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FORECAST
Thursday
 Partly Cloudy
 High in 90s



SPORTS
A&M Waterski
 Club offers summer excitement.
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OPINION
 "Without an adjustment to correct these obvious inequities (in the census), Mosbacher will have failed to uphold this country's basic principle of fair representation."
 — Todd Stone
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INSIDE
 A&M scientists create turf for use in athletic fields.
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The 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 program 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 semester. "Study Abroad can provide one of the most meaningful facets in an education," he said. "With this fee, the

Board has a good opportunity to make sure it is available to interested students." Ashworth said a fee similar to the one proposed is already in use at the University of Texas and has been successful. "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

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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.
 SONDRA ROBBINS/The Battalion

University leaders rally at capital

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

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 recommended budget cuts for higher education. University President William 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. "We're helping all the people here solve the fiscal dilemma of this state," Gage said. "There's been a lot of testimony, and it's going pretty well." Gage said he has been telling lawmakers about the effects of Sharp's budget recommendations on research, tuition and other facets of higher education. "We're providing testimony on how it would affect us and our students," he said. "We're trying to work with Sharp's people (on the budget)." The Legislature started its special session Monday to resolve

the state's budget shortfall. Sharp's recommendations include increasing tuition with extra 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 education is not as bleak as it was, but the situation is still serious.

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"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 everyone thinks. "There is no justification for slashing higher education funding," he said. "State revenue funds are doing better than people 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.

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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 administration spokesperson said. The Campus Charity Drive, which will take place in September, is affiliated with United Way, though other charities can

apply to benefit from the drive. Sheran Riley, chairwoman of A&M's Charitable Contribution Committee, said the drive gives people on campus an opportunity to devote extra assistance through the workplace. Bob Fleischer, director of the local United Way office, said a brochure will be sent to faculty and staff containing an explanation of each charity and a pledge card. A&M students, however, do not participate in the same process, 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 included." 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. 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.

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A&M rebukes reported \$400 million error

By Chris Vaughn
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 Eagle. "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 Hilier. "The fact is, A&M does not even receive \$400 million in general revenue appropriations in a two-year period," it continued. 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. 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

The confusion over Sharp's report apparently resulted from A&M officials using a different set of numbers to calculate potential losses to the University in the next biennium. A&M calculated it would lose at least \$53.6 million in fiscal years 1992-93 if the Legislature

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 said. 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.

