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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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A&M provides resident advisers with lowest compensation

By Tammy Bryson
The Battalion

Texas A&M provides its resident advisers with the least compensation in terms of hourly wages and housing benefits compared to eight other universities in Texas.

The other seven universities surveyed were Sam Houston State University, University of Houston, Stephen F. Austin State University, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University and Southwest Texas State University.

University. A&M presently pays its RAs \$4.20 an hour for 16 hours a week, which comes to about \$1,200 a semester. University RAs do not receive any housing benefits.

UT-Austin has the highest compensation for RAs, who receive a monthly cash stipend that pays for their room and board. They get to keep the money that is left over after paying expenses, about \$90. Total compensation is estimated at about \$2,400 a semester.

Southwest Texas State University provides free room and board to its advisers along with a stipend based on

experience. Average compensation for advisers at Southwest Texas is between \$1,600 to \$1,800 a semester.

A&M is the only university surveyed that did not offer either free or discounted room and board as part of payment to advisers.

Tom Murray, associate director of Student Affairs for Residence Life, said A&M handles RA compensation differently than other universities.

"We (department of student affairs officials) have elected to use a straight-salary system because there are six different rent scales for dorms at A&M," Murray said.

The amount that advisers are paid

depends on how much money is in the budget, he said.

"I would like to be able to pay the RAs more, but we have a limited amount of money to work with," he said. "We have increased the number of hours that advisers are paid in an effort to raise their salaries."

Murray added that advisers do not receive private rooms as partial payment because of present occupancy demands.

"It is hard to compare our amount of payment with other institutions because different schools have different responsibilities for their advisers," he said. "But I was not aware that we

were low compared to other universities. If this is true then we need to do something about it."

Steven Schoolcraft, a resident adviser in Neeley hall, said he believes the experience gained through being an RA makes the job worthwhile, in spite of the low wages.

"I don't think I get paid enough for what I do," he said. "But this is not a paying job. This job helps you to build experience, build character and build a resume."

Information about resident advisers' compensation was obtained from phone interviews with surveyed schools' housing officials.

Soldiers advance deep into Kuwaiti territory

Editor's note: Michael A. Kelley, a Class of '89 political science graduate, worked for The Battalion as a reporter in the fall of 1989. What follows is a chronicle of some of his experiences as an M1A1 tank platoon leader during the Persian Gulf War. This is part three of a four-part series.

Day 1, G-Day, Feb. 24
We pulled out of our FAA at 8:30 a.m. and moved a few kilometers up to our pre-attack position. It started raining and did not stop until night, when it became a light drizzle.

A sand storm kicked up at 10 a.m., just as we were told we would attack today, not tomorrow, as planned.

Our scouts out front found no enemy in the bunkers to our front, so the division and corp commanders decided to cross the line of departure (LD), the Iraqi border.

We crossed over a 10-foot high earthwork that was once a defensive berm. Our engineers cut a hole through the piled up sand and rock so we could keep rolling.

We did not stop until 8 p.m., once we were about 50 kilometers into Iraq. During this first day we saw no enemy.

Day 2, Feb. 25, we started rolling again at dawn and saw no enemy all morning, although our scouts out front did capture a few enemy soldiers. Once again it rained all day, and once again we were happy about this fact.

The rain kept the dust down so as not to alert the enemy of our position, and it decreases the dirt that builds up in the engine filters. The best thing about the precipitation is that it severely decreases the effectiveness of chemical and biological weapons, as it washes these deadly vapors to the ground.

At noon we halted to refuel and do some maintenance, while Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRSs) were fired at known enemy positions to our front. At about 1 p.m. we headed toward the positions.

An infantry battalion from our brigade hit the objective on the furthest left, so we swept around this position to destroy or capture any fleeing enemy.

At 3 p.m. we had to stop because so many enemy soldiers were walking around with their hands up trying to surrender. As our attached infantry guards gathered up these 80 or so prisoners, the military police pulled up to haul them off to a holding area.

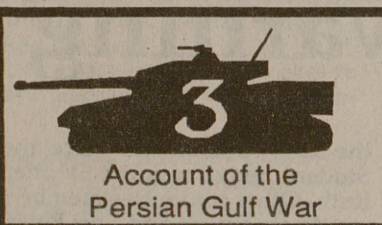
An interpreter found out that these are just farmers and shepherders who were made to bear arms by their government. They were only too happy to finally have somebody to surrender to so they could get some food and water.

Their torn and tattered uniforms and the tired look on their faces told their whole story from a glance.

At 4 p.m. we moved out again until well after dark, at about 10 p.m. By this time the wind had

picked up to 30 mph, and the rain came down in sheets. It was miserable to be sweating inside of our chemical protective suits while having cold rain drip down our necks at the same time. By this time, nobody smelled good either, but nobody cared.

At about 10 p.m. the sky was lit up and filled with the thunderous swooshing of over 100 of our MLRS rockets, heading off to "prep" the enemy objective we would hit in the morning. Artillery howitzers, 152mm self-propelled guns, soon joined in on the action, adding to the fireworks display while clearing the way for the next day's advance.



