

WINNING IS EVERYTHING

A&M head coach Mark Johnson strives to return his team to championship form.

Sports, Page 7

RUN WITH IT

Editorial: The newly appointed A&M regents should protect and enhance the University.

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INDIGO GIRLS

Folk duo will perform tonight at Rudder Auditorium.

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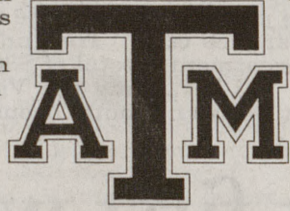
Texas A&M listens to concerns of community College Station expands recycling

A&M leaders respond to students' questions.

By Lynn Cook
THE BATTALION

Despite an unexpected trip to Austin to appear before the Texas House Appropriations Committee Tuesday morning, A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen was still able to answer questions from students during a live television program, "Ray Bowen and Friends."

Bowen was linked to the broadcast through the Trans Texas Video Network. The television show, aired from A&M's KAMU-TV, is the first of its kind for the University.



The show was designed to make administrators accessible to students and the community by letting people ask anything they want about the faculty or University.

In addition to Bowen, other panel members included Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs; Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration; and Brooke Leslie, student body president. All the participants answered questions about campus issues ranging from safety to the expansion of the College of Liberal Arts.

Mary Helen Bowers, deputy director of University Relations and the show's organizer, said eight students asked questions from the remote-camera

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The City of College Station begins a pilot apartment recycling program this week.

By Tracy Smith
THE BATTALION

College Station apartment complexes are getting involved with the recycling mission by making recycling as convenient as taking out the trash.

Katie Gibson, recycling coordinator for the city of College Station, said a recycling pilot program for apartments begins this week.

"We surveyed apartment complexes in College Station to see if there was any interest," she said, "and while we have only eight complexes participating, we had 40 complexes that expressed interest."

An assessment of the participation and amount of materials

recycled will be given to the College Station City Council after the 16-week program finishes.

"This is a unique program. What happens over the 16-week period will decide its fate," Gibson said. "We hope it will become part of our annual budget. Only time will tell."

Gibson said College Station residents and university students who live in apartments and are interested in recycling suggested the program.

"Right now, our curbside program services approximately 10,000 families," she said. "We hope to increase the number of people recycling by including apartment complexes as one of our priorities."

Laurie Hearn, a junior agricultural journalism major, said she thinks the program's convenience will encourage more peo-

ple to become involved with recycling.

"When I first moved into an apartment, my roommates and I would drag bags of cans down to the recycling center," she said. "After a while, though, we stopped because between school and work we didn't have time

"Right now, our curbside program services approximately 10,000 families."

—Katie Gibson,
recycling coordinator

to drive the cans down to the center.

"I know other students who have run into the same problem. I think convenience is one of the big reasons people don't recycle. They want to do it, but don't because of the time it takes."

Gibson said the program's

four-month trial period will take place during Texas A&M's semester break in mid-May, allowing city council members to see if the program will succeed during one of College Station's most trying recycling times.

"With so many people moving in and out, the end of the semester is when a good percentage of the recycling should be done," she said. "If the program can be successful during this time, it will probably be successful the rest of the year."

Scott Eustance, University Towers director of special projects, said that with all of the current emphasis on recycling, University Towers officials are happy to find a program to accommodate its tenants by making recycling easier.

"When the city approached us to be a participant in the program, University Towers jumped at the chance," he said. "We had

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GSC votes down fee consolidation

Graduate Student Council opposes changes to the student health center fee.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

The Graduate Student Council Tuesday opposed a proposal to consolidate part of the student service fee with the health center fee.

The GSC's opposition will now go to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for consideration.

Texas A&M students will vote on the proposal in a student referendum March 29 and 30.

The proposal would combine the \$15 of the student service fee that goes to A.P. Beutel Health Center and the \$25 health center fee into one \$40 health center fee.

Amy Kardell, GSC president, said the GSC is rejecting the referendum and requesting a voice in the proposal's negotiation.

"I have a clear belief that it will pass through with the undergraduate students," Kardell said, "therefore we should reject the proposal now."

Members of the GSC said they want graduate students to have an option of receiving and paying for on-campus health care. If the

GSC supported the proposal, the members said, they would not be able to make this suggestion.

