

Students, faculty react to Clinton allegations

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
 Staff writer

In the midst of a weeklong media rush to uncover allegations of perjury and sexual harassment, the American public is left to decide much of the information in today's news relevant to Bill Clinton's presidency. President Clinton denied Monday having a sexual relationship with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. "I want you to say one thing to the American people," he said. "I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again. I did not have a sexual relationship with that woman, Monica Lewinsky." With his wife at his side, Clinton denied having people to lie on the stand. "I never told anybody to lie," he said. "I never told a single time. Never. These allegations are false, and I need to go back to work for the American people." Several Texas A&M University professors and student leaders have mixed feelings about the effect a president's character and private life have on his public office. Dr. George Edwards, an A&M professor who teaches an American presidency class, said the issue of the president's character is

relevant to his office, but there is a line that needs to be drawn between a president's public and private life. "The intersection between the public and private life is what we should be concerned with," he said. "Clearly the president has a right to privacy, but if he is pressuring people to perjure themselves, the knowledge should be public domain. If he is arguing with his wife, it's private, but living in a glass house would destroy anyone." Edwards said his biggest concern is that the press is in a feeding frenzy which can be dangerous if the accusations are false. "I don't know if he is guilty or not, but he has lost the benefit of the doubt," he said. "The office itself may diminish in people's eyes because there is a certain sleaziness to these events, just as the level of trust in American leaders was reduced after the shocks of Vietnam and Watergate." Dr. Patricia Griffin, an A&M professor of national government, said although it has been speculated that many American presidents have had extramarital affairs, they were not something the general public knew about. "People today know a lot more because of the media," she said. "What makes this

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Dr. George Edwards
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different, though, is not the affair but the charges. Most people wouldn't consider impeachment because of an affair. It's the fact that he is on record under oath saying it

didn't happen, and the girl is claiming he told her to lie." Griffin said she is undecided about whether a president's private life is relevant to his presidency. "On one hand we talk about sports figures being role models, and if they are, then surely the president should be one, too," she said. "On the other hand, we are increasing the cost of being president if we put too much scrutiny on private life. More and more candidates who are qualified may not want to go through that in the future." Curtis Childers, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said he feels it is the media that is making everything a big deal. "Every television show, song and movie is all centered around sex," he said. "It's the culture that we live in. We live in a Jerry Springer world. American talk show-like culture is dramatized. In other cultures, it's not a big deal. High-powered people have done the same thing for centuries." Michael Schaub, president of Aggie Democrats and a junior English major, said the media is exploiting everything as much as possible to use against President Clinton. "I have seen a lot of coverage of scandals of Whitewater that have turned out to be nothing," he said. "It's more of a witch hunt." Schaub said the media exploitation cheapens the view of the office to the American people. "People eat this stuff up, and it sells papers," he said. "The media is selling out to sell papers at the expense of the American government." Schaub said it is easier to concentrate on Clinton's private life than real world issues. "We are possibly weeks away from confrontation with Iraq, legislation is going through Congress right now and people just want to hear the dirt." Jay Slovacek, a College Republicans officer and a freshman accounting major, said he thinks the president's private life affects his presidency. "It's the same person, just a different occasion," he said. Slovacek said there is room to speculate over whether everything is true, even though this is not the first time things like this have happened. "Whether or not I voted for him, he is still the president," he said. "I do respect the office."

Primary colors



Kurt Anderson, a freshman aerospace engineering major and cadet in Squad 12, raises the flags outside the Williams Administration Building Monday morning.

Sterling Evans Library annex projected to open in Fall 1998

By KELLY HACKWORTH
 Staff writer

After nearly two years of construction, the Sterling C. Evans Library annex is set to open in the Fall of 1998. The \$32 million expansion will include a six-floor annex connected to Evans Library, an eight-level parking garage, a computer center at the south end of the annex and the Cushing Memorial Library renovation. The annex will house the li-

brary's systems and NOTIS (online catalog) offices, the Education, Reference and Curriculum Collection units, record management and technical processing. The annex will include a reserve room and the Learning Resources Department, now located on the sixth floor of Evans library. "The library annex will emphasize information technologies, and it will make accommodations for extended hours access," said Dr. Fred Heath,

Sterling C. Evans Library Dean. The 136,000-square-foot annex will contain study space with over four dozen group study areas located on the second and fourth floors. Two floors of the annex will also be shelled in for future expansion. The new student computing center will have at least 600 microcomputer workstations and will occupy two stories at the south end of the library annex. Evans Library will also undergo changes. The first and second floors will be remodeled after the

move to the annex is complete. Renovation is scheduled to begin in October of 1998, and it is expected to be completed by June of 2000. The expected move-in date for the library annex is the summer of 1998. Staff, faculty, students and visitors will be able to use the 620-space parking garage next to the annex. Visitors and students will pay on a per-use basis. The faculty and staff can purchase permits on a contract basis.

