

Texas A&M *The Battalion*

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Board of Regents increase, add student fees

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Texas A&M students will pay higher fees next year as well as some new ones following the Board of Regents decision Thursday.

Regents unanimously approved hiking undergraduate resident tuition from \$26 to \$28 per hour, and non-resident tuition will jump from \$162 to \$171.

A&M Chancellor William H. Mobley said A&M's tuition and fees are meager

compared to other universities in the nation.

"Texas ranks 50th in terms of fee and tuition expense," Mobley said. "Comparatively it's still a bargain."

Despite the Board's approval of the increases, some regents expressed concern.

Regent Raul B. Fernandez said the Board should take caution when considering fee increases.

"Eventually people are going to be tired of the Board of Regents imposing fees on

them and will complain to the legislature," Fernandez said. "We need to be very careful about how we approach this."

Regents also voted to increase the general building use fee from \$10 to \$12 and hiked post box rentals from \$6 to \$7.50 for a three month rental.

In addition to the fee hikes, Regents voted to impose three new fees.

Some students taking certain required courses in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will now pay a \$50 equip-

ment access fee. Funds from the fee will be used to maintain and upgrade laboratory facilities within the department.

Students enrolled in more than 150 courses and 15 majors will be required to pay the fee, which is expected to generate \$500,000.

Edward Hiler, vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences, said the fee was modeled after similar equipment fees in the College of Engineering and Science, which helped the department upgrade

their equipment.

"This is going to allow us to keep top quality equipment in the College of Agriculture," Hiler said. "This is extremely important in the quality of education the students receive. And it's important to us to have high quality technology."

Hiler said some of the department heads were skeptical about implementing the fee until they heard students were in favor of the fee.

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Clinton admits overstated loss in Whitewater fiasco

Health plan on track despite investment controversy

The Associated Press



Clinton

WASHINGTON — President Clinton acknowledged Thursday night he had significantly overstated his loss in the Whitewater land deal and promised to release late 1970s tax returns to answer lingering questions about the investment.

In a nationally televised news conference, Clinton vowed to keep health reform and other legislative items on track, even in the face of the simmering investment controversy.

Republican Senate leader Bob Dole immediately said Clinton had been "credible" and had "helped himself" with his remarks. He and House Whip Newt Gingrich said that many questions remain and

that they would continue to push for public hearings.

Clinton said he expected special counsel Robert Fiske to question both him and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, about their investments, and he promised they would "cooperate with him in any way he decides is appropriate."

Clinton also said he would cooperate with congressional hearings, and did not rule out personal testimony.

Clinton spent nearly 45 minutes in the East Room for the second evening news conference of his administration, opening with a statement in which he not only detailed his new willingness to release financial records but also vowed not to let Whitewater stall health care reform and other major initiatives.

Clinton said it might appear to the country that

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Midnight caller admits prank, could face criminal charges

By Jennifer Smith
The Battalion

A Texas A&M freshman, who has admitted to making prank calls to five female students in early March, may face criminal charges and University disciplinary actions.

Officials with University Police Department said the male student admitted the week before Spring Break to making the calls.

The caller claimed he was a police officer and told the women their cars had been stolen and stripped and were at the corner of FM 2818 and Wellborn Road. He then told each of the women she would have to come to the scene and identify the vehicle.

None of the women went to meet the caller, but many notified UPD.

"He thought it was a joke. He didn't know it was that serious."

— Monica Harmon, freshman general studies major who reported the incident to *The Battalion*

After an investigation into the incidents, Detective Will Scott, a criminal investigator for UPD, said they were able to determine who the students knew in common.

The women who were called were part of a Fish Camp discussion group with the caller and had not spoken with him since Fish Camp.

Scott said the student may face felony charges of impersonating a public servant.

"The girls are deciding now what they want to do," he said.

Scott said one of the women was still deciding whether she would press charges, two had decided against pressing charges and one had not yet been contacted.

Monica Harmon, a freshman general studies major who reported the incident to *The Battalion*, said she decided not to press charges against the student.

"I thought about it, but when I found out it was a felony and he could be put in prison, I just can't justify it," Harmon said.

Harmon said the student thought the calls were just

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How low can you go?



William Harrison/The Battalion

Newly hired Texas A&M offensive line Coach Joe D'Alessandris instructs his linemen during the first day of football spring practice Thursday afternoon on Kyle Field. See related story on page seven.

Tenure awarded to 73 A&M professors

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

Texas A&M Board of Regents members granted tenure Thursday to 73 professors despite controversy that has clouded the issue since December.

Only one regent opposed granting tenure.

However some regents made suggestions for future tenure recommendations.

Regent T. Michael O' Conner suggested universities within the system make their recommendations consistent.

