

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Report: A&M overcharges students

By Elizabeth Tisch
The Battalion

University conflicts with competitors' rates

Texas A&M is overcharging students for food, supplies and services, according to a report released Wednesday by a Student Government committee.

The study, compiled by the Committee for Student Government Task Force, found that "after an extensive analysis, the Task Force is convinced that many items sold to students could be provided at a lower cost."

Student Senate Finance Chairman David Brooks presented the report to the Senate Wednesday, and it was referred to a student committee for further study.

The Senate will decide March 6 whether to send the report to A&M President William Mobley or to Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration.

Task force Chairman David Wieland said in the report that the committee was re-

Where does the money go?

According to a report by the Committee for Student Government Task Force, Texas A&M is overcharging students in several areas when compared to local competitors' prices:

	\$	A&M	7-11	Skaggs
Elmer's Glue (4 oz.)		1.45	1.39	.99
200 sheets notebook paper		2.09	na	.99
Nyquil (6 oz.)		6.35	4.89	3.79

ated due to student complaints about the price of campus food items and of the poor communication of the department of business services policies to students.

Student Body President Ty Clevenger said he believed it was necessary to appoint unbiased student representatives to examine the issues further.

Services researched by the task force were campus vending, fast food and cafeteria-style operations, the University Golf Course, Campus Bookstore, Campus Microcomputing Center, and campus copy centers.

The services researched did not include University Printing, dormitories, University-Owned Apartments, campus dining halls, the University Center, Campus Mail and Photographic Services.

The task force excluded these services because they directly serve or support the academic sector of A&M.

During the year-long study, some items sold at on-campus convenience stores and snack bars were compared to identical items at 7-11 convenience stores and Skaggs Alpha Beta on South College Avenue.

Donald Powell, director of business serv-

ices, "states that the prices of items sold in Business Services operations were derived by following a lowest practical pricing philosophy," the report stated.

According to this, prices should be near the median of the range of prices in the private sector, regardless of actual cost, the report continued.

But the task force found otherwise. A 4 oz. bottle of Elmer's Glue costs \$1.45 on campus, \$1.39 at 7-11 and 99 cents at Skaggs.

Two hundred sheets of notebook paper sell for \$2.09 on campus and 99 cents at Skaggs. A 6 oz. bottle of Nyquil cold medicine costs \$6.35 on campus, \$4.89 at 7-11 and \$3.79 at Skaggs.

One pound of Nabisco Oreo cookies sell for \$3.65 on campus, \$2.99 at 7-11 and \$2.67 at Skaggs.



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

Step right up

Sean McCarty, a freshman electrical engineering major from Southlake, which is near Dallas, warms up by running up and down the stands in Kyle Field before running three miles around the track early Wednesday afternoon.

System presidents allocate \$50 million to A&M minorities

From Staff and Wire Reports

President William Mobley and other Texas A&M University System presidents signed a multimillion dollar agreement Wednesday designed to increase the number of minorities in science, engineering and math.

Dr. Edward Hiler, interim chancellor, said the memorandum of understanding comes at a crucial time because of a predicted shortfall of more than 675,000 engineers and scientists over the next 15 years.

Only 12 blacks nationwide earned doctorates in engineering in 1989, he said.

"Our ability as a state and a nation to compete in an increasingly global and technologically driven economy is increasingly dependent on our

ability to recruit and retain in technical disciplines those groups traditionally underrepresented," he said.

The leaders signed the \$50 million agreement as federal officials and members of the Texas congressional delegation watched.

The A&M group hopes its financial commitment, applying to 17 separate projects over varying periods of time, will be matched by federal grants.

Texas is second only behind California in total minority population. With more than 71,000 students, the Texas A&M University System ranks as one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation.

A goal, Hiler said, is to increase

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Baker declares Iraq will leave Kuwait soon

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III declared on Wednesday that Iraqi troops "will leave Kuwait soon," but he steered clear of the question of Saddam Hussein's postwar future.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley said it would be "extremely difficult" for President Bush to refuse an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal.

Baker, speaking at a luncheon for Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, renewed the U.S. demand that Iraq pull out of Kuwait "immediately, totally and unconditionally" and comply fully with U.N. resolutions. "Anything short of that is unacceptable," he said.

"One way or another, the army of occupation of Iraq will leave Kuwait soon," Baker predicted.

Foley, the top-ranking Democrat

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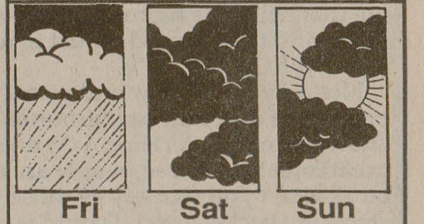
Baker

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Modern-day Cowboy

Texas A&M student turns lifelong dream into reality

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Gorbachev's fate rests on U.S., Baltics expert says

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

U.S.S.R. censures Yeltsin /Page 6

Increasing tension in the Baltic republics might affect the internal power struggle in the Soviet Union's government, an expert on the region said Tuesday at Texas A&M.

