

## END OF THE ROAD

Senior Debbie Bierman looks for a win in her last home game.

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# THE BATTALION

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## Regents to consider fee increases for fall semester

### Tuition, parking fees and departmental fees will be increased if a proposal is approved.

By Kasie Byers  
THE BATTALION

If a fee proposal before the Board of Regents is passed, students can expect increases in the costs of tuition, parking and admission applications for the upcoming fall semester.

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These increases, proposed by the Department of Finance and Administration, will go before the Board in March.

Mary Nan West, Chairman of the Board of Regents, said the Board's decision will depend on how drastic an impact this proposal would have on the students.

"I don't approve of pricing a good education out of the market," West said. "I

don't want to pass this proposal if it will place undue burdens on the students."

If passed, tuition will increase for both graduate and undergraduate residents and non-residents.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, executive vice president with the Department of Finance and Administration, said the Texas legislature must allow the residents' tuition to be increased before the University can take action.

He said the state legislature decided several years ago that residents' tuition could be increased up to \$2, which will occur if the proposal passes.

All other tuition increases, he said, are determined by the University with-in different boards.

Out-of-state tuition is set by a University coordinating board at the direction of the state legislature, he said, and graduate tuition is set by the Department of Finance and Administration.

Carmen Layseca, a senior construction science major and out-of-state resident, said the fee increases are a particular burden.

"It doesn't bother me when the University raises fees when we can see

where the money is going, but I don't see where my tuition is going," Layseca said. "I don't see why out of state tuition needs to go up. I pay six times as much as in-state residents do already."

All parking fees from commuter to garage visitor parking and staff parking will also increase.

Gaston said the parking fee increases will be proposed for two main reasons.

"Parking fees must increase because of the maintenance and repair of old lots and garages and the construction of new lots," he said. "Apparent inequities between parking for off-campus students and on-campus students and garage spaces are also a major reason for increases."

Gaston said the upcoming construction of the Student Access Building, which will operate 24 hours and will connect to the expansion of the Evans Library, will create a need for better parking and ultimately higher fees.

"If we make the Student Access Building available to students we also need parking where they can get to it easily," he said. "We need to think of the students' safety. Busses don't run

all night."

Admission application fees will also increase.

Gaston said this increase was proposed because application processing, printing and postage costs have increased significantly since the application fee was first enacted.

Gaston said the fee proposal also includes creating equipment access fees in the colleges of architecture and geosciences.

"The equipment access fees for the College of Architecture and the College of Geosciences are two new fees that are also included in the proposal," he said. "These fees will pattern after the access fees in the colleges of engineering, agriculture and science."

Brad Ramsey, a junior construction science major, said new fees within the College of Architecture are not fair.

"We already pay fees for things that we don't even use," Ramsey said. "Initiating another fee within the College of Architecture isn't fair. We pay tuition and whatever is covered under this new equipment access fee should be provided for us through that tuition."

The Texas Legislature is proposing a 12 percent budget cut for higher education. This cut would take \$20 million dollars from Texas A&M's funding.

Brooke Leslie, student body president, said she sees the fee increases as a way to make the students pay for the state's proposing these budget cuts.

"The students have definitely been wronged here," Leslie said. "As higher education is continuously cut, it puts us (the students) in a situation to carry the burdens of this lost funding."

Currently, the costs of attending Texas' universities and colleges are the least expensive in the nation and Texas A&M is one of the least expensive universities in the state.

Leslie said that although Texas' higher education expenses are less, the state ranks at the bottom in financial aid.

"Texas by far has one of the best deals in the nation as far as higher education goes and because of this the Legislature thinks cutting our funding won't hurt," she said. "But what people don't realize is that Texas doesn't provide nearly as many grants and loans for its students as other states do."

## Powell to speak on Gulf War experiences, U.S. military engagements

### The Wiley Lecture Series sponsors Gen. Colin Powell on Saturday in Rudder Auditorium.

By Gretchen Perrenot  
THE BATTALION

Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will relate his experiences during the Gulf War and other U.S. engagements Saturday in Rudder Auditorium.

The MSC Wiley Lecture Series, a foreign policy series, chose Powell to speak because of his contributions to the nation's foreign policy and defense. Powell served 35 years in the military and was the first black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the country's highest military post.

He is also the author of an autobiography describing his climb in the military and has been urged to run for the 1996 presidential election.

Powell's speech agenda is not formally set, but program coordinators said they expect he will discuss U.S. engagements during the Gulf War, Haiti and Somalia and future U.S. engagements.

Susan Emmons, chair of Wiley Lecture Series, said Powell will discuss where U.S. troops will go in the future and why they should or should not be there.

Wiley Lecture Series has sought Powell as a speaker for a year, she said, and had hoped to have him

here last year.

Bringing Powell to A&M was difficult, Emmons said, because of several obstacles including raising funds, having the proposal approved and setting the date.

Laura Bay, director of advertising for Wiley Lecture Series, said Wiley was able to secure Powell because of A&M's background as a military school and the interest of the Corps of Cadets.

