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FRESHMEN

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Candidates for both the Class of '04 Council and the freshmen Student Senate seats were required to attend a mandatory campaign meeting before the election process began.

At the meeting, candidates were informed of election regulations, which are the same for both council and senate candidates. Violations of these regulations can result in a fine, depending on the act. Offenses can include tampering with other candidates' campaign material; covering up other candidate's

flyers; campaigning in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), the Rudder Theater Complex, the John J. Koldus Building or a classroom.

The SGA's seven election boxes around campus will be open until 5 p.m., or students can vote online at <http://vote.tamu.edu>.

UT-Dallas receives \$32 million donation

DALLAS (AP) — Educators at The University of Texas-Dallas plan to use a \$32 million donation — the largest ever received by the school — to build a scholarship program in hopes of rivaling other well-known national academic awards.

The donation to the university by Margaret McDermott, widow of one of the school's founders, is earmarked to give full-ride scholarships to 20 students a year.

Officials hope the \$64,000, four-year scholarships will give the university a higher profile and eventually attain the prominence of Morehead Scholars.

The program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill provides \$53,000 scholarships for four years of undergraduate study and has been reported to have lured students away from Ivy League schools.

"Many students will turn down Harvard, Yale and a host of private and public institutions just to be a Morehead Scholar because of all the perks. It literally takes care of you," UTD president Franklyn

Jenifer told The Dallas Morning News Tuesday.

"At least, we're seeing now that the community is saying, 'UTD, you've made it, and we're behind you,'" Jenifer said.

For the 20 annual Eugene McDermott scholars, requirements include being in the top 10 percent of their high school classes and scoring no lower than 1400 on Scholastic Aptitude Tests.

Eugene McDermott was a co-founder of Texas Instruments, Inc. and also help found the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, from which UTD was created in 1969.

McDermott also served on the boards of Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He died in 1973.

Among other contributions, McDermott and two other TI founders, Cecil H. Green and John Erik Jonsson, created the Excellence in Education Foundation. It gave \$30 million to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas in 1991.

REFERENDUM

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basement will begin. Plans for the basement include additional meeting rooms, a DVD theater and replacing Hullahaloo Food Court with nationally franchised fast-food restaurants. Dining seating would be expanded to include more lounging area and an addition of a cyber cafe area, which would have ethernet ports for laptop computers. The basement renovations are designed to expand the facility for more student service space.

The San Antonio design firm Ford, Powell and Carson has been commissioned to present the preliminary designs. Student focus groups will help the firm generate ideas.

For now, the focus is only on im-

proving current facilities. After this project is accomplished, the MSC hopes to expand to accommodate A&M's ever-growing student body.

"More meeting rooms are needed," Bowers said. "It's really tough for groups to schedule rooms for normal meetings, but nothing can be done without student involvement and approval."

The second part of the referendum deals with the student fee cap increase from \$40 to \$100. Increasing the cap will not result in an immediate fee increase. The fee cap increase would ease the process of approving future raises to the Student Center Fee by not having to go to the Texas Legislature each time an increase is needed. Each increase would pend student and University approval.

In Texas, each public university

has a Student Center Fee cap designed specifically for that university. Texas Tech's fee cap is \$100, the University of Texas-Austin's fee cap is \$50 and A&M's current fee cap is \$40.

If the referendum obtains student approval, the referendum will go to Ellyn Perrone, the vice president of governmental affairs, who will then work with Texas legislators Rep. Fred Brown, Rep. Charles Jones and Sen. Steve Ogden to propose a bill to the Texas Legislature to increase the cap. The bill would be introduced in January 2001, when the Legislature has its biannual meeting.

"The Texas Legislature convened in January 2001," said MSC Director Jim Reynolds. "If the legislation to increase the cap is not introduced in this session, consideration will be delayed until 2003."

News in Brief Desegregation ordinance meets local opposition

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — Justice Department officials are visiting Port Arthur schools this week to determine whether the district has complied with a federal desegregation order that has been in effect since 1970.

Many residents at a forum contended schools remain segregated and the federal court order should stay in place although Port Arthur Independent School District officials have requested it be lifted.

The Rev. Raymond Scott, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said integration is not complete and a proposed school consolidation plan could make segregation worse.

"The scenarios seem to indicate that if this order is lifted, we are geared to go back to the old days, because they want to close the black schools in the black community and open white schools in the white community," Scott said.

Two years ago, John Sharp, then the Texas state comptroller, reviewed the district and recommended re-evaluating whether the order still was needed.

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