Martha Merritt, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's future depends on how the United States handles the situations in the Baltic republics and Middle East.

"The United States has an important role in Gorbachev's survival as the Soviet Union's lead-

er," Merritt said during a lecture sponsored by the MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness.

Gorbachev must prove to the government's hard right-wing that he can influence the United States with his policy in the Middle East, she said.

Internationally, Gorbachev is a charismatic leader, but he is losing confidence in his country, she said.

"Gorbachev is facing incredible pressure from his government adversaries," Merritt said.

One such adversary is Russian President Boris Yeltsin. On Soviet national television Monday, Yeltsin accused Gorbachev of leading the country to a dictatorship and single-handedly blamed him for the country's domestic problems.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Soviet Parliament voted to censor Yeltsin for his remarks.

Yeltsin supports popular issues by the people. Yeltsin uses his popularity with the Russian people to gain support, but he stands for the sovereignty of the Soviet Union, Merritt said.

She said independence for the Baltic republics

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B-CS recycles waste with divide, conquer strategy

Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part series in The Battalion on recycling and its increasing importance on our future. Today's focus is on community efforts to recycle.

By Mack Harrison
The Battalion

Bryan-College Station officials are using the divide and conquer strategy in the war against waste.

In a pilot recycling program, officials from both cities are urging residents of target neighborhoods to "DIVIDE the trash and CONQUER the waste" for a three-year test period.

Residents place newspapers, aluminum cans, glass and car batteries in clear plastic bags



provided by Texas Commercial Waste.

Waste contractors then take materials to recycling centers instead of landfills.

The curbside recycling project involving more than 5,000 homes in Bryan and College Station has been in operation since October.

Participants in the program have been cooperative and enthusiastic, says Peggy Calliham, College Station public relations and marketing manager.

More than 100 neighborhood

supervisors, known as Waste Stream Team Leaders, contribute to the effectiveness of the program, Calliham says.

"The key to keeping participation and motivation high is neighborhood leaders," she says.

Blocks with volunteer supervisors have a higher percentage of people involved in recycling, Calliham says. Leaders are an important way to get information out to the neighborhoods, she says.

The cities contacted potential block leaders through direct mailouts to the target areas, says Joe Brown, Bryan communications officer.

Residents responded well. Bryan has some 50 team leaders and College Station another 60 to 70.

Project planners had to work some bugs out of the system, he

says.

Initially, contractors found they could not make all the pickups in one day as originally planned. City officials added an extra day for pickup and spread the word through the block captains, Brown says.

"So far it's worked out well," he says. "We've got some pretty dedicated people."

Calliham says one problem with the program is identifying and educating new residents in the target areas. She says students are the most difficult to notify because of their high turnover.

Officials cannot easily measure involvement in the program. Some people fill several bags a week, and other families might not generate as much waste, she says.

Brown says one way to judge participation is on a monthly basis. He says the percentage of B-CS

residents taking part in the project is above the national average of 17 to 18 percent.

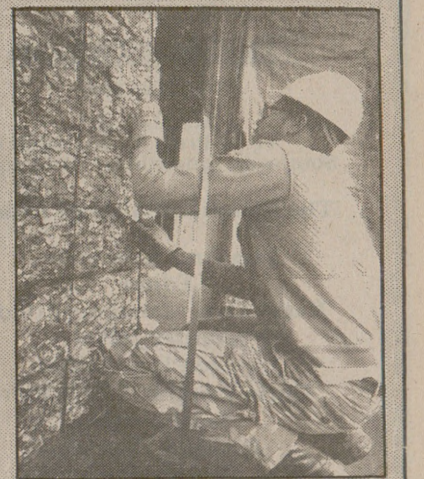
"The best we can tell, the participation level is running 20 to 22 percent," Brown says.

But the cities hope to reach a goal of 40 to 50 percent participation.

From October to November, the amount of recyclables picked up increased 48 percent in Bryan and 26 percent in College Station with the pounds jumping from 85,215 to 115,450 pounds.

In December, waste contractors hauled away 1,241 pounds of aluminum, 15,720 pounds of glass, 65,740 pounds of newspaper and 648 pounds of car batteries.

Officials say the amount was less than the previous month because many people left for the holidays and pickup dates changed during that time.



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Victor Lewis of Bryan Iron and Metal binds aluminum cans to be shipped to a recycling factory