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FORECAST
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Partly Cloudy High 78



OPINION
"If he (Bush) would just quit spending money to fight nice guys like Saddam, we could do so much good!" — Thom Ives
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AGS SWEEP
18th-ranked Texas A&M baseball team sweeps UTA, prepares for SWC opener.
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Rep. Steve Ogden clarifies voter registration card election confusion
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The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 113 USPS 045360 10 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Wednesday, March 20, 1991

State revenue restraints freeze hiring of A&M personnel

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

A major revenue cut prompted Texas A&M to freeze the creation of new positions, and administrators said although cuts will hurt, they will not drastically affect academic programs.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said the state comptroller's office informed A&M March 11 that \$3.2 million must be returned to the state. The cuts are intended to help offset the state's \$296 million budget shortfall this year.

The returned revenue will be taken from all departments that receive state appropriations, but will not affect research grants, business services and most student services.

The \$3.2 million is about 1.5 percent of A&M's \$209 million in appropriations and revenues. But because the fiscal year is half over, the cut will feel more like a 3 percent cut for departments and colleges, Gage said.

The freeze, which calls for no new positions to be created until Aug. 31 — the end of the fiscal year — is a result of the administration having to look at

every possible mechanism and source to come up with the revenue, Gage said.

He said this freeze is not the same as a complete hiring freeze because open positions can be filled.

He said he did not know how it would affect student worker positions since each department and college has autonomy over how it will make its cuts.

He said there will be some cuts in workforce and wages, but it is impossible to determine how each individual department will make those reduc-

tions.

Assistant Provost Dan Parker said the cuts in the academic colleges will be closer to 1.1 percent because of the use of reserve funds to compensate for some cuts.

A memorandum from University President William Mobley dated March 5 called for the new position freeze and also urged deans and department heads to leave open positions vacant.

But Parker said this should not be viewed as a de facto hiring freeze. He said faculty recruiting is not affected, critical positions will be filled and peo-

ple with a good case for working probably will not be denied jobs.

Mobley said the new position freeze and the budget cuts are necessary to meet this year's shortfall and also to anticipate possible cuts in next year's budget.

"We don't know what our budget for next year will be, and we won't know until the summer," Mobley said. "We need to be careful we don't overcommit."

Mobley said he wanted to stress

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'We need to be very careful'

Committee aids search for new coach

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

Texas A&M Athletic Director John David Crow said Tuesday a newly formed advisory committee will help in the search for Kermit Davis Jr.'s replacement.

Crow said he conferred with A&M President William Mobley and created a five-member panel composed of members from the Athletic Council, the administration and faculty.

The Search Advisory Committee and Crow will evaluate all coaching applicants before recommending a candidate to Mobley.

Crow would not release the names of the committee members.

The committee met for the first time Tuesday afternoon to "draw the picture of the coach we'd like to have," Crow said.

He said he would like the committee to interview top candidates this year. Last year Davis was not interviewed by an advisory committee before he was hired.

The athletic director said interest in the coaching vacancy has been intense since Davis' resignation last Friday.

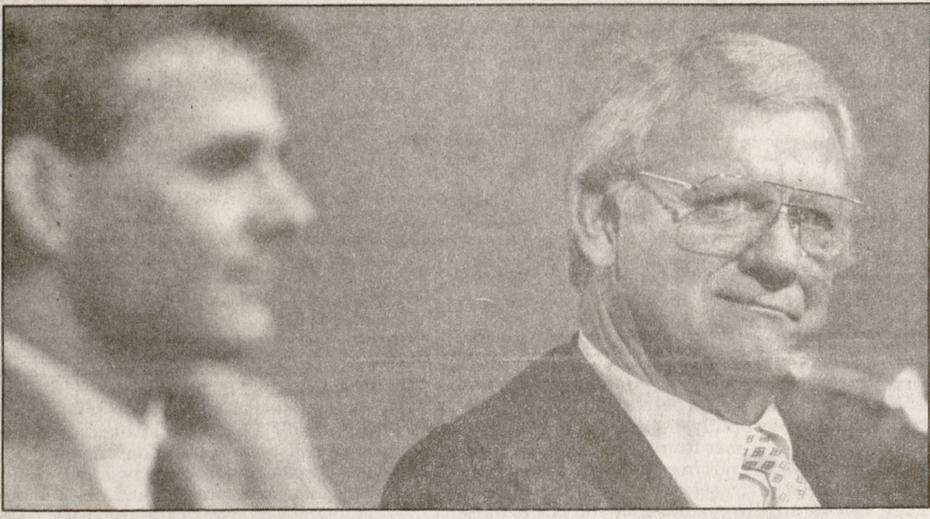
Crow said no timetable has been set for hiring a new coach, but that he has been bombarded with phone messages, resumés and tapes from interested candidates.

"This is a funny business," Crow said. "You don't have to announce the job and say we're accepting applications — they come to us."

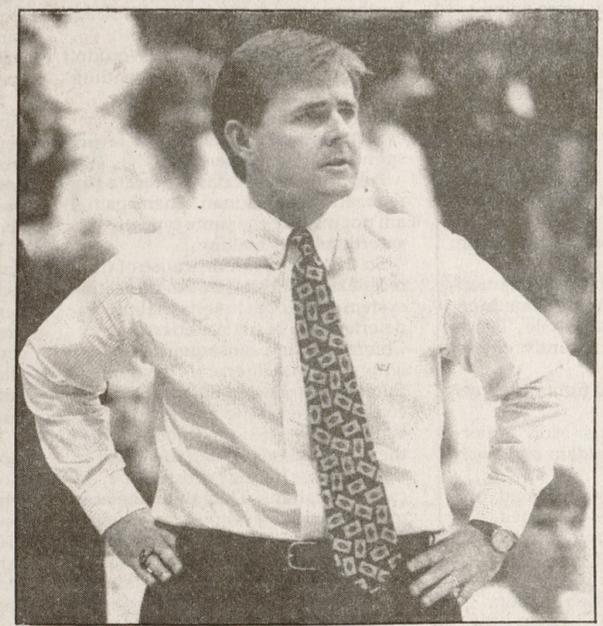
"We've got to decide what is best for A&M and go from there. We need to be very careful. We cannot afford another setback — we just can't."

