

The Battalion

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A&M considers NSI pilot program

Clinton's National Service Initiative to help students obtain, pay for loans

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

Texas A&M students may have the opportunity to be involved in President Clinton's new student loan program by the end of 1993 if the University chooses to participate in a pilot program.

The National Service Initiative (NSI) is two pieces of legislation that may change the way students pay for college. The first bill of the initiative, the National Service Trust Act, will allow students to pay back loans with one or two years of community service.

The second bill, the Student Loan Reform Act, will allow students to borrow money directly from their college.

Jack Falks, assistant director of Student Financial Aid at Texas A&M, said schools have until Oct. 1 to decide whether or not they want to be a pilot school for the program, and A&M is currently deciding whether it wants to be involved.

Falks said the major drawback he sees with the program is the schools will face the added responsibility of being the lenders.

"The schools will have more work to do," Falks said. "We will absorb the majority of the responsibilities and liabilities."

"If we have a bad loan, we would be stuck with the responsibility of collecting it," he said.

Falks said the loans would be

awarded to the students directly through the schools.

"This system will be a lot more streamlined," he said. "It really will simplify the entire process."

"It is supposedly going to be a lot quicker for the students," Falks said.

Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley said in a press release that the primary objective in re-vamping the student loan system is to serve students better.

"A new streamlined system will simplify the administrative tasks of educational institutions, make the system easier to understand, provide students with greater choice in repayment plans and lower costs to taxpayers and students," he said.

Student body president Brian Walker said he is skeptical about Clinton's program.

"I would like to see a pilot program go into effect first," he said. "If this shows that the system works better without the middlemen, then there's no need to have them."

"But if all the lenders are taken out and it goes to a direct loan from the University and something goes wrong, there's nothing to fall back on," Walker said.

The middlemen, or the lenders, are not excited about the new program.

"The lenders have a lot to lose," Falks said.

Another option of Clinton's program is to allow students to borrow \$10,000 for two years of service. This service could be done before, during or after the student attends college.

Falks said high school students could pay for their loan before they even attend school.

"It would be a loan that is already forgiven," Falks said.

Riley said, "Under this program, students who wish to take low-paying community service jobs... will be able to repay their loans as a small percentage of their income so that they will not be overburdened by debt."

Opponent of Clinton's plan have said students with a degree are too qualified to work in this type of service positions and could benefit the nation more working in their respective fields.

"The money they have to pay off might be easily paid with their income," Falks said.

Falks said Clinton's program is geared toward students with degrees that offer a low starting

salary after graduation.

"This will make it easier for students with low incomes to repay their loans," he said.

Other opportunities will be available for students attending schools that cannot originate this type of loan.

"I understand that not every institution will be able to originate loans, and some will not want to," Riley said. "In these cases, an alternative originator will be available at no cost to the institution."

A U.S. Department of Education press release stated colleges and trade schools would use federal capital to make loans directly to students and their parents. According to the release, "An estimated \$4.3 billion could be saved through fiscal year 1988 as a result of lower government borrowing rates and the elimination of lender subsidies."

"Students and taxpayers will benefit from a less expensive program and students will enjoy lower interest rates, with simpler, more flexible repayment options," Riley said. "By cutting out middlemen and eliminating excessive profits, billions of dollars can be saved."

The NSI is still in subcommittee. When both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate approve the same versions of the bill, it will be submitted to the president for approval or veto. Since this is Clinton's program, he will almost surely approve it.

"This will make it easier for students with low incomes to repay their loans."

-Jack Falks, asst. director of financial aid

Fore!



RICHARD DIXON/The Battalion

John Heffington, a senior at A&M Consolidated High School, practices golf Tuesday afternoon on the A&M golf course. Heffington is preparing for

the Central Texas Junior Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at 8 a.m. Thursday at the A&M golf course.

Serbs bomb Sarajevo civilians during soccer game, killing 15

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serb mortar crews targeted a pickup soccer game on a Muslim holy day Tuesday, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens in one of the war's worst attacks on Sarajevo civilians.

An hour after two shells slammed into the crowd of spectators, the soccer ball remained on the parking lot near Sarajevo airport where the game was played, surrounded by the victims' blood.

Bosnian radio had warned residents that besieging Serbs might launch a heavy attack on Kurban Bayram, a holy day that commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God.

About 200 Sarajevans gathered on the Dobrinja suburb field anyway for the soccer game.

"It wasn't a very good idea,"

said Sead Bajric, his right leg bloody and bandaged from the attack, as he lay in a field hospital nearby. "But ... people will gather and live their lives normally."

