

THE BATTALION

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Congress to vote on financial aid cuts

Officials claim that the cuts are necessary to get the financial aid system under control.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION

Congress has proposed eliminating several student financial aid programs, including federally subsidized Stafford Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, College Work Study, Perkins Loans and State Student Incentive Grants.

Don Engelage, A&M's student financial aid director, said attempts to reduce the federal deficit by cutting student aid would do more harm than good.

"Eliminating these programs would cost students and their families about \$20 billion over the next five years, increasing student indebtedness by up to 50 percent and reducing grant and work-study funding," Engelage said.

Eliminating subsidized Stafford Loans would mean that interest accumulated on loans while students are in school will be added to their post-education debt. With the existing system, the federal government pays this in-school interest.

Engelage calculated that the removal of in-

school interest subsidies would increase 10 years of monthly payments on a \$17,125 undergraduate loan from \$210 to \$252. This additional financial burden would total \$5,113.

Sherry Marsteller, legislative assistant to Rep. Jack Fields, said unsubsidized Stafford Loans would only cost students about 79 cents a day.

"We're talking about pennies," Marsteller said. "Of course, if you take out a much larger loan, the debt will be larger."

Marsteller said students have been given the wrong reasons for why the cuts have been proposed.

"There has been a lot of misinformation put out about these proposals to scare students," Marsteller said. "The proposed cuts have more to do with getting our financial aid system under control than about reducing the federal deficit. Many loans are not being paid back, and the system will eventually break down unless we add some accountability."

Marsteller said Congress will vote on the financial-aid proposals next year.

Grant Evans, a sophomore electrical engineering major, said the plan to cut student aid is acceptable if it is done for improvement reasons.

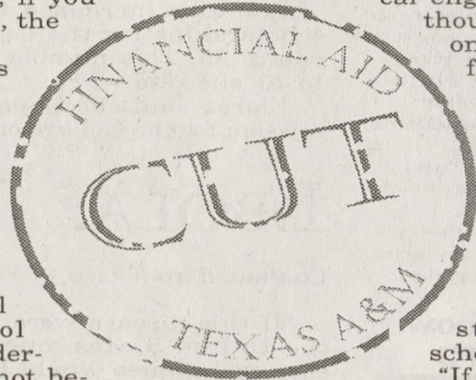
"Congress needs to cut the budget, but it could be cut from a better area than financial aid," Evans said. "But it's OK, if they have a more efficient plan to run the system."

Stephanie Sanderson, a junior electrical engineering major, said that although elimination of the subsidy on her Stafford Loan would be financially straining, her education is worth any debt.

"Regardless of how long it will take me to pay the debt off, I have to do it or I'm not in school," Sanderson said.

Jennifer Sowders, a junior management and marketing major, said financial aid cuts would make her study abroad and graduate school plans more difficult.

"If the cuts are enacted, I would research alternatives before taking out loans, to see if there is any other way to do it," Sowders said. "It's harder for us to pick up once we get out of school after accumulating so much debt."



College of Education names interim dean

Dr. Viola Florez will serve as interim dean until a national search for a permanent dean is completed. Dr. Jane Stallings stepped down to pursue teaching and researching.

By Scott McMahan
THE BATTALION

Dr. Viola Florez has been named interim dean of Texas A&M's College of Education in place of Dr. Jane Stallings, who stepped down in May to pursue teaching and researching full time.

Florez previously served as executive assistant to President Dr. Ray Bowen and worked as a professor in the college's Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction.

Florez will serve as interim dean until the national search for a permanent dean is completed. The search will begin

within the next few weeks. Dr. Charles Lee, interim vice president and provost, said the search committee needs the support of faculty and students.

"We appreciate Florez's willingness to assume this very important transitional role," Lee said. "I also am grateful to other dedicated faculty, staff and students in the College of Education who have been involved in the selection process and will help A&M choose a new dean."

Stallings, who served as dean from July 1990 through May of this year, will work on

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TEXAS MUSIC FESTIVAL

1995 festival features chamber music

Internationally acclaimed musicians are scheduled to perform throughout this month.

By Libe Goad
THE BATTALION

When Warner Rose thinks of chamber music, he envisions rustic images of a nobleman sitting among friends in a stony courtyard, listening to and playing chamber music, a type of classical music.

"It's different from orchestral music," Rose, coordinator of the music department, said, "because [chamber] music is intimate by nature."

This music is being featured at the Brazos Valley Medical Center Texas Music Festival. The festival opened Monday in Rudder Theater with mezzo-soprano vocalist Katherine Ciesinski performing Roy Harris' "Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight."

Rose said the stage was moved forward to recreate the intimate atmosphere.

"[Chamber music] is a formal listening experience that draws people into the music," he said. "But it's more like a conversation."

Audiences are encouraged to visit with the musicians at Rudder Exhibit Hall after each performance. The College of Liberal Arts and the music program are sponsoring three more nights of chamber music this month performed by internationally acclaimed musicians.

The Texas Music Festival Orchestra, led by conductor Franz Anton Krager, will also perform a special orchestral concert Friday, June 23 that will feature selected music students from around the world.

In 1990, Rose came to the music department and brought the Texas Music

Festival, which he participated in at the University of Houston.

"I felt there was a hole, a void, in the summer here," Rose said. "It was important for the (music) courses to have live concerts performed on campus."

He said the Texas Music Festival focuses on chamber music to expose students to a non-traditional definition of classical music.

"Courses in music are designed to expose one to the doors of the art," he said.

The Brazos Valley Medical Center provided a major grant to open those doors with support from the Brazos Valley Arts Council, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the University Honors Program.

