

A&M shows lack of faculty diversity

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

Walking past the gleaming statue of General Sullivan Ross, the first president of Texas A&M University, one may be reminded that the early years of this university were shaped predominantly by white males in a state with large Hispanic and African-American populations.

Now, 124 years later, the number of minorities in A&M's faculty still is not representative of the state's population.

The population of the state Texas is 12 percent African-American and 25 percent Hispanic. Of 7,961 faculty members, 7 percent are Asian, 4 percent are Hispanic, and 2 percent are African American.

"Even though these numbers are an improvement, A&M does not even begin to compare to universities of similar size," said Dr. Rick Carlson, co-chair of the Minority Conditions subcommittee of the Faculty Senate.

Many factors have led to the lack of diversity among the faculty and staff at A&M, said Carlson and Felicia Scott, director of Multicultural Services.

The predominate factor is the lack of student diversity. The Texas A&M student body is only 3 percent African-Americans, 4 percent Asians and 9 percent Hispanic.

Carlson said the lack of diversity among the student body contributes to the low numbers of minorities on faculty because many Ph.D.'s seek a university where the number of minority students is higher.

"We have trouble recruiting students because we do not have a diverse faculty," Carlson said. "Yet, we also have trouble recruiting faculty because of the lack of diversity among the students."

Scott said minority professors often seek places where they can mentor minority students, and A&M cannot compete with universities with more ethnically diverse student bodies.

Though A&M's minority population may be small, Carlson said the Faculty Senate rarely hears complaints about the working environment on campus.

"The complaint that we hear most often is not concerning the way minorities are treated on campus, but how they are treated in the Bryan/College Station community," Carlson said. "The biggest

deterrent is the feeling of social isolation in the community."

Individual academic departments at A&M are primarily responsible for the recruitment of minorities to their teaching staff. In the past, the departments have had special funds set aside to use in attracting minorities, Scott said.

"Recently there have been court movements at the federal level that have made such funds illegal," Carlson said. "Additionally this legislation has made it so that we can no longer legally know if the people we are hiring are of minority groups."

"These movements in the federal courts have made it hard to make sure that we are hiring a diverse staff," Scott said.

Faculty Texas A&M NUMBERS
7961 ON STAFF

- 2% AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 4% HISPANIC
- 7% ASIAN

TEXAS

- 12% AFRICAN AMERICAN
- 25% HISPANIC
- ASIAN NOT AVAILABLE

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Dancin' machines



SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION

Dressed as Gummy and Frosty, Ramy Hanna, a sophomore environmental design major, and Matt Sneller, a freshman agriculture development major, dance outside the MSC to promote Campus Crusades Thursday.

Police report DWI trends

Bryan DWI arrests decrease, College Station increases

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

When Officer James Woodward arrived on the scene of a motorcycle accident several years ago, there was little question that yet another motorist had fallen victim of having a too many drinks before hitting the road.

"The driver had misjudged a curve and collided head first with a legally parked car," Woodward said. "He died instantly."

Woodward has seen a multitude of alcohol-related accidents during his eight years with the College Station Police Department (CSPD) — ranging from a few cuts and bruises to death.

But Sergeant Ernie Montoya, a Crime Prevention Unit officer with the Bryan Police Department, said the city of Bryan, has witnessed a drop in the number of drivers who cause these accidents.

The number of driving while intoxicated arrests (DWIs) reported by Bryan Police Department dropped from 547 in 1998 to 350 in 1999.

"Credit for the decrease has to be given to the citizens," Montoya said. "The public [has been] taking action and getting a designated driver."

However, the number of DWI arrests by CSPD has risen in College Station from 474 in 1998 to 593 in 1999.

Woodward said the rise is likely the result of increased manpower and spending more effort on educating officers about the signs of drunk driving, rather than an increase in drunk drivers.

He said officers have also started enforcing stricter regulation of large and unruly parties.

"College Station is a big party town with the number of students we have," Woodward said.

The Brazos County Attorneys office is responsible for fil-

ing all DWI arrests made in the Bryan-College Station area.

"We will file between 1,600 and 1,800 DWI's this year," said Jim Kuboviak, Brazos County Attorney. "Less than half of those will be students."

If a person of any age is stopped by an officer and a blood-alcohol test shows a level over the state limit of .08 percent, a DWI will be issued.

A DWI is a class B misdemeanor and carries up to a \$2,000 fine and/or jail time.

"If you are unable to operate a motor vehicle at any [blood-alcohol] level or age, it will result in a DWI," Kuboviak said.

A police officer can issue a driving under the influence (DUI) to any person under the age of 21 if a blood-alcohol test shows a level under the state limit of .08.

A DUI carries a class C misdemeanor penalty, which is punishable by a fine and suspension of the offender's drivers license for 60 days.

If a student receives a DWI from UPD, they are required to take an alcohol education workshop from the Drug and Alcohol Education program, said Lorna Breault, Coordinator of first-year student alcohol education.

"We talk about the laws and rules and affects of alcohol," she said. "But we also focus on values and judgment."

The Alcohol Education Workshop sees approximately 100 students per year for DWIs, DUIs, minors in possessions (MIP) and public intoxication (PI), Breault said.