Three days earlier, residents had shown their defiance and desire for normalcy by holding a beauty pageant, crowning a 17-year-old as Miss Besieged Sarajevo.

Bajric said he had a message for "these savages on the hill" — the Serb gunners positioned on the slopes around Sarajevo: "They will never kill our morale, no matter how many of us they kill."

"People started screaming," Bajric, 20, said. "Shoes were flying around. There was a lot of blood."

Bosnian television said 15 people were killed. Attending physician Youssef Hajir said 25 of the almost 80 wounded had "life-threatening injuries," Hajir said.

"It's one of the saddest days in Dobrinja since the beginning of

the war," Hajir said. President Alija Izetbegovic urged his people to have courage and faith as he joined fellow Muslims in dawn prayer.

Reports of desperate battles in northern and eastern Bosnia added to the gloom on a day reserved in better times to celebrating the "Feast of Sacrifice."

Serb shelling in the north Bosnian city of Maglaj on Tuesday killed two Danes and a Bosnian who worked for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Five other Danish drivers were wounded, one seriously.

In the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, ham radio operator Mustafa Kurtovic reported that the "ground is shaking" from explosions.

Medjedja, a village 12 miles northeast of Gorazde, had fallen to the Serbs who had torched it, Kurtovic said.

University fights research criticism

Research, teaching related, Gage says

By LAURA HALEY

The Battalion

In the past two years, research-based universities, such as Texas A&M, have received increasing criticism for spending too much time on research and not enough time on teaching.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, A&M senior vice president and provost of academic affairs, said the research conducted by professors can add to the classroom environment.

"Without research and scholarship, the faculty does not grow and learn, and this affects what is done in the classroom," he said.

There is an interrelationship between research and teaching, and the problem is that many research-based universities tend to over-emphasize either research or teaching, Gage said.

When research is not done, education becomes obsolete, he said.

Dr. Robert Kennedy, A&M associate provost for research management, agreed.

"In general, the best researchers make the best teachers and vice versa," he said.

Many professors carry over their excitement from research to

the classroom, making the learning experience fun for everyone, he said.

Kennedy admits, however, that too much time spent on research not used in the classroom can be a disadvantage.

Student body president Brian Walker said although research is an important aspect of the teaching process, many professors do not mention their research in the classroom.

"They (professors) have never said I'm teaching you this through research, but I assume they are," he said.

If professors do acknowledge their research in the classroom, it may not be helpful to the student or pertain to what the class is studying, he said.

Gage said some initiatives have been taken to keep a balance between teaching and research at A&M.

A new faculty reward system is being used to help the balance, he said.

In this reward system, faculty will be commended in the area of their expertise, whether it be research or teaching. For example, teachers will be rewarded for their classroom ability instead of having to compete with re-

searchers, Gage said.

A classroom communications enhancement program developed by the University two years ago focuses on emphasizing and improving teaching at A&M. The program helps the teaching process by ensuring students are able to understand what is being taught in the classroom.

A research-based university adds to the quality and prestige of the degree because it reflects the quality and knowledge of the faculty," Gage said.

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- Sullivan: Choosing athletic role models

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Schedule

Friday (Bracket One)

- #1 Texas A&M vs. #8 Kansas

#4 Long Beach vs. #5 LSU

Saturday (Bracket Two)

- #2 Arizona St. vs. #7 Wichita St.

- #3 Texas vs. #6 Oklahoma St.



Poor school districts attack latest funding reform plan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The state no sooner presented its latest school funding reform plan to a judge Tuesday than property-poor school districts announced plans to challenge the measure.

"Poor districts will suffer tremendously" under the law, said lawyer Al Kauffman of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

State District Judge F. Scott McCown of Austin said he would presume the new law is constitutional until such challenges are filed, then set a hearing. He is allowing state aid to flow to schools this summer.

McCown, who oversees the long-running school finance case, said it is likely that schools will operate under the new plan over the next school year because of the time needed for courts — and if necessary, lawmakers — to act. He said challenges should be filed by July 15.

But lawyers for property-poor school districts want quicker action. Kauffman said he planned to file his challenge June 9 and hopes that a hearing will promptly be scheduled.

He and other lawyers for poor districts cited as a top concern the way state funds are to be distributed beginning next school year. Leaders have said the new measure does not include enough state funds to keep up with growing enrollment.

Tomorrow in **Aggielife**—

Preview: **Texas Music Festival**

Review: Stephen Coonts' novel "The Red Horseman"