Now that the doors are open, the festival is able to attract world-renown performers.

The St. Petersburg String Quartet, winner of several international competitions, and Brazilian piano soloist Arnaldo Cohen will also grace Rudder's stage.

"I enjoy watching the Festival Orchestra," Keisha Henry, a senior psychology student said. "There are a lot of talented students, and it's good to see them doing something positive."

Henry said she looks forward to the student's orchestral performance because they play familiar classical music.

"Last year the orchestra played 'Rodeo' by Aaron Copland," she said. "You know, the music from the 'Beef. It's what's for dinner.' commercial."

Other musicians playing at the festival include:

Violinist Guony Guomundsdottir, a graduate of The Royal College of Music in London and the Juilliard School in New York and for-

mer concert master of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. She trains violinists and performs chamber music.

The St. Petersburg String Quartet from Russia, a young group of string musicians that holds international acclaim after winning several prestigious competitions.

Cellist Laszlo Varga a recitalist, chamber musician and conductor for various orchestras. Varga is also known for his recordings on the Vox, RCA and Columbia labels.

Pianist Arnaldo Cohen, senior lecturer at the royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. His recording of Liszt works were recently released.

Henry said the Texas Music Festival offers a great opportunity to see different cultures at A&M.

Students enrolled in music classes at A&M are required to attend the concerts, but Henry said the requirement is not the only reason to anticipate the unique concerts.

"I used to play the clarinet, and I miss that," Henry said. "It will be nice to hear something different than pop music on the radio."



Mike Friend, THE BATTALION

Andor Toth plays the violin while Ruth Tomfohrde plays the piano Monday night in Rudder Theater as part of the Texas Music Festival.



Mike Friend, THE BATTALION

Andor Toth, violin, Ruth Tomfohrde, piano, Laszlo Varga, violoncello, and Katherine Ciesinski, singing Mezzo-Soprano, perform at Rudder Theater Monday night as part of the Texas Music Festival.

Concern heightens over Ebola virus

A&M professors and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control say people should not panic over the virus because it is an isolated incident that is under control.

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

After the recent release of the film "Outbreak" and the non-fiction best-selling book "The Hot Zone," the outbreak of a deadly virus in Zaire is rather ironic, said Dr. Barbara Gastel, associate professor of journalism and humanities in medicine.

The virus, formally known as Ebola Virus Hemorrhagic Fever, broke out in Kikwit, Zaire, in May. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, CDC, this form of the virus is closely related to a strain that broke out in 1976 in Sudan and Zaire,

killings more than 400 people.

Dr. John Quarles Jr., professor of medical microbiology and immunology, said the disease has received a large amount of media attention.

"For something that is so isolated, it probably didn't deserve as much attention as it got, but at least people are now aware," Quarles said.

Gastel said too much media coverage can cause unnecessary worry.

"If the coverage of a fatal disease is not handled well, it can cause undo panic," Gastel said. "People are fascinated with Ebola because it is exotic and has very dramatic effects."

According to the World Health Organization, there have been 211 confirmed cases of Ebola and 164 deaths resulting from the virus.

Tom Skinner, spokesman for CDC, said the current outbreak is isolated in Zaire.

"The number of new cases is declining," Skinner said. "Since the methods of transmission are known, we can work to limit

its spread."

Ebola is transmitted by contaminated injections and direct contact with infected blood or other bodily secretions.

The symptoms of Ebola are a sudden onset of fever and headaches, followed by vomiting and diarrhea. The outbreak in Zaire has been about 80 percent fatal, Skinner said.

"If this disease were here in the United States, our health care techniques would be good enough to stop its transmission."

— Dr. John Quarles, Jr.
professor of medical microbiology and immunology

Ebola attacks and destroys the body's blood system and the membranes containing bodily fluids. Victims usually die of massive internal hemorrhaging.

Quarles said the spread of Ebola is primarily due to the lack of adequate health care in Zaire.

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A&M professors, TTI work together on Technocar 2000

The system will allow police to access complete traffic and criminal records of individuals stopped for traffic violations.

By Javier Hinojosa
THE BATTALION

The Texas Transportation Institute, TTI, and two A&M engineering technology professors are working together on project Technocar 2000, a system designed to improve safety conditions for Department of Public Safety officers and other police departments.

Dr. Joe Morgan, associate professor of engineering technology, said the project's purpose is to improve the accuracy

and timeliness of acquiring traffic-safety data.

Police will be able to get complete records of the person being stopped without leaving the patrol car by entering license plate numbers into a computer system.

Records will include driver license record files, vehicle license plate and registration files, criminal records, warrants and accident reports. Stolen car reports will also be included.

The key to the project is developing a system of computers that will support these efforts, Morgan said.

George Wright, an A&M engineering technology lecturer, said central processing units will be placed in police vehicles. This computer will be radio-linked to a hand-held unit carried by each officer.

Wright said the hand-held computer weighs almost 3 pounds and is 6 by 10 inches. The device is operated by a pen

that reads the magnetic strips on the new Texas drivers' licenses.

"It will give a quicker access of data to the police officer on the scene," Wright said.

David Ransom, a mechanical engineering graduate student who works on the project, said officers are at risk when they are filling out paper work when stopping someone for a traffic violation.

"The less the officer has to look at paper and push buttons, the more he can pay attention to the situation at hand," he said.

Wright said the computer system will also be linked to the radar and the video camera mounted on the vehicle's dashboard.

"This would allow better control over the police vehicle," he said.

Wright said the project entered the second phase of a

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