If a student receives a DWI on-campus from UPD, they also go through Judicial Services, said Rick Powell, a students' attorney with Student Conflict Resolution Services.

"Each case is looked at, and a punishment is decided on," Powell said. "Punishment can range from found not in violation — to verbal reprimand — to suspension from [the University]."

DWI ARRESTS		
	College Station Police	Bryan Police
1998	474	547
1999	593	350

● 1600 to 1800 DWI's are expected in Brazos County this year

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

News in Brief

Epicenter closes

The Epicenter Sports Bar and Nightclub has temporarily closed due to legal troubles.

Epicenter owner Sri Kandalam owes \$11,113 in taxes to the county, the city of College Station and the College Station Independent School District.

Station Eagle

According to a lawsuit, Kandalam owes money to Charles Parker, a local businessman, and to Chimney Hill Properties Limited, owner of the building where Epicenter is.

"If things work out, it won't be closed for long," Parker said in an interview with *The Bryan-College*

Station Eagle

According to the lawsuit, Kandalam owes Parker about \$300,000 from the sale of his ownership of Epicenter to Kandalam last year for \$360,000.

Once the legal action is settled, Parker expects the Epicenter to re-open for business.

College officials deny tuition-raising motives

WASHINGTON (AP) — The more money made available through federal student loans and aid, the more it entices colleges to raise tuitions, complained senators who contend students and government cannot keep up.

"It is incumbent on us to take a serious look at the effect of this government spending on tuition rates," Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Government Affairs Committee, told university officials Wednesday. In 20 years, tuitions at public and private schools overall have doubled in the past, after inflation. The increases have made college unaffordable for many families, despite the annual \$41 billion in federal grants and guaranteed loans, Thompson said.

Senators who fear more federal aid could further drive up college costs speculated that states could raise public tuition caps — figuring more students could afford it because of a larger loan, a higher grant or a potential tax break on their bill.

Senators also said private schools might reduce their campus-based programs in favor of students who can afford to pay their own way with the help

of federal loans and tax deductions.

But college officials denied Wednesday that they were driving up tuition to take advantage of increases in federal aid, and said there's little government can do to control costs.

"Tuition price controls will not work and will be destructive of academic quality in higher education," said William Trout, president of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.

"It's hard to believe that parents would welcome a decision by the federal government to curtail severely their access to loan capital," said David Breneman, a University of Virginia education school dean.

Blame the soaring price tags on a handful of the most-expensive private schools catering to students who don't need aid, said Harvard economist Caroline Hoxby.

"There is no evidence that students are being forced to enroll in inexpensive colleges that are inappropriate for their level of preparedness," said Hoxby. She highlighted Education Department data which shows that since 1970, tuition at the least-expensive schools

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Board appropriates millions to UT

BY KATHRYN A. WOLFE
The Daily Texan

The University of Texas System Board of Regents unanimously approved two measures Wednesday that will provide \$400 million for system-wide construction projects in addition to granting an additional \$4.75 million in 2000 for the University of Texas (UT).



Funds will now be distributed from the Permanent University Fund (PUF) to the Available University Fund (AUF) at 4.5 percent, giving UT more PUF money than before — \$4.75 million in additional funds for 2000 and an estimated \$130.6 million by 2005.

"I'm delighted to see the PUF finally unleashed after having been virtually frozen since 1993," said Dan Burck, vice chancellor for business affairs.

The investment income from the PUF, the UT and A&M System's \$7.7 billion endowment, is siphoned into the AUF and is used to pay for developmental projects within the two systems.

"I'm delighted to see the PUF finally unleashed after having been virtually

frozen since 1993," said Dan Burck, vice chancellor for business affairs. "I firmly believe that so many good things are going to come from this."

Burck said new construction projects funded by PUF monies will help component schools of the UT System realize other benefits, such as attracting gifts and additional research money and creating new jobs.

The new rate will also raise \$650 million in bonds over a six-year period to fund construction projects.

The second measure passed allocates \$401 million of the \$650 million in PUF bonds for system-wide construction projects, amounting to \$196 million for UT System academic components and \$205 million for UT System health components.

Board Chairperson Don Evans said although PUF money for construction projects is currently allocated evenly between academic and health institutions, that shouldn't be seen as an arbitrary division or a precedent for future allocations.

"...we thought these were the best projects at this point in time," said UT

System Chancellor William Cunningham.

"What we're really seeing is the fruit of Proposition 17," said UT President Larry Faulkner. "It was put there with the understanding that it would bring substantially greater benefits from the PUF and that's what we're seeing."

Proposition 17, a state constitutional amendment approved by voters in November 1999, allows PUF funds to be invested more aggressively than before, resulting in the potential for greater earnings, while assuming greater risk.

Not all of the \$650 million of the approved bonds will be spent. \$248 million will be saved in case of an emergency or other upcoming project.

Cunningham said he is confident that over the next six years the PUF will continue to generate money for new bond programs.

"If we have continued expansion of the stock market, we may well have some additional bonding capacity before

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• Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details about "The Potters of Mata ortiz" exhibit.

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