

RUNNING DOWN A DREAM

The Texas A&M 1600-m relay team is racing towards a national championship.

Sports, Page 7

TIME TO TAKE CARE OF TAXES

Magee: Americans must pay taxes to reimburse government for services provided.

Opinion, Page 9

NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Touring jazz ensemble will perform at Rudder Thursday night.

Aggielife, Page 3



THE BATTALION

Vol. 101, No. 120 (10 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Wednesday • March 29, 1995

Legislature proposes tuition increase for nonresidents

Proposed bill would average nonresident tuition of the five most populous states, excluding Texas.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

Tuition for Texas A&M nonresident students will increase 26 percent if the Texas Legislature passes a bill proposed by Rep. Robert Junell from San Angelo.

See Editorial, Page 9

House Bill 1792 calls for averaging nonresident tuitions of the nation's five most-populous states, excluding Texas, and make that average a standard

for Texas public schools' nonresident tuition rates.

If passed, the bill will take effect during the 1995-1996 academic year. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would set the tuition fees for each university no later than Jan. 1, 1996.

The board would use the universities' nonresident tuition rates from the previous year to compute the average.

Junell said he proposed the bill to bring the cost of providing education closer to the money out-of-state students pay.

"The tuition paid by nonresident students attending Texas public colleges and universities does not come close to defraying the entire cost of providing that education," Junell said. "Historically, Texas charges one of the lowest tuition rates at public in-

stitutions of higher education in the country.

"In fact, it is often less expensive for a resident of another state to attend school in Texas paying a nonresident tuition than to pay resident tuition in his or her home state."

Dr. Dan Robertson, director of the Office of Graduate Studies, said that two of the states used in the average are considering an increase in their tuition fees in the coming years.

Although it seems like a one-time increase, Robertson said when these schools raise their tuitions the average will increase. "We have no way of controlling

the tuition increases of the other universities," he said.

Dr. Ray Bowen, A&M president, said the bill is worthwhile because out-of-state tuition in

"Historically, Texas charges one of the lowest tuition rates at public institutions of higher education in the country."

— Rep. Robert Junell

Universities have some discretion in setting graduate tuition, and can make the tuition twice the amount of undergraduate tuition.

Both A&M's nonresident and international graduate tuition is \$29 more a semester credit hour than nonresident undergraduate tuition.

Bowen said the bill will impact graduates more than undergraduates because graduate students make up the majority of nonresidents.

Amy Kardell, Graduate Student Council president, said the bill would have an averaging affect and bring A&M to the middle of affordable schools.

Kardell said she encourages students to call their representatives and voice their opinions.

"The overall affect on graduate

students is that it will cost us more in loans," she said. "I think that for current students, most of us are invested in the system so we will have to suck it up."

Kardell said one of the reasons she and others came to A&M was for an affordable education.

"The bill will affect A&M's ability to recruit," she said. "Before, we offered a reasonable cost of education."

Kardell said international students may also be negatively affected because many are on fixed incomes.

Dr. Emily Ashworth, assistant provost for international programs, said that if the bill is passed, it would definitely affect international students.

The bill, she said, shows that the state is looking at an effective way to use state dollars.

On-campus committee created to improve residence life at A&M

Students get a voice in decisions regarding housing.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

In a move to give students a larger role in decisions regarding on-campus residents, Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for student affairs, has appointed the Student Housing Input Committee.

Southerland said he used input from various campus groups when forming the committee.

The committee's 18 members reflect a cross-section of organizations such as the Residence Hall Association, Corps of

Cadets, International Student Services and the Department of Multicultural Services.

Ron Sasse, director of the Department of Residence Life and Housing, said the committee's diversity is one of its biggest assets.

"The committee represents the diversity of people in the residence halls," Sasse said. "It's a real mixture. We've put together a group that will allow us to see an issue from every aspect."

The committee began its work this month.

After a briefing on the residence halls system, the committee discussed possible ways to improve hall finances.

Sasse said the committee's input was surprising.

"They said that, if anything, our approach was too conservative," Sasse said. He added that because of the committee's input, his recommendations were changed to increase the reserves at a quicker pace.

Future meetings will have an open agenda that will focus on members' concerns. Sasse said some possible issues include: priority housing for freshmen, theme housing and additional on-campus housing.

Will Rodriguez, a resident adviser for Dunn Hall, said he wants to discuss the rent difference between the Commons-style halls and the modular halls. Currently, there is only a

See Committee, Page 6

Term limit expires before vote

Term limit measure not likely to survive the expected vote this week according to Republicans, even though it has 70 percent approval in public opinion polls.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Anticipating defeat on a key element in their "Contract With America," House Republicans hope to reap credit for holding a vote on term limits while blaming Democrats for the measure's likely demise.

