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TOMORROW

Regents to decide on access fees for colleges

By KELLY HACKWORTH
 Staff writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will consider proposed equipment access fees for the College of Education and the Mays College and Graduate School of Business, only two colleges at A&M that do not have equipment access fees. If the fees are passed, students will pay the fees beginning Fall 1998. Dr. Jack Wilmore, head of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, spoke with students Tuesday night at an Aggie Alliance meeting. "This is the only university I've seen where they've come and asked the students for their support," Wilmore said. "Every one of the departments have done that. You all need to have a voice in this."

struction in our programs increasingly is requiring sophisticated technology and equipment as well as ongoing support of that equipment."

The College of Education fees will apply to selected courses in the Departments of Educational Curriculum and Instruction, Educational Human Resource Development, Educational Psychology, and Health and Kinesiology.

Dr. Jack Wilmore, head of the Department of Health and Kinesiology, spoke with students Tuesday night at an Aggie Alliance meeting.

"I don't see how it's going to be necessary," she said. "If we get it, are we going to be able to use it before we graduate?" The equipment access fee for the health and kinesiology department will

provide audiovisual upgrades for ten classrooms in G. Rollie White Coliseum at \$10,000 each. The project will be completed in 10 years. Technician support for the technology implemented in the classrooms and laboratories will be provided. Treadmills, cycle ergometers, strength-testing equipment and gas analyzers for undergraduates will also be bought.

"We are in the process of developing undergraduate laboratories for each of our lab-based courses and equipment will be housed in these labs," Wilmore said. "In order to run programs like we should, we need to take the load off of the faculty and the research grants."

Currently, students and faculty are sharing equipment in the department.

"We want to keep research equipment

for research and student equipment for students," Wilmore said. The proposed fee structure for the department of Health and Kinesiology will be \$20, \$40, or \$60 per course with a maximum \$195 per semester. The \$40 fee will be the most common. All Kinesiology 199 classes are exempt from the proposed fee. A departmental committee with three division heads and two students in health and kinesiology will be formed to deal with the equipment access fee.

The Mays College and Graduate School of Business is also proposing the fee increase at the Board of Regents meeting.

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Over the top



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Lazy Daisy, a retriever, jumps over Gigi in an attempt to steal the frisbee during half time at the men's basketball game last night. The Aggies lost to Nebraska 75-58, extending their conference losing streak to 11.

Corps program teaches freshman to become sophomore leaders

By RACHEL DAWLEY
 Staff writer

Freshmen in the Corps of Cadets are learning leadership skills through a series of classes this semester.

This is the second year for the Freshman Leadership Training, held on Tuesday nights.

The classes address the direct influence sophomore cadets have on freshman training in the Corps. Jeff Luna, leadership training sergeant and a junior accounting major, said the classes are designed to teach cadets how to handle the transition from their freshman to sophomore year.

"Through the classes, we are trying to teach freshmen leadership skills," Luna said. "They learn things that are applicable to the outside world. The classes teach them the different styles of leadership."

Each class has 15 to 20 freshmen and is designed in a discussion format.

It is a student-run program, but there is a set curriculum, lesson plans and books.

There are eight classes, ranging

FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

from mentoring freshman to building respect.

"Instructors are hand-picked because of their proven leadership traits," Luna said. "It is an opportunity for Corps leaders to pass down their knowledge."

Jason Rocha, platoon sergeant for Company D-2 and a junior political science major, teaches a class entitled "Unification—Why Freshman Join and Leave the Corps."

Rocha said the classes are beneficial because they show cadets the right and wrong way to be sophomore leaders.

"I wouldn't call us teachers, more facilitators," Rocha said. "We know only what we have learned from our experiences. We want freshmen to look at themselves and decide how they should act next year as sophomores."

Michael Brunnet, a freshman business administration major, said the courses are organized and informative.

"I have found the classes very beneficial," Brunnet said. "I have learned a lot about my role in the Corps next year. We are learning the proper way to discipline and train freshmen."

Danny Feather, Corps commander and a senior economics major, said the program has had a positive influence on cadets.

"The purpose is to educate freshmen on how to become better leaders in general," Feather said. "More specifically, we focus on their roles as sophomores next year."

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Conference to discuss effects of Hopwood decision on minorities

By JENNIFER WILSON
 Staff writer

Participants from major businesses, universities and organizations will attend the Second Annual Conference on Minorities and Policy Issues at The George Bush Presidential Conference Center today to discuss implications of the Hopwood decision.