Kardell said 48 percent of graduate students receive health care assistance from the University and do not use the on-campus health center.

"It negatively affects graduate students who already have health care or health insurance," she said.

Stephen Stephenson, GSC president-elect, said she voted against the fee consolidation because many graduate students can receive less expensive health care elsewhere and should be able to choose not to have health center fees.

Charles Goodman, GSC exter-

"It [consolidation] negatively affects graduate students who already have health care or health insurance."

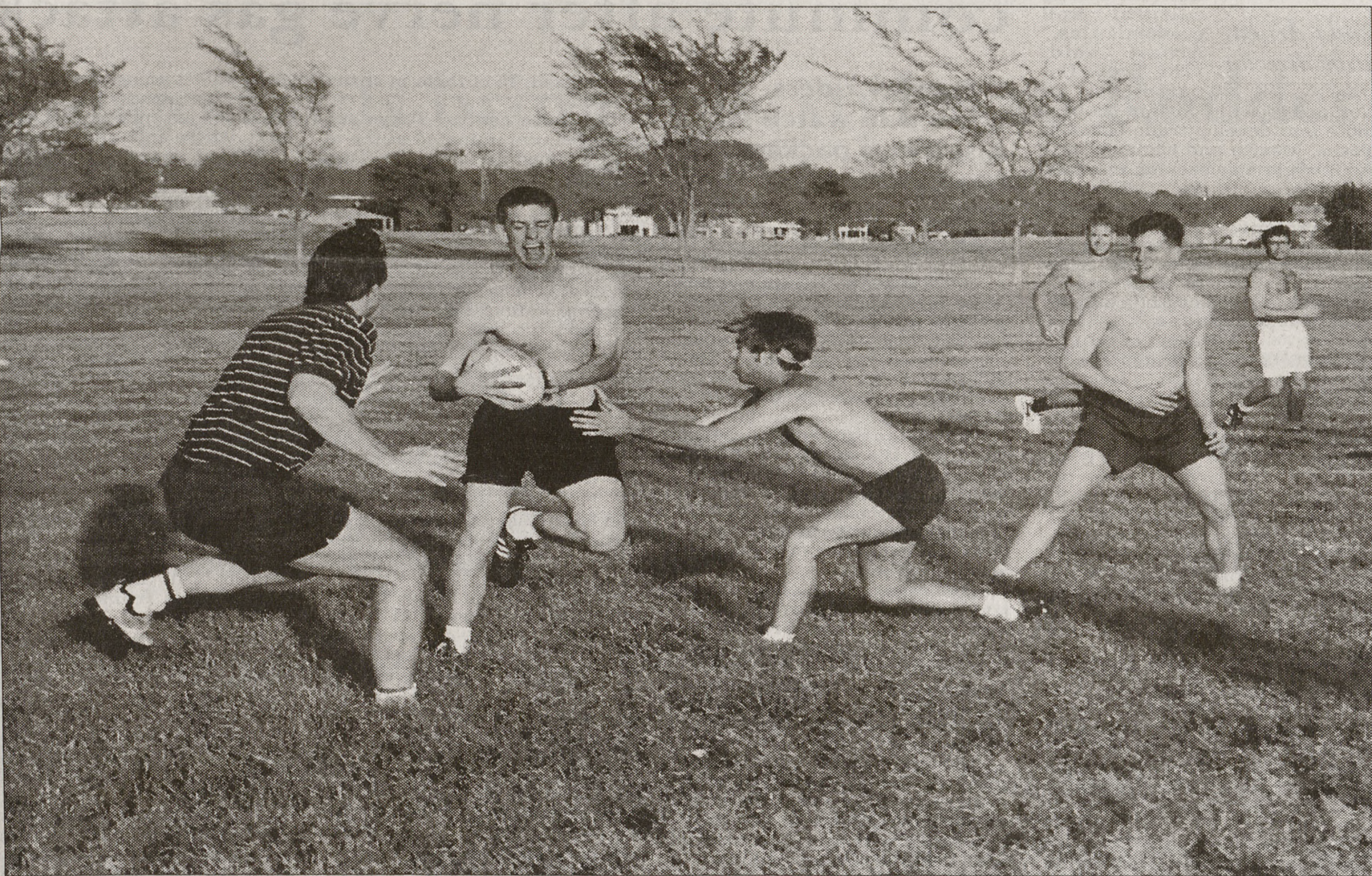
—Amy Kardell,
GSC president

nal affairs officer, is one of two members of the Council who does not oppose consolidating the fees.

