate

By DEAN SUELLENFUSS
Of The Battalion Staff

State planes and Board of Regents funds have been used appropriately, Texas A&M officials said in response to a Houston Chronicle story and inquiries by The Battalion.

The Chronicle reported Sunday that A&M's state-owned planes have been used to transport University officials, their families and guests, as well as prospective A&M athletes to and from A&M. The article said A&M officials used the planes when comparable commercial flights were available for a fraction of the cost.

According to University financial records examined by The Battalion, Board funds have been used to pay for football tickets, accommodations and other benefits for regents' guests.

The Chronicle reported that A&M spent more than \$800,000 operating its three state-owned airplanes during fiscal year 1989.

Regent Raul Fernandez flew with several companions on one of A&M's planes to the John Hancock Bowl in December, the Chronicle reported.

Fernandez told The Battalion that his flight to the bowl was justified because the game was an official University function. He said he took the place of other regents who were going to attend, but were unable to because of a last minute change in plans.

"I felt bad that no regent (would) be represented," Fernandez said. "And I think that when we have something that's as big as a major bowl game, (it's important) that we have representation. There are a lot of Aggies that are present there, and it's an official function of the University."

Fernandez said that since he was making the trip anyway, he saw no harm in bringing along several guests. He said A&M officials often cannot fly on commercial airlines because they must travel to locations not served by the airlines.

"I'm a regent, and if I've got to go

somewhere on official business and that's the way to get me in and out of there, then I'm going to have to use that or not attend," he said.

Regents Chairman William McKenzie said Fernandez attended the bowl game as a representative of A&M. McKenzie also justified the use of state airplanes to fly prospective athletes to and from A&M.

"Every bit of that is reimbursed by monies that aren't state money," McKenzie said, adding that the money used to pay for the trips came from an A&M athletic department fund.

McKenzie also said the Board is justified in paying for accommodations and football tickets for guests of A&M and guests of the regents.

"We give tickets to legislators and friends of A&M who are donors to A&M, to help in our legislative efforts," he said.

During fiscal 1989, more than \$14,000 was spent from a Board fund to purchase football tickets, including 147 tickets for the A&M-Texas Tech game and 154 tickets for the A&M-Baylor game, according to University records.

The regents also spent thousands of dollars for flower arrangements and live music at meetings and luncheons, in addition to paying for rooms and room service for regents' guests who stayed at the MSC.

For example, records show that during a two-month period in 1988, the Board spent \$1,000 on floral arrangements for regents meetings.

Receipts and expense vouchers show that on several occasions the Board paid for rooms and room service charges for regents' guests.

According to the records, the Board paid a \$140 room service charge for "guests of Regent Wayne Showers" who were staying in a guest room in the MSC in November 1988.

In another instance, money from the Board funds were used to pay a \$120 charge for a "room for guests

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Senate allows honorary doctorates

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate approved a resolution Monday that could allow A&M to award honorary doctorate degrees to national and international figures.

The resolution states that A&M "seeks to recognize individuals of exceptional accomplishment and distinction ... in the arts, letters, science, technology or service to humanity."

A&M President William Mobley asked the Senate in February 1989 to participate in an ad hoc committee that would study the issue of honorary doctorates.

The ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr. Emanuel Parzen of the statistics department, met through the spring and summer before forwarding its recommendations to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Senate.

The Academic Affairs Committee unanimously approved the resolution before the Senate met Monday.

A nine-member Committee on Honorary Degrees, the Senate, the President and the Board of Regents must approve the candidate before an honorary doctorate is given.

All resolutions and recommendations passed by the Senate must be approved by Mobley before they are enacted. Core curriculum and class changes usually take one academic year.

During Committee of the Whole, Dr. Herman Saatkamp, speaker of the Senate, said recent newspaper articles in the Houston Post and the Bryan-College Station Eagle said Senate records involving former electrical engineering professor Abdel K. Ayoub were destroyed. This, however, is untrue, Saatkamp said.

Ayoub, the late engineering professor whose family won a lawsuit last week that Ayoub filed against A&M in 1987, had met with the Senate's engineering caucus because he said he was being discriminated against by A&M.

No records were kept of the meeting, Saatkamp said, because the caucus is not an official part of the Senate and does not require records.

"That meeting had nothing to do with the Faculty Senate body," Saatkamp said. "There were no Faculty Senate records destroyed and there never will be."

Acting Provost says work continues on Evans Library expansion project

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

Emphasizing qualitative growth instead of quantitative growth, Texas A&M Acting Provost E. Dean Gage said in a speech Monday that preliminary work continues on a \$25 million expansion project for the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Gage, who also serves as vice president for academic affairs, told the Faculty Senate that he is in the process of appointing a Library Expansion Planning Committee to implement recommendations made by several committees.

Gage said it is time A&M began improving its already existing services and facilities before expanding.

"It is time for us to carefully evaluate all new programs and be very selective," he said. "We can no longer be like Bermuda grass and send out new runners which require space and resources which we may not have available."

The library planning committee will include members of the provost's office, Evans Library, Medical Sciences Library, Faculty Senate, Student Services and other agencies.

Gage said the committee will use expert help from visitors outside A&M to make recommendations on how the library should be improved.

Much of Gage's speech outlined some of the academic programs he is pursuing in his acting provost role.

Gage said one of the projects is a Classroom Communications Enhancement Program, which he recently presented to the Academic Programs Council for review. Gage said that classroom communication

is as important to education as the curriculum.

"Unless the classroom communication is open and effective, even the best curriculum will not be delivered to the maximum benefit for the students or the instructor," he said.

Gage said he has appointed a committee on teaching assistant training and evaluation.

The committee will consider a more formalized program in teaching methods, research methodology, writing and reporting, and communication skills, he said.

"With the projected shortage of (graduates with) Ph.D.'s in the future, the rigorous tenure and promotion requirements and the need to protect quality undergraduate teaching, we must provide the very best training and education for our graduate students," Gage said.

Gage also said his office is working with the committee on student advising and counseling and in developing international programs.

Gage said if A&M is going to improve it must control its undergraduate student level, while increasing its graduate student level.

He also said the faculty must play a major role in the University's plans.

"A university is no stronger than its faculty, and the faculty will either be the greatest impediment or the most powerful agent for change and progress," he said.

Faculty Senate Speaker Dr. Herman Saatkamp said he was encouraged by Gage's speech.

"What was encouraging about his speech is that he is obviously going forward with academic affairs," Saatkamp said. "With the work with the library, teaching assistants and student advising, it's a clear indication that he is moving ahead."

Also during Committee of the Whole, Dr. Patricia Alexander from the College of Education said more women and minority group members need to be in the higher positions at A&M.

Committee of the Whole is an informal part of the Senate meeting when issues are raised for future discussion and possible action.

In other business, the Senate:

- Approved an 11-page policy on integrity in academic research and scholarship.
- Approved a request from the College of Agriculture and Life Sci-

ences for the formation of the Graduate Faculty in Nutrition.

- Approved a change in option in the Department of Recreation and Parks. The recommendation would change the option in park and resource interpretation to tourism management.

- Approved five new graduate-level courses, one each in business analysis, educational technology, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering and computer science.
- Passed a recommendation to create seven new undergraduate classes, one in English, four in re-

ation and parks and two in women's studies.

- Approved a resolution on legal counsel representation during Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure Hearings. The resolution states that the University administration cannot have a lawyer present during a hearing if the faculty member does not have a lawyer present.
- Passed a resolution requesting faculty input in the search and selection of the chancellor, deputy chancellor for academic affairs, president, provost, vice presidents and other administrative positions.