

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

UT protests tuition hike, A&M may follow

By Emily Peters
THE BATTALION

Regents from Texas A&M and the University of Texas - Austin are considering the largest tuition hike ever to cover debts from rising costs and a financial shortfall at the last legislative session. A&M and UT campus reactions to the proposed fees have varied.

UT student leaders are rousing state-wide opposition against a proposed infrastructure fee, by contacting

parent groups, high schools, regents, media and legislators.

If approved, the fee will charge full-time UT students \$230 more per semester for basic academic and administrative operating activities, critical building repairs and large-scale renovations. This amount will increase by \$50 each year for the next four years, amounting to \$1,000 per student in five years.

This fee is similar to A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen's proposed Academic Enhancement Fee, which may charge

\$30 per semester hour for incoming students in Fall 2002. If approved, an A&M student taking 15 hours will pay \$400 more per semester.

UT's Student Government President Matt Hammond has called for UT students and organizations to rally together at February's UT system regents meeting in San Antonio, where the issue will be decided. Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, and the Young Conservatives of Texas (YCT) have joined UT's campaign, publicly

questioning the fee's necessity and legality.

A&M officials have heard little student input other than a student senate vote against the fee in October, but students said early plans are in the works to follow in UT's footsteps.

A&M student senate speaker Jack Long said preliminary surveys showed one-third of students have not yet heard of the fee, and the first step will be to inform the student body.

Tyler Dunman, president of A&M's

chapter of YCT, said the group is opposed to the fee, and its first step is to make sure the proposition is legal.

"We are watching our t.u. chapter fight the good fight, and it looks like a winning battle. We are just now looking into the similarities of the fees," Dunman said.

Texas A&M students have known about the enhancement fee since Bowen presented it to the A&M System

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'Free at last'



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

A portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. is held by **Greg Rodriguez** as members of the Delta Sigma Theta Academy walk behind him. Hundreds of Bryan-College Station residents marched down

Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Bryan on Monday. The march celebrated the life of King and the work he did towards gaining equality for African-Americans.

Community celebrates diversity, honors MLK

By Tanya Nading
THE BATTALION

Thirty-four years after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., students and community members came together to affirm that the assassins who took the civil rights leader's life did not take away his dream.

In 1963, King addressed more than 250,000 freedom marchers with his famous, "I Have a Dream," speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, telling the protesters that one day children of all races would join hands in peace and friendship.

In 2002, hundreds of marchers — community members and students, foreigners and Americans, African-Americans and Caucasians — fulfilled that dream in the sixth annual Martin Luther King Jr. March.

The march to honor King is one of many activities this week that will allow students, faculty and members of the community to appreciate King's leadership and life.

The march began in Shady Thomas Park off of Martin Luther King Jr. Street where the crowd opened with prayer led by local ministers. From there participants marched to Kemp Elementary School where Rodney McClendon, assistant provost for Texas A&M, spoke on Martin Luther King Jr.

"There were over a hundred people there," said Tamara Caesar, a senior industrial engineering major and president of the Omicron Omega chapter of

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Bush addresses ethnic profiling, education

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

Florida Gov. John Ellis "Jeb" Bush defended law enforcement against charges of ethnic profiling of Arab-Americans in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks while speaking at Texas A&M Friday at his father's presidential library.

"When you're under attack by terrorists of a certain nationality, who hate our country and who are still out there, is it profiling to focus our efforts on that threat? I would suggest that it's not," Bush said.

Bush addressed an overflow crowd at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex conference center, touting his success in reforming public education in Florida and answering questions from the audience.

Bush said his brother, President George W. Bush, has risen to the occasion and proven himself an exemplary wartime leader in America's fight against terrorism by surrounding himself with excellent advisers and communi-

ating a clear vision to the American people.

Bush's most passionate words were reserved for his crusade to reform public schools in Florida, which he said has shown positive results and can be a model for other states.

Among the most controversial of Bush's initiatives was the One Florida plan, which eliminated racial preferences in college admissions despite fervent opposition from minority groups.

"We increased black and Hispanic enrollment at our universities, but not with divisive practices like quotas. We did it by expanding opportunities," Bush said.

He also stressed the importance of improving education by raising standards and holding schools accountable through assessment tests. By grading public schools based on the progress of its students and by giving parents in chronically low-performing schools the option

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Hammond selected as MSC president

By Rolando Garcia
THE BATTALION

The newly selected president of the Memorial Student Center, Barry Hammond, is pledging to make the organization open and accountable to the student body, after a turbulent year for the organization.

Hammond, a junior economics major, was chosen Saturday from three applicants by a special committee of MSC staff and students, but will not take office until Parent's Weekend in April.

"This is a defining time in the history of this organization, and I believe I have a unique vision for the MSC that will improve the programs and development opportunities we provide for students," Hammond said.

Kate Petree, the MSC vice president for human resources and a senior meteorology major, appointed the members of the selection committee but declined to release the names of applicants or committee members.

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STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Florida Gov. **Jeb Bush** defended his One Florida plan to students and faculty at the George Bush Presidential Library Complex Friday.

Reveille VII sent to obedience school

By Anna Chaloupka
THE BATTALION

Reveille VII came to campus last spring as a puppy and a calm, family atmosphere.

She learned a few things from outgoing mascot Reveille VI before she could be called "Miss Rev, ma'am."

This fall, she could be seen walking across the Corps housing area with Mascot Corporal Javier Aguirre, barking and straining at her leash to greet people. During football games and yell practices, the dog's high-pitched barks



REVEILLE VII

echoed across Kyle Field and through the stands. At Reveille's first birthday party in October, cadets restrained A&M's first lady from plunging into the cake Company E-2 brought in her honor.

But last week, after conferring with Texas A&M officials, cadets sent the young mascot to obedience school.

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WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 65° F
LOW 48° F

DAY

HIGH 70° F
LOW 61° F

FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermanned.com