SGA committee gives voice in Austin

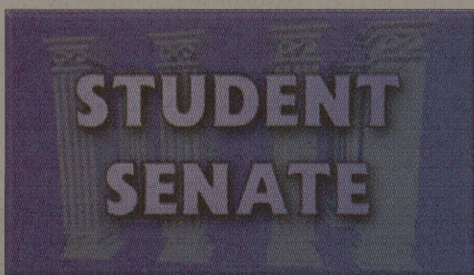
Legislative Relations carries Aggie image to state government

Stacey Beck's
 Staff writer

Legislative Relations, a branch of Student Government, works with the Texas A&M administration, Texas legislature and the United States Legislature to convey the public opinion of A&M students. The 35-member organization watches for bills in the state and national legislatures that would affect the students at A&M. Josh Hennessey, internal director of legislative relations and a junior accounting major, said the LR is preparing for next year's legislative session by keeping informed of the upcoming bills. "The LR is talking to legislators to find out what the issues are," he said. "Many legislators are currently looking to limit the number of hours a degree can have at A&M." "Other state legislatures have been going in this direction, and A&M requires more

hours to graduate than most schools." Hennessey said the state pays about half of the tuition rate for each student through formula funding because A&M is a state school. LR gets in touch with legislators by going

to legislative sessions and sending descriptions of student opinions and bulletin papers to legislative aids. The group also contacts the Board of Regents to make sure the public interest is being met. Craig Rotter, a member of the Board of Regents Subcommittee and an agricultural graduate student, said LR gives the student body a way to be heard by the Board of Regents. "LR allows the student body access to the people that set the policies that affect the student body," he said. "In doing so, it allows the student body to voice its concerns to administrators." Rotter said students can speak individually with members of the Board at an open house when they visit Bryan-College Station for meetings. Mary Ann Abraham, a member of LR and a senior psychology major, said the group is going to organizations to tell them the legislation that is being passed and how it affects the students. Students can voice opinions to the LR at 862-4255.



Airlines announce formation of alliance

HOUSTON (AP) — Northwest Airlines and Continental Airlines announced an alliance Monday that would join the route networks of the nation's fourth and fifth biggest airlines, but Continental pilots are already threatening to make it a "marriage from hell" if their demands aren't met. Northwest is buying the stake in Continental now owned by Air Partners LP and its affiliates for \$1.9 billion in cash and Northwest stock. But Northwest will only have limited control over the deck's 51 percent voting power. Leaders of the Independent Association of Continental Pilots Union, which is in contract negotiations with the carrier, are angry they weren't told Continental had also been negotiating with Delta Air Lines. The union said it was informed about the Delta-Continental talks Sunday. In a Monday telephone conference with reporters, Len Niko-

lai, president of the union, said the union would disrupt a Northwest-Continental alliance unless they got a rich new contract. "Obviously we fly the airplanes here at Continental, so we're going to have a say in what happens with any marriage, with any partner," Nikolai said. "We can make it a smooth transition or we can make it a marriage from hell." Meanwhile, Northwest's 51 percent voting share in Continental will be kept in a trust to preserve the spirit of the alliance, Northwest said. The trust will vote according to the recommendations of Continental management or in proportion to the rest of the Continental board except in an emergency situation, such as if there is a merger bid. In that case Northwest would vote the shares. "It is the intention of the parties that Continental Airlines and

Government eyes Texas work

Affirmative-action practices under scrutiny following Hopwood

AUSTIN (AP) — The federal government is watching a Texas effort to achieve diverse student bodies at its universities after a court ruling against affirmative action, a U.S. Department of Education official said Monday. Sally Cain, regional representative for the education secretary, told the Texas Commission on a Representative Student Body at its first meeting that she was not aware of another such commission anywhere else in the country. "I know the eyes of Washington are upon you, because we truly believe that what you are about ... is central to everything that we're trying to do at the national level," Mrs. Cain said. "Just because a court has altered one policy ... the underlying principles behind that policy are not to be altered. We still need to work to achieve greater diversity in our colleges and universities because it is good for the students, and it is good for our nation," she said. The commission, which includes community leaders from around Texas, will report in August

to a group of college and university leaders called the Texas Higher Education Coalition. University of Texas Chancellor William Cunningham said higher education officials want realistic, innovative recommendations on student recruitment, retention and graduation, and on financial aid. He asked members to look at what's happening in Texas and nationally. "Nothing is more important to us than we sustain maintain and have a diverse student body on our campuses. We know we have a long way to go, and Hopwood is making it more difficult for us, but the point is we have to overcome that," Cunningham said. Hopwood, named after plaintiff Cheryl Hopwood, is the case in which a federal appeals court found that UT law school's former admissions policy discriminated against whites. That decision, allowed to stand by the U.S. Supreme Court, has ended affirmative action policies at universities around the state. As the commission began its work, it heard from higher educa-

tion officials and state and federal officials, including Taylor D. August with the Office of Civil Rights, which is looking at Texas higher education. August suggested universities may aggressively recruit students from schools in communities that are traditionally "under-served" by higher education. Such areas could include schools with high percentages of minority students, although students be selected for recruitment using race-neutral means. Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, a commission member, asked whether there was a definition of under-served community, saying, "That seems like a fairly logical approach." August said officials were working on a definition that wouldn't run afoul of the requirements of the Hopwood case. Commission member Wilhelmina Delco, a former state representative from Austin, said it's important that higher education institutions understand, "Although this is directed at a minority population, it very clearly has an impact on everybody."

INSIDE
 — aggelife —
 In 'Da House: Students show the kitchen has more uses than just cooking. See Page 3

— sports —
 Aggie Women's Basketball Team looks for first Big 12 win versus Kansas Tuesday. See Page 7

— opinion —
 McDaniel: More to women's struggles internationally than entertainment, music. See Page 9

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