

Lawmakers threaten to pull school from UT system

By John Kirsch
KRT CAMPUS

AUSTIN — Tarrant County lawmakers are threatening to pull the University of Texas-Arlington out of the University of Texas system as concerns mount about the campus' future.

The move is a reaction to UT system Chancellor Mark Yudof's plans to make the University of Texas-Dallas a nationally ranked research campus.

The lawmakers say they fear that goal will be accomplished at the expense of UT-Arlington, the second-largest school in the UT system with nearly 24,000 students.

"We in the Legislature are looking at every possible alternative to find another system that would appreciate what our campus has to offer," said state Sen. Chris Harris, R-Arlington.

The lawmakers move comes on the eve of Yudof's visit to Arlington on Wednesday to discuss UT-Arlington's status with university and community leaders.

UT system spokesman Michael Warden said Monday that Yudof is aware of the concerns about the future of UT-Arlington and plans to address those issues on Wednesday.

"What the community is going to hear from Chancellor Yudof will greatly allay their concerns about the future of the University of Texas at Arlington. They will hear from him that UTA is an extremely valuable member of the University of Texas System," Warden said.

Warden noted that the University of Texas System Board of Regents recently approved a \$39.9 million chemistry and physics building at UT-Arlington, and that the campus has grown steadily in recent years as part of the UT system.

Lawmakers said they hope the meeting produces a firm commitment on the part of UT system officials not to elevate UT-Dallas at UT-Arlington's expense.

If not, the lawmakers are preparing legislation to make good on their threat. State Rep. Toby Goodman, R-

Arlington, said he has had a bill drafted to make UT-Arlington an independent university. The measure has not been introduced, he said.

"If we can get what we want and we're happy in the UT system, we would prefer to stay in the UT system. But if not we can go another path," he said.

Harris said the Texas Tech, University of Houston and Texas A&M University systems are viable options. He said he did not have a preference but noted that UT-Arlington was once part of the A&M system. UT-Arlington left the A&M system in 1965.

A&M system Chancellor Howard Graves acknowledged the Arlington campus' past affiliation with the A&M system while noting that any decision about changing the campus affiliation was in the Legislature's hands.

"However, it is our hope that any such transfer include the concurrence of the boards of regents of the A&M system and UT system as well as the Texas Legislature," Graves said.

If the lawmakers decide to move forward, the goal is to get legislation passed this session because the Legislature will not meet again in regular session until January 2005, Harris said.

"If we continue to hear from Yudof that his priorities are changing to make the UTD campus a more advanced campus than our UTA campus then I will explore every opportunity we can," said state Sen. Kim Brimer, R-Fort Worth.

An official with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which oversees public colleges and universities, said the Legislature has the authority to move UT-Arlington out of the UT system.

But Marshall Hill, assistant commissioner for universities and health-related institutions, cautioned that such a move would likely create political problems.

"There would be a lot of uncertainty that faculty would have I'm sure, a lot of questions of whether this is something that had been thought through thoroughly enough," he said.

Huff n' puff



Krista Knox, a freshman education major, and Kevin Doffing, a sophomore psychology major, fill balloons with clues and air before Camp Hermann's Fish Camp counselor revelation. Nine hundred counselors start training for the four-day summer freshman orientation program this weekend with the first of three development programs held on campus.

JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush: Saddam will try "to fool the world" again

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq is providing new information about its weapons and has reported the discovery of two bombs, including one possibly filled with a biological agent — moves that the chief U.N. weapons inspector said Tuesday signal real cooperation.

President Bush, however, predicted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would try to "fool the world one more time" by revealing the existence of weapons he

has previously denied having. He urged the United Nations to back U.S. action against Iraq.

Bush said he would welcome a U.N. Security Council vote supporting the U.S. position on using force against Iraq "but I don't believe we need a second resolution."

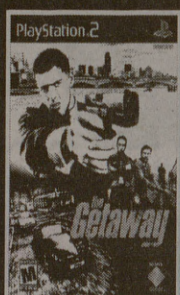
Pentagon officials have said that U.S. forces massed in the region number about 200,000, about half of them Army.

With the Security Council deeply divided over whether Iraq has squandered a final opportunity to disarm,

Canada was trying to bridge two competing plans that were introduced Monday: a U.S.-British-Spanish resolution that seeks U.N. authorization for war; and a French-Russian-German proposal to strengthen weapons inspections and continue them at least into July.

Canada, which isn't on the Security Council, circulated a document to council members Tuesday proposing a series of benchmarks Iraq would have to meet by the end of March. The council would then be asked to vote on whether Iraq was complying with its U.N. obligations.

hastings
Your Entertainment Superstore



Will pay \$20 for these used PlayStation 2 Titles:



Getaway and Devil May Cry 2

\$2 off
All Soul CD's
See stores for details.
Offer expires 3/6/03.

February is African American History Month.

In College Station: 2004 Texas Ave S.
In Bryan: 725 Villa Maria

Liberal Arts Career Week

All majors welcome!

Tonight: Career Fair Networking

5:30p.m.
Koldus 111

Thursday, Feb. 27th: Alumni Forum

Panel discussion and reception with former students
6:00p.m.
Reed Arena

Friday, Feb. 28th:

Liberal Arts Career Fair
And
Communications Career Fair
10:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
Rudder Exhibit Hall

For a complete list of companies attending the career fair and other info please check out our website.

www.lasctamu.org

Volume I

Garrett
Pend...

By Jan...
THE

With litig...
his precede...
he balan...
resident E...
announced...
Aggie Bonf...
this fall.

In a letter...
city and...
explained th...
a decision...
Bonfire unt...
from the 19...
Collapse...
Aggies and...
are resolve...
time in his...
president th...
an official...
the fate of t...
year traditi...

"I have o...
announcem...
change in...
regarding th...
would be in...
litigation is...
Gates said.

Trial date...
for the six...
state lawsui...
of the Aggie...
lapse on No...

University...
Director Lar...
he could not...
the litigation...
Steve De...

representing...
tims' famil...
lawsuits in...
would take...
DeWolf is...
Breen, Dav...
Scanlon fam...
"I am cu...
a federal ca...
some clarit...
DeWolf sai...
state court

RH...

foc...

By Ro...
THE

After...
debate, th...
Association...
voted do...
Wednesday...
group's of...
their author...
RHA funds...

At issue...
the RHA...
spend \$500...
tisement th...
rebutting cr...
ization leve...
ion article b...
Nicholas N...

"Given...
constraints...
of money to...
er seems e...
serving," s...
president o...
a sponsor o...

Co...

The fir...
Traditions...
when the B...
control of...
Corporatio...
The vot...
amendmen...
an equal p...