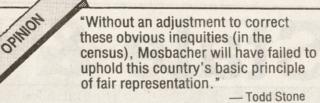


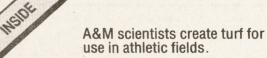
A&M Waterski

Club offers summer excitement.

page 3



page 5



page 2

Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 170 USPS 045360 6 Pages

College Station, Texas

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Wednesday, July 17, 1991

Proposed fee could help expand Study Abroad, Mobley says

By Susan Maguire The Battalion

A proposed \$1 per student fee could lessen a serious gap between Texas A&M's Study Abroad program and most programs in the nation, University President William Mobley said.

Mobley said state legislation has been approved that would allow the \$1 fee and a special student-faculty committee to evaluate its possible establishment at A&M

Despite running one of the premier study abroad programs in the state, Mobley said A&M only involves about 0.5 percent of the student body in international education.

"The national goal ought to be more toward 10 percent, according to a report by the National Governors Association" he said. "Obviously our pro-

gram has a long way to go."

Mobley said about 500 A&M students participate in Study Abroad programs each semester, a figure he says the proposed fee could double. "Money is obviously a major reason for the shortcoming at A&M," Mobley said. "If we can put the funds from the fees into the program, we can eliminate that impediment."

Dr. Emily Ashworth, assistant provost for International Programs at A&M, said there would probably be a delay in the program's implementation

due to the upcoming budget crunch.

"We would probably have to wait until spring," Ashworth said. "We would like to get the full support of the

student body before we start charging the fee. But, given the possibility of a tuition increase, we need to be sensitive to student needs."

Mobley said the fee will come up for approval by the Texas A&M Board of Regents in July before it can be implemented during the Spring 1992 semes-

"Study Abroad can provide one of the most meaningful facets in an edu-cation," he said. "With this fee, the

Board has a good opportunity to make sure it is available to interested stu-

Ashworth said a fee similar to the one proposed is already in use at the University of Texas and has been suc-

"The committee visited UT, and had a sense that the students there felt good about their program," she said. It was because of the positive

leaders rally

Mobley, Gage give testimony in Austin to protest budget cuts in higher education

at capital

By Mack Harrison

The Battalion

Officials from Texas A&M and other schools are rallying in Austin this week to contest state Comptroller John Sharp's recom-mended budget cuts for higher

University President William

"We're helping all the people

Mobley and Dr. E. Dean Gage,

vice president and provost for

academic affairs, are at the capital this week to testify about the effects Sharp's proposals would have on A&M.

education.

See Study/Page 6



SÖNDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

Tennis yoga

Denise Goehring, a senior elementary education major from Bryan, shows 13-year-old Gabrielle Sitoner the proper serving technique Tuesday at the Texas A&M tennis courts. Sitoner is one of 140 participants at the University-sponsored camp

here solve the fiscal dilemma of this state," Gage said. "There's been a lot of testimony, and it's going pretty well." one thinks. Gage said he has been telling lawmakers about the effects of Sharp's budget recommendations on research, tuition and fundamental statements. "There is no justification for slashing higher education funding," he said. "State revenue funds are doing are doing to heliour." other facets of higher education. "We're providing testimony on how it would affect us and our students," he said. "We're ple have been led to believe. From Sept. 1, 1990, to March

31, 1991, Texas had a \$1.3 billion surplus, and the state presently has \$5.6 billion in its accounts, Ogden said.

the state's budget shortfall.

Sharp's recommendations in-clude increasing tuition with ex-

tra revenue going back to the state, taking money from schools' private funds, delaying construction and eliminating

funding for certain programs.
Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said the outlook for higher edu-

cation is not as bleak as it was,

"Our reference point is not as low as it was a week ago," he said. "But we should continue to

ask for what we need."

Ogden said the state's finances are not as bad as every-

but the situation is still serious.

See related stories/Page 2

See Ogden/Page 6

Campus Charity Drive gears up for fall fund raising

By Susan Maguire The Battalion

Preparations are under way for Texas A&M's annual Campus Charity Drive, a University through the workplace. administration spokesperson

The Campus Charity Drive, Way, though other charities can card.