"I appreciate that the graduate students are concerned that the student health center is not meeting their needs," Goodman said, "but I think those are two separate issues."

Goodman said he does not

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Robyn Calloway/THE BATTALION

Practice makes perfect

Members of the number one ranked Aggie Rugby Team practice Tuesday afternoon at the polo fields. The team is getting ready for the Texas Rugby Championship this weekend.

GOP divides over proposed tax bill

House members try to compromise on tax breaks for wealthier families.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Breaking ranks on a key item in the "Contract With America," nearly half the Republicans in the House called Tuesday for scaling back tax breaks intended for wealthier families. "I don't think that's out of the question," conceded Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The White House and congressional Democrats instantly renewed their attacks on Republicans as beneficiaries of the rich. "I can certainly understand their unease with ... regressive, trickle-down tax policy," taunted House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri, who noted that Republicans also favor cuts in school lunch and other nutrition programs.

With the GOP tax-cut measure expected on the House

floor next week, 102 Republican lawmakers cast their request to limit a \$500-per-child tax credit as an effort to plow more money into deficit reduction. Even so, their proposal reflected a broader debate among majority Republicans in Congress — and White House hopefuls — of the prominence that tax cuts should receive in the coming months.

As approved last week in the House Ways and Means Committee, the GOP tax bill would permit families earning up to \$200,000 a year the full, \$500-per-child tax credit promised in the "Contract With America." A letter from 102 of the 230 House Republicans calls for a vote on lowering the cap to \$95,000.

"Passage of this amendment would still cover 85 percent of the families in America," the group wrote. However, they wrote that it would also mean "an additional \$12 billion to \$14 billion in savings for deficit reduction."

The Republicans intend to

bring the tax-cut measure to the floor at the same time as spending cuts to pay for it.

Republican leaders have made numerous compromises in the past 75 days as they maneuvered their ambitious agenda toward passage. House approval of the balanced-budget amendment came only after the leadership bowed to GOP moderates and dropped a provision requiring a two-thirds vote to raise taxes.

Even so, the letter stands out as the most striking example of lawmakers using public pressure to force a key change in the "Contract With America."

The letter was sent to Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., chairman of the Rules Committee that will set the rules for debate on the measure. Its leading sponsors were Rep. Greg Ganske, a first-term from Iowa, and Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, neither of whom was available to comment.

Democrats attack new welfare reform

Republicans propose major alterations to the current plan which includes giving states control of welfare finances.

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of wrangling over teen-age mothers, school lunches and the "slavery" of dependency, the House took up the centerpiece of the GOP social agenda Tuesday — a welfare overhaul that replaces federal support for the poor with payments to the states.

Food stamps, foster care and aid to disabled children and single mothers would be fundamentally changed under the far-reaching blueprint as states are given a free hand to design their own welfare programs.

The bill also shrinks welfare spending by \$66.4 billion over five years, repeals dozens of so-

cial programs developed since the New Deal, and erases the federal government's guarantee to support poor women and children.

Republicans have called welfare the "last plantation" and say it has enslaved millions of American families in long-term dependency.

They accuse Democrats, who controlled the House for 40 years, of jealously guarding a

Rep. Marge Roukema, R-N.J.

Democrats, however, say the bill is cruel to millions of children and falls far short on getting parents from the welfare rolls into the work place.

"While the current House plan is weak on work, it is very tough on children," President Clinton told Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., in a letter on the eve of the debate. "Cutting school lunches and getting tough on disabled children and children in foster care is not my idea of welfare reform."

Clinton also criticized provisions in the bill that deny aid to unmarried mothers under age 18 and their children.

"We should demand responsible behavior from people on welfare, but it is wrong to make small children pay the price for their parents' mistakes," he said.

"While the current House plan is weak on work, it is very tough on children."

—President Clinton

bankrupt system that discourages work and marriage and encourages the poor to "stay where they are."

"Young mothers having babies, not going out to work, and no man has responsibility for the family — that's what we're setting out to reform," said