Crow said interest in the job is

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M. MULVEY/The Battalion



J. JANNER/The Battalion

A&M Athletic Director John David Crow has begun the search for a replacement for former head basketball coach Kermit Davis Jr., but said Tuesday that his No. 1 priority was getting the program back on track.



F. JOE/The Battalion

Former A&M basketball coach Kermit Davis Jr. (above) warned against hoping for a quick turnaround of the basketball program, like the one Tom Penders

(above, right) has performed at Texas. Davis said it would take him two or three years to revive the program, but he resigned shortly after his first year.

Crow hopes troubled program stabilizes

By Richard Tijerina
The Battalion

The revitalization of Texas A&M basketball was one of John David Crow's top priorities when he became athletic director in 1988. But Crow — three years and three head coaches later — still is waiting for the great revival.

Scandal, coaching changes and losing seasons have tainted a once proud Aggie basketball program. With the possibility of NCAA probation now looming over A&M's future, Crow began the search process Monday for a head coach.

Kermit Davis Jr.'s resignation last Friday left the Aggies without a coach for the third time in a little more than one year. But Crow said Tuesday that he is hesitant to find a coach too quickly: his three-year old agenda still waits, and rushing to find Davis' replacement might do more harm than good.

"We need to take our time and hire a person that has the same goals that the University and the administration has," Crow said. "That goal is to build a solid foundation and be patient. (Davis' resignation) is a setback. What has happened to the basketball program is a setback."

"There's been an awful lot of interest in the job, but we've got to decide what's best for A&M and go from there. We need to be very, very careful. We cannot afford another setback. We just can't."

When asked if the list of applicants was as qualified as last year's when A&M hired Davis, Crow said, "Yes." When asked if any of those coaches were the same as last year, he said, "I think there are some coaches out there looking for jobs every year. If they don't get one this year, they'll look to the next year."

Several big names were mentioned in the Aggie coaching scenario in 1990, including Georgia Tech's Bobby Cremins, the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Gene Bartow and Xavier's Pete Gillen.

Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton, also rumored as a possible candidate in 1990, described A&M as one of the last places in the country where a coach could come in and build a great program. Sutton's no stranger to program revivals — he is the only coach in history to take four different teams to the NCAA Tournament — and his Cowboys still are going strong in the Tournament.

"Eddie Sutton is right," Crow said. "This (program) is a sleeping giant. If we can do it in football, we can do it in basketball."

Crow said he knows the answers to A&M's basketball dilemma. To build a successful program, the Aggies need to start with a coach who will give the program its much needed stability.

Arkansas' departure from the Southwest Conference only makes the need more important for A&M to get its basketball program back on track. Without the Razorbacks, Texas and Houston remain as the only SWC teams that have legitimate NCAA hopes next season.

A&M has a large number of former students in major revenue markets across the state, and a successful basketball program to go along with its football success would be a boon to the SWC.

"Texas in just three years has increased their income in basketball probably tenfold," Crow

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Kuwaiti professor details four months of atrocities

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

A Kuwaiti political science professor who was in Kuwait for the first four months of the Iraqi occupation described some of the atrocities he witnessed while in Kuwait.

Speaking to the Young Conservatives in the MSC Tuesday night, Dr. Abdullah Alshayehi described the three things he will never forget about the time he spent in occupied Kuwait.

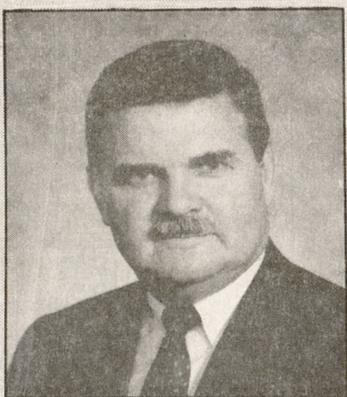
"I saw a four-year-old girl shot before my eyes," he said. "Her crime was she was wearing a dress with a Kuwaiti

flag on it."

Another thing he said he would never forget is seeing the last embrace of an American wife to her husband before she left for freedom while he stayed behind. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein allowed American and British women and children to leave Kuwait several weeks into the siege.

The Western women had to decide whether they would take their chance on freedom or stay by their husbands, Alshayehi said. He said many women had to say goodbye to their husbands whom they might never see again.

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A&M President Bill Mobley has proposed to the Board of Regents that 10 campus fees be increased.

Board of Regents considers plan to increase campus fees

By Mike Luman
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents is scheduled to raise 10 campus fees this week, including a sizable graduate tuition rate hike and a computer access fee increase.

The Board will consider fee increases, submitted by University President William Mobley, during a meeting Thursday. Regents will vote to authorize the increased rates Friday.

Other proposed rate hikes are to

A&M's off-campus bus system, diploma fee, transcript fee, elective and achievement test charges and existing field trip fees.

The Board also will consider establishing field trip fees for horticulture and forest science courses and will decide the fate of a proposed Commons mailbox rental fee.

All fee hikes will be effective before the end of the year if approved, except the graduate tuition increase, which will begin Fall 1992.

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