The two-day conference, hosted by the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute (RESI) and Texas A&M, will focus on the problems, prospects and impact on minorities in higher education due to the Hopwood decision, banning race-based preferences in admissions and scholarships at public universities in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Nancy Lugo, program coordinator and research assistant for RESI, said the conference will attract chancellors and administrators from universities across the United States.

"One goal of the conference is to promote partnerships and collaboration among higher education institutions in dealing with the Hopwood decision," Lugo said.

Lugo said the conference will also explore strategies for recruiting culturally diverse groups in higher education and assist in the future of higher education opportunities in the United States.

The conference will provide a forum for discussing the decision, including topics such as the impact on students, universities and corporations, and will host

round table discussions by university presidents and student leaders.

Steve H. Murdock, director of the Texas Data Center and head of the Department of Rural Sociology, will speak at the conference.

Murdock said he will discuss how demographic changes will place Texas minorities as the largest population group in the state.

"The Hopwood decision inhibits socioeconomic achievement for minorities, and this becomes a problem for all Texans in the future of the economy," Murdock said.

Murdock said the conference will also discuss the challenges facing A&M. He said one of these challenges is ensuring that minorities are given the opportunity to become more competitive in society.

Eduardo Urbina, chair of the Task Force on Hispanic studies and professor of Spanish at A&M, will give a presentation on the effect of the decision on Hispanic minorities.

Urbina said A&M does not have a good representation of Hispanics based on the demographics of the state.

Urbina said he hopes that addressing this problem will help in finding solutions to make A&M a more receptive environment for recruiting and retaining minority students and faculty.

Lugo said A&M students are welcome and encouraged to attend the conference. The conference is \$25 for students.

"The Hopwood decision inhibits socioeconomic achievement for minorities, and this becomes a problem for all Texas in the future of the economy."

Steve H. Murdock
 Director of the Texas Data Center

Tennis center could allow A&M to host NCAA tournament

By STACEY BECKS
 Staff writer

A new tennis facility, on the west side of Reed Arena, will open this summer, allowing Texas A&M the capacity to host national tennis competitions.

Tim Cass, the men's tennis coach, said A&M will host the Big 12 tennis championships next fall and may host the final NCAA Championship.

"Next year we'll host the Big 12 men's and women's championships," he said. "But what we're looking at is putting a bid in for the final sight of the NCAA Championship."

Cass said the new tennis complex is designed like Florida State's complex, where the NCAA Women's Tennis Championship was held in the spring of 1996.

The facility will increase the number of courts from eight, now at Omar Smith Tennis Center, to 12. It was designed with a center aisle in the middle and six courts on each side.

Steve Miller, the assistant

sports information director, said the new tennis facility is arranged so that men's and women's matches can be held at the same time, one on each side of the center spine. He said the tennis complex will be one of the top five tennis facilities in the country.

The facility will increase seating capacity to 1,100, with stadium seating behind each court. The ground level will have public restrooms, office space, locker rooms and lounge areas. A press conference area will be on the second level.

Cass said he thinks the new tennis complex will add to the players performance and help the tennis program gain recruits.

"It's a top-notch facility," he said. "It will help our current players to feel special that they're playing on a first-class facility and it will help recruiting."

The \$3,450,000 construction contract for the tennis facility was awarded to Acklam Construction Co. of Bryan.

Lottery to offer trucks as prizes

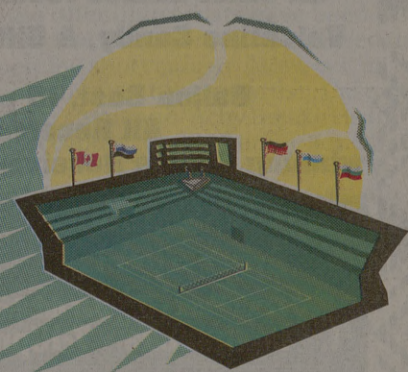
AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Lottery Commission is having a slight problem doing what everyone else in the state can easily do: purchase pickup trucks.

The lottery last year announced plans for a new instant-ticket game in which 50 top prize-winners would receive a custom truck.

But after four companies notified the agency they were interested in bidding for the right to design the trucks and sell them to the lottery, only one submitted a formal bid.

And that bidder, Texas Stagecoach Conversion Co. in Houston, misunderstood part of the bid request, the lottery said Wednesday.

This time dealers will be invited to compete to sell the trucks to the lottery based almost completely on cost.



INSIDE aggielife

Student filmmakers try their hands at fame with *The Paper Boy*.

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Aggie Baseball season stays perfect with 9-4 victory over Tarleton State.

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Mireles: Oprah Winfrey's portrayal of Texans reinforces old stereotypes

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