"I'd appreciate some consistency in reporting tenure," O' Conner said. "There's a wide variance among the reports."

Regent M. Guadalupe Rangel asked the universities to indicate entering salaries.

The controversy erupted at the regents' December meeting when several regents voted against granting tenure to 12 candidates.

Many of the regents objected to tenure policies, fearing tenure prohibited unproductive professors from being dismissed.

Tenure is typically granted to professors after seven years, and recommendations are based on a professor's

teaching, research and community service.

Regent Billy Clayton cited philosophical differences for his constant votes against tenure.

"I will not vote for giving someone a permanent job," Clayton said.

A forum to discuss tenure was held March 11 in Austin and headed by Clayton, chairman of committee of academic campuses.

Clayton said the chancellor of the University of Florida discussed some of the problems tenure presents and how the process might be improved.

Jim Morgan, speaker of the Faculty Senate, said one of the problems of the tenure process is that University officials aren't properly notified if a professor isn't performing adequately.

"Tenure provides mechanisms to get rid of someone who is not doing their work," Morgan said. "And it works as long as someone notifies the University a professor isn't doing their job. If there's a problem it's because faculty are reluctant to criticize their colleagues."

Clayton said the focus of the issue now is researching how the tenure process might be improved.

He said Chancellor William H. Mobley has appointed a task force to study the issue.

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MLK Day voted system-wide holiday to honor civil rights leader

By Kim McGuire
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Board of Regents declared Martin Luther King Jr. Day a system-wide holiday in honor of the civil rights leader.

A&M Chancellor William H. Mobley said the declaration is a positive step.

"Obviously I'm pleased to see this occur," Mobley said. "It was nice to have students on campus for a campus-

wide celebration in honor of Dr. King, but it will also be a positive step students can have the day off in observance."

Interim President E. Dean Gage said he fully supports the decision.

"This had already been decided in a president's staff meeting," Gage said. "So I'm pleased we're making this consistent within the system. Last year, the holiday fell on the first day of class, and it was difficult to uniform our efforts."

Martin Luther King Jr. Day typically is observed the third Monday in January and is considered a state holiday.

Texas law allows governing boards of institutions of higher education to establish a holiday schedule where certain state holidays are not observed on the day they fall, but rather are taken into account in the total holidays in the schedule.

These substituted holidays usually are used to provide a Spring Break and extend

the Christmas holiday.

However, Regents said that because Martin Luther King Jr. contributed so significantly to the civil rights movement, a holiday was necessary.

Tanya Williams, president of the Black Awareness Committee, said the decision to declare the day a system holiday is outstanding.

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"Sometimes the system can be slow on matters like this."

— Tanya Williams, president of the Black Awareness Committee

Fort Bliss troops, missiles head to Korea for exercises

The Associated Press

EL PASO — Military gear destined for South Korea was packed onto rail cars Thursday by soldiers ordered to deploy Patriot missiles to the tension-riddled region.

About 800 troops from Fort Bliss — home of the unit that intercepted six Scud missiles during the Gulf War — will follow the equipment by mid-April.

But while suspicions mount that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons, people around Fort Bliss aren't too worked up over what they see as just

another defensive exercise.

"These guys are pretty closed-mouthed about it," said Curtis Callender, sales manager of a nearby 7-Eleven convenience store. "Soldiers don't get anxiety. They just pack up and do what they're told."

Patriot surface-to-air missiles are being deployed during heightened tensions over North Korea's refusal to allow full inspection of its nuclear facilities.

About 37,000 U.S. troops are already stationed in South Korea. About 54,000 Americans were killed when the U.S. led the military force that

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Texans saddened by loss of Mexican leader

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Gov. Ann Richards and other Texas officials offered condolences to their neighbors in Mexico after learning that presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio had been shot to death Wednesday.

"I was stunned and profoundly saddened to learn of the tragic death of Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio," Richards said in a statement.

"In Texas we share in the sadness of our friends and neighbors in Mexico who have lost one of

their very best to a cowardly act of violence. We extend our prayers and our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Colosio's family."

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Colosio, candidate of Mexico's governing party, was shot during a campaign appearance in the border city of Tijuana, the Mexican office of the presidency said.

San Antonio Mayor Nelson Wolff, who met Colosio in July during a three-day Border Infrastructure Financing Conference,

said the news was disturbing.

"He represented a new voice for Mexico in their political (and) social system with the work he did with solidarity and the openness he was bringing to the election process," Wolff said.

"I just don't know what the motives are from the people who did this."

Dallas Mayor Steve Bartlett said he had corresponded with Colosio, but never met him personally.

"It's shocking and I'm very saddened for the people of Mexico and the people of North America," he said.