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# Mobley denounces conflict of interest charges

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does assist in the Employee Assistance Program as an independent professional, but in no way is that a conflict of interest."

Dr. Kenneth Dirks, the other co-chair of the committee and director of A.P. Beutel Health Center, said Jones is not affiliated with the University because she is not on the A&M payroll.

"In a sense, she's not employed with the University," he said. "She is available through the Faculty Assistance Program."

Jones at one time had a faculty appointment with the University.

Some A&M faculty and administrators said they are pleased with Jones' appointment to the committee by Mobley.

Dirks said Jones is not only sympathetic to her patients, but

also to women's issues.

John Quarles, Jr., an associate professor of medicine and chairman of the Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Women, said Jones will do a good job on the committee. He said he does not see her involvement with the assistance program as a conflict of interest.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's not enough of an affiliation with the University to cause a problem," he said.

Dr. Charles Harris, assistant head of the Department of Philosophy, said Jones will bring good insight to the investigation. He said it was his impression that she and the committee would do a good job.

"It's my impression that Mobley has succeeded in selecting a committee that wouldn't be under

suspicion," he said. "If people don't trust the committee, what they're doing is a waste of time."

Harris said a conflict of interest occurs when someone has a second obligation that interferes with his first obligation.

He said if Mobley only selected Jones for the committee because she had no University affiliation, there might be a conflict of interest. However, he said the same could be said for the faculty members on the committee.

"Other people are more closely affiliated (than Jones)," he said.

The four women who reported discrimination and harassment in the Corps of Cadets to Mobley said they believe Jones is fair and competent to serve on the committee.

Jones is out of town until Oct. 18 and unavailable for comment.

But Dirks said the investigation is continuing.

"We're moving right along as swiftly as we can," he said. "We're a fact-finding panel, and that could take a while."

The committee was established two weeks ago by Mobley to investigate allegations by four women who say they were discriminated against and harassed while in the Corps.

The women, who wish to remain anonymous, were promised to take action by the Sept. 17 reported assault of a female cadet because she applied for membership in the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry.

One of the women wrote a letter citing specific incidents of discrimination and harassment, including verbal, physical and sexual assault.

# Allegations put Thomas' nomination in jeopardy

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Thursday night. "We cannot discuss the details of this matter, but Judge Thomas will deal with the allegations in the course of the hearings."

The source said Ms. Wright was a "mid-level" staffer at the EEOC. It was not clear when she worked at the agency or for how long.

Walsh complained that the

committee had not requested or pursued an FBI investigation of Ms. Wright's complaints, "as is normal practice."

Ms. Hill, the former aide to Thomas at EEOC is expected to be the lead witness when the hearings begin Friday morning. At stake in the proceedings is Thomas' bitterly fought nomination to the Supreme Court.

"He knows it's been terribly damaging but he wants to do

what he can to clear this cloud off his character," said Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, who will act as Thomas' chief Senate defender in the hearings.

Hill spent Thursday consulting with her quickly formed legal team, said Louise Hilsen, a publicist retained to be her spokeswoman during the hearings. Hill's parents and two brothers were arriving to be with her in the hearing room Friday.

"I support him 100 percent," said President Bush. He added, "I'm simply not going to inject myself into what's going on in the Senate."

"Let's see the Senate get on with this business in a fair fashion, get this matter resolved," Bush said.

The panel could hear testimony through the weekend before the Senate votes at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the troubled nomination.

# Testing health workers for AIDS causes dilemma

Continued from Page 1

the New York State Health Department, said his state stood to lose tens of millions of dollars.

"It would be the heart of our public health service function in New York state," he said. The funds allow the state to immunize children and fight tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

The aim is to prevent a recurrence of a Florida case in which a dentist, the late Dr. David Acer, transmitted the AIDS virus to five

patients. He is the only health care worker in the country who is known to have transmitted the virus to a patient.

Those who favor strong measures to protect against infected health care workers were given a compelling voice in Kimberly Bergalis, who is dying of AIDS that she contracted from Acer.

In testimony before Congress, Ms. Bergalis pleaded that the government require health care workers to undergo AIDS testing "so other patients and health care providers don't

have to go through the hell that I have."

Even before her testimony, many states were passing laws, or enacting administrative policies, to protect patients from infected health care workers.

A law signed last week by Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar requires infected health care workers to notify their patients; if they don't, the state will dig into their medical records and do it for them. The American Civil Liberties Union has said it may challenge the law on the basis that it violates a constitutional right to privacy.

Even before her testimony, many states were passing laws, or enacting administrative policies, to protect patients from infected health care workers.

# Baker speaks to Palestinians in hopes for peace

Continued from Page 1

specific incidents I'm referring to when I talk about rejectionists and extremists taking actions to disrupt the process."

He said he didn't want to be specific because "many of these things have to do with prospects for terrorism and they come from highly classified information. So I'm not prepared to go beyond what I just said."

Baker met in his office with the four Palestinians in an effort to enlist their support for the peace conference.

"I think it is the major issue that remains to be resolved," Baker said.

Hanan Ashrawi, one of the four Palestini-

ans who saw Baker, said she was satisfied "to a certain degree" with Baker's assurances about the nature of the negotiations to be held.

"I don't think we have reached the ideal level of assurances that are needed, but we have made some progress and I think there is more possible," she said. "That's why we are here."

Baker stressed that he is not ready to announce a conference would be held.

"We've got to see some decisions taken here," he said. "We've got to see some decisions taken across the board."

Depending on how his trip works out, Baker said the United States and the Soviet Union, as co-sponsors, might issue invitations for a

peace conference later in the month even if all the parties have not agreed to attend.

One of the Palestinians, Sari Nusseibeh, said before the session that he didn't think a formula for Palestinian participation had been worked out.

Nusseibeh, speaking at a luncheon sponsored by the private Foundation for Middle East Peace, called for a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"Basically, what you have today is an attitude change on the part of the Palestinians and maybe the Arab world," he said.

The other Palestinians seeing Baker were Faisal Hussein and Zaakaria al-Agha.

peace conference later in the month even if all the parties have not agreed to attend.

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## Bexar County to raise cost of dying

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dying could get more costly in Bexar County if commissioners approve a proposed death certificate processing fee.

The commissioners are considering charging \$20 for the processing of death certificates for burial and \$10 for cremations. The fees would apply to deaths in which no physician is present.

Though such fees are common in other states and range from \$5 to \$100, no other Texas medical examiners charge to process death certificates, said County Medical Examiner Dr. Vincent DiMaio.

The proposal, discussed by commissioners Wednesday, could raise an estimated \$40,000 a year for the county's general fund.

Commissioners are scheduled to decide the matter in two to three weeks when they adopt the new budget.

The commissioners also want to increase the daily fee for storage of a body in the county morgue from \$35 to \$50. That increase would generate an additional \$15,000 annually, commissioners say.

Representatives of the city's 26 funeral homes voiced strong opposition to the death certificate fee proposal.

"This is just something we will have to pass on to the families," said Victor Perez, director of Rodriguez Bexar County Funeral Home. "Some families, especially on our side of town, are barely making it."

John Deitloff, manager of Sunset Funeral Home, said the entire funeral home industry in San Antonio is upset about the proposed fees.

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