A&M's Charitable Contribution Committee, said the drive gives people on campus an opportunity to devote extra assistance

Bob Fleischer, director of the local United Way office, said a brochure will be sent to faculty which will take place in Septem- and staff containing an explana-ber, is affiliated with United tion of each charity and a pledge

apply to benefit from the drive.

Sheran Riley, chairwoman of not participate in the same proc-A&M students, however, do ess, Fleischer said. Student organizations get involved by throwing fund raisers, such as Greek Week or volleyball tournaments.

Fleischer said the donating process for A&M will have a slight twist this year.

People wanting to donate on campus will have the chance to donate to a charity, even if it wasn't chosen in the screening,"

he said. "The organization has to be a health or human service that provides services in the Brazos Valley and can't be a private organization.

"We're doing this because we realize that people might have a favorite charity that isn't includ-

Fleischer said the committee is testing this option out on campus first because it requires a lot of administrative work.

In 1989, the University expanded its charitable program beyond only the United Way and began accepting applications from other organizations.

trying to work with Sharp's peo-

cial session Monday to resolve

The Legislature started its spe-

ple (on the budget).

Fleischer said A&M accepts organizations that do not operate locally, whereas the United Way only accepts charities with a local board of directors.

A&M will include only tax-exempt, non-private health and human service organizations.

Applications to be included in the charity drive can be obtained from the Office of the President and the deadline for completed applications is July 19.

A committee of students, faculty and staff are appointed by University President William Mobley. The committee reviews applications and determines the groups to be included in the drive.

See Donation/Page 6

A&M rebukes reported \$400 million error

The Battalion

Texas A&M System officials bristled Tuesday at a newspaper story that said they "made a \$400 million flub" in calculating the effects of Comptroller John Sharp's proposed budget cuts.

"The report is grossly inaccurate," A&M Provost E. Dean Gage said about a story in Tuesday's Bryan-College Station Ea-gle. "There is no way we could make that error.'

The Eagle reported that A&M officials miscalculated figures from Sharp's budget-cutting report, the Texas Performance Review (TPR), to the tune of \$400 million. The story was based on Gov. Ann Richards' speech

Monday to the Legislature.
But A&M officials attacked the story.

"To say that Texas A&M officials made a '\$400 million flub' is absurd, and to attribute such an obviously incorrect statement to Gov. Richards is a disservice to her," said a news release from University President William Mobley and System Chancellor Ed Hiler.

"The fact is, A&M does not even receive \$400 million in general revenue appropriations in a two-year period," it contin-

Gage said the University received \$178.8 million from state coffers for the current fiscal year, so A&M officials could not have made that kind of error.

The confusion over Sharp's

report apparently resulted from A&M officials using a different

set of numbers to calculate po-

tential losses to the University

at least \$53.6 million in fiscal

years 1992-93 if the Legislature

A&M calculated it would lose

in the next biennium.

enacted all of Sharp's plan, forcing the University to cut faculty and staff positions, increase

"The report is grossly inaccurate. There is no way we could make that error."

-- E. Dean Gage, A&M provost



class sizes, reduce library hours and decrease enrollment. Using a different starting point, Richards and Sharp ar-

rived at different numbers. It has become clear that two different bases of reference have been used to calculate the net increases or decreases of

funds for higher education during the next biennium," the A&M statement said. "These are not errors or miscalculations, but rather different assumptions on the point of departure for the next period's

While Sharp's report might not be as severe as once thought by higher education officials, A&M and other universities will likely not get the level of funding necessary to maintain current services.

Richards and Sharp said A&M and the University of Texas were the only universities to misread the numbers and insinuated that the two largest schools were scrambling for public sympathy.

In its statement, however, A&M said all state higher education officials "were of the same mind regarding the effects of the TPR."

State Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said Tuesday he was sure A&M did not purposely misrepresent figures.

"An honest person starting from the point A&M did and the point Sharp did would come to different conclusions," he

University and System representatives were in Austin on Tuesday to testify before legislators attempting to write a budget by Sept. 1. A rally for higher education also was scheduled.

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