Joanna Hetsko, a senior in the Corps of Cadets, said she plans to attend the event and hopes Powell will discuss the nation's situation now that the Cold War has ended and changes are taking place.

"I've seen him speak on television before and I've heard from others that he is a very powerful speaker," Hetsko said. "I like having the opportunity to hear one of our nation's leaders speak."

Emmons said she does not expect the audience to be predominantly cadets, but does expect a large turnout.

Wiley Lecture Series sponsors one major speaker and several smaller symposiums each year.

Past topics were on the mid-east, economics in the far east and the rising threat of nuclear weapons.

Other major speakers have been British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford.

Wiley Lecture Series committee members said they hope to have Mikhail Gorbachev as a future speaker.

## A&M faces funding reductions

### Officials and state legislators began negotiating the 1996-1997 budget on Thursday.

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M officials and state legislators made the first step Thursday in negotiating the A&M System's 1996-1997 budget.

The A&M System has requested \$836 million, but budget cutbacks proposed during the negotiating stages could bring a reduction of at least \$16 million.

A&M administrators are concerned that the results of a state audit published in January will make budget negotiations more difficult.

But State Rep. Steve Ogden said all Texas state schools are facing tighter budgets because of a 5 to 8 percent reduction in funding for all of higher education.

"A&M's situation is not unique," he said.

Dr. Ray Bowen, president of Texas A&M, was not pleased with the preliminary negotiations.

"If this was the budget that we were actually given, it would not have gone well," Bowen said.

Ogden compared Thursday's negotiations to a football game.

"We're coming up on the end of the first quarter," he said, "and we're down by two touchdowns."

Despite a rough start, Ogden said a happy ending is still possible.

"It's fairly normal to start out with a pessimistic budget," he said. "But I'm confident that we can work out a satisfactory budget."

Dr. Barry Thompson, chancellor of the A&M system, said the negotiations went better than he had expected.

"They're always reminding us about the audit results," he said, "but this was a positive atmosphere."

Bowen is optimistic that future negotiations will provide a bigger budget.

"The appropriations committee is very sympathetic to A&M," he said.



Robyn Calloway/The Battalion

## Taking a ride on the wild side

Brad Hoeksema, a sophomore biomedical science major, spins in the Gyro during the Greek Week carnival at Rudder fountain on Thursday afternoon.

## Mentors: Profs listen, offer advice to students

### The group is still going strong after nearly 20 years.

By Lynn Cook  
THE BATTALION

For almost 20 years, members of the Mentors program have opened their doors and offered advice to students.

In 1976, chemistry Professor Dr. Rod O'Connor and a dozen other faculty members organized a group to better serve students.

O'Connor said they called their program "Free Love" and operated under that name for three years until administrators decided they needed to change the name.

"Mainly we wanted to let students know there are people out there who care about them as individuals," O'Connor said. "The administration suggested we change the name because we might make some mothers think we were encouraging students to move in together."

"Really, 12 or 13 of us felt that if we pooled our brains we could be more effective. I think I get more credit than I deserve for the program. I was probably just the one with the loudest mouth."

In 1979, the program became the Mentors program. Today, Mentors has just less than 400 faculty, staff and administrators participating.

O'Connor said faculty members orga-

nized the group because they started seeing more students with serious problems beginning in the 1970s.

"We started seeing more severe problems than before, like suicide," O'Connor said. "Most of the people we talked to had problems with roommates and that sort of thing. A lot of them were freshmen and were just lonely."

O'Connor said he runs across many former students who remember the help they received from the program.

"I would go with students to the financial aid office and stand on a chair and refuse to come down until a student got their check than was six weeks late," O'Connor said. "I wasn't endeared in that office."

Dr. Betty Milburn, assistant director of counseling with the Student Counseling Services and coordinator of the Mentors program, said a Mentor's two main responsibilities are listening to students and referring them to the appropriate services.

"The purpose is to provide students a place where they can go that is safe and know that a professor is interested in

them as a person," Milburn said. "Mentors advise and guide students in the areas they are competent in and refer them to the appropriate sources."

"The problems we see run the gamut. We see everything from problems with relationships, families, finances, study habits, academics and career choices."

Dr. Williams Bassichis, professor of physics and a Mentor, said students come to him with questions ranging from academic performance and career choices to personal and family problems.

"Everybody always seems to have a different question," Bassichis said. "The University and community have so many resources that if it involves a serious problem, we know who to refer them to."

Dr. Murray Milford, professor of soil sciences and a Mentor, said Mentors are available to students to talk about anything.

"Mentors just want to let it be known that a lot of faculty are willing to talk on a very informal basis about anything they want to talk about," Milford said. "I don't see it as a job. Independent of most university connections, we are making ourselves available to students."

Bassichis said it is important for students to know they have options.

"The Mentor signs on our doors indicate who we are," he said. "If you feel you have a problem, the sooner you let someone try to help you, the sooner you can get your problem solved."