Account of the Persian Gulf War

Day 3, Feb. 26, once again we moved out at daybreak, as our huge armored formation continued pushing deeper into Iraq, parallel to the Kuwaiti border to our east. What we had just accomplished in the first two days was a flanking maneuver around the huge Iraqi minefields and obstacles along the Kuwaiti-Saudi border, and a penetration into Iraq that would set us up to hit the Republican Guard forces on their weak flanks. This was all part of the United States' new Air Land Battle Doctrine, and it worked superbly here.

The only signs of the enemy all day came at about 10 a.m. when we passed three destroyed Iraqi supply trucks in a company-sized bunker complex.

We then kept going until 1 p.m. when we stopped to do a thorough maintenance check. We would be moving all night, so we had to keep our equipment running through checks of the tracks and engine. We then refueled and rolled out again at 3 p.m.

We drove until about 9 p.m. when we halted so that our scouts could clear obstacles made of tank ditches, earthen berms, barbed wire, and mines. The MLRS and howitzers then took this time to clear the way for our night movement.

Once again this hauntingly beautiful display lit up the night sky and warned the Iraqis of our presence. By 10 p.m. we were rolling again, this time for the duration of the night.

As we kept going, our scouts destroyed buildings and vehicles along the way. Our lead company - "D" (Delta) Company - had to suppress enemy sniper fire from one building when one of its tanks threw its tracks.

We were running into more Iraqi soldiers who wanted to quit as well, as we were now well into enemy territory. Having reached the northwest tip of Kuwait, we gradually began to move east, toward Basra, and the Republican Guards.

Thursday: The trip home



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

Too hot for ice

Jeff Yanko, a junior from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, changes into roller-blades to practice his slapshots in the Grove Wednesday.

By Melinda Cox
The Battalion

Texas A&M's Office of Bilingual/ESL Multicultural Education offers resources and materials in multiculturalism available to A&M students and the community.

The office also offers programs for master and doctoral students. Dr. Viola Florez, director of the office, said the programs and facilities offer essential information.

"There is a need in Texas to look at the demographics," Florez said. "We need to educate

everyone about other cultures."

The programs offer courses to those interested in teaching bilingual education and English as a second language. These classes are then taught to children in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The office acts as a center for anyone interested in multicultural education.

Hugh Fox, a graduate student with OBEM, said the center provides resources which encourage and help develop interests in multiculturalism.

"The office is the nerve center for anyone interested in education," Fox said. "The multicultu-

A&M may escape cuts

Economist: Budget plan won't affect campus

By Mack Harrison
The Battalion

State Comptroller John Sharp's deficit reduction plan should not have any negative impact on Texas A&M's budget, said Dr. Tom Saving, director of the Center for Education and research in Free Enterprise.

Saving, an A&M economics professor, said the comptroller's plan will not affect the University's budget and might even benefit the school.

If the Legislature accepts Sharp's plan, it will not have to cut state universities' budget.

"What happens depends on if the plan works," he said. "It could have a positive effect if there is no budget crunch."

A&M Controller Thomas Taylor said the University's total budget is approximately \$550 million, and more than half involves educational and general programs. The rest involves auxiliary enterprises like residence halls, food services and the airport.

Taylor said \$182 million of the \$265 million for educational and general purposes comes from the state's general fund. The rest comes from grants, lab fees, the University Fund and other sources.

Earlier this year, a \$3.2 million budget shortfall forced A&M to cancel some summer classes and eliminate certain student worker and graduate student teaching assistant positions.

Saving said budget cuts hit the University worse than other state agencies because it cannot change its fiscal plan like non-scholastic institutions. Funds are spent in advance to plan the academic year.

"(A&M) can't cut back like other agencies can," he said. "We don't have the flexibility because we make a nine-month

commitment." Sharp's plan includes consolidating state agencies and bank accounts, eliminating some state jobs, and raising tuition at state colleges and universities.

Saving said he would not be surprised if tuition rates went up at A&M. Tuition and fees at Texas schools are presently among the lowest in the nation.

"When you consider the quality (of state universities), it's a gigantic bargain," he said. "But it's not a bargain for the taxpayers."

State leaders receive blueprint for audit

AUSTIN (AP) — State leaders Wednesday received a blueprint for saving and raising \$5.2 billion, and Gov. Ann Richards said the massive audit should head off talk of a state income tax.

"My personal feeling is that you will not see an income tax in Texas," Richards said. "I said repeatedly I didn't think you were going to see an income tax in Texas, and I do not believe that anything's changed."

However, the governor stopped short of predicting that the nearly 1,000 changes proposed by Comptroller John Sharp's audit could prevent all taxes from going up.

"As far as what will be needed, though, in terms of additional revenue — I don't think we know that yet," she said.

The governor praised the audit's proposals, saying adoption of them by the Legislature would put the state on the road to a dramatic overhaul.

Campus multicultural program offers resources, materials

concept is a complex issue, but the center allows students to become aware."

Fox said the formal course load offered by OBEM is funded through a federal grant, providing fellowships to students studying bilingual education or teaching English as a second language.

The center loans out library materials, language tapes, research programs and a networking system. People can come and see what sort of materials they can use in the classroom to teach students and also to increase their personal awareness.

Fox said the center fills a vacuum by providing a place for interested parties to gather information.

Florez said it is important that multiculturalism is taught as an everyday part of life and not as a fragmented or isolated issue.

She said multiculturalism should be integrated into the core curriculum of teacher education to provide effective teaching to minority students.

Those interested in resource material or programs offered through the OBEM are encouraged to call the office at 845-0874.