"If we get half the Democrats, we will pass the term limits constitutional amendment," House Speaker Newt Gingrich declared Tuesday as debate opened. He said that more than 85 percent of GOP lawmakers would vote for the measure and "it ought to be possible to get half the Democrats to side with the country that elects them."

Gingrich's partisan jabbing aside, the term limits issue has had a rocky path toward this week's expected vote, particularly for an issue that commands support in the 70 percent range in public opinion polls.

Some senior Republicans oppose the limits. The critics include Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, chairman of the Judiciary Committee who calls them a "dumb idea" that would rob Congress of needed expertise, and Texas Rep. Tom DeLay, the party's whip, who says they would enhance the power of unelected bureaucrats.

Efforts to build public support for a specific version have been hampered by squabbling among outside interest groups, and GOP energy has been diverted into hardfought struggles over welfare, taxes and other legislative issues. In addition, Gingrich noted earlier this month that constitutional amendments often take years to amass the support needed.

It takes a two-thirds vote — 290 if all 435 lawmakers vote — to send the measure to the Senate. Republicans hold 230 seats in the House, Democrats 204, and there is one independent.

Republican leadership aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, predicted roughly 190-200 GOP lawmakers and about 40 or 50 Democrats would vote for term limits, leaving the measure well shy of passage. "I'm against any abridgement of the right of voters to choose," said one Democratic opponent, Pat Williams of Montana.



Robyn Calloway/The Battalion

Scientist in training

Tuesday afternoon in the MSC, Tommy Ramirez, an eighth grader from Jane Long Middle School, explains his science fair project about bridge structures to Tom McKnight, a judge for the fair.



Matt Segrest says the Corps has had a good year.

By Gretchen Perrenot
THE BATTALION

A renewed interest in the honor code was the greatest accomplishment and the greatest challenge for the Corps of Cadets this past academic year, Corps Cmdr. Matt Segrest said.

Segrest said renewing interest in the honor code was one of his goals as Corps commander and the other Corps leaders contributed greatly to this goal.

"The honor code has been brought to the forefront this

Corps commander reflects on past year

year," Segrest said. "The difficulty was making people see that it's worth it and something that should be held in high value."

Segrest believes the honor code needed to be reinforced because members of society focus on only their needs.

"Our society has the attitude of what's good for you is good for you and what's good for me might be different," he said.

There have not been any major problems for the Corps this year, Segrest said, and the Corps has had a good year in the public eye.

"I attribute that to the emphasis on living to a higher standard," he said, "being a soldier, statesman and knightly gentleman like we're supposed to be."

"Giving the ladies your seat on the bus and opening doors for them is only a part of that."

Segrest said the honor code is important for the Corps to uphold because the Corps is a

leader in the University.

However, he said he does not want the Corps to turn into a social organization.

"The Corps is tough," he said. "We accept anybody, but the ones that want to make something of themselves stay."

Overall the Corps has had a strong year, Segrest said.

Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling said Segrest has also reached goals in academics, retention and recruiting this year.

"Matt has been an excellent Corps commander," Darling said. "I certainly think he's moved the Corps upward in academics, retention and recruiting."

Darling said Segrest deserves much of the credit for starting a new mentor program for the Corps. The mentor program brings in former students to discuss their careers with cadets.

Darling said Segrest has also been active in participation and

discussion during the Corps Development Counsel meetings.

Segrest said the Corps has accomplished its scholastic goals.

"We've had the highest grades in the history of the Corps this past semester," he said. "We also had the highest mid-terms ever recorded last week."

He said he hopes these mid-term grades indicate even higher overall grades this semester.

"I accredit that a lot to Mark Honea, who is my scholastics officer," Segrest said. "He has worked hard and done an excellent job."

Segrest said the Corps tutoring program and new computers in the academic center has also aided in scholastic achievement.

He said that goals for Corps recruiting have also been accomplished.

He said the Corps invites junior and senior high school

See Corps, Page 6

Court questions loss of privacy in war on drugs

Supreme Court decision could call for drug testing of all schoolage children, not just athletes.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lively debate about students' privacy rights and the war on drugs seemed to leave the Supreme Court deeply divided Tuesday over mandatory drug tests in public schools.

In a case closely watched by educators nationwide, an Oregon school district and the Clinton administration urged the justices to allow such tests for all student athletes in schools where drug use is deemed a problem.

But a teen-ager's lawyer said his client wrongly was barred

from his junior high football team for refusing to undergo urinalysis because such tests amount to unreasonable searches.

"This is being compelled by the government. They're watching you do it. They're taking your urine. They're testing it to see what secrets are therein," Portland lawyer Thomas Christ contended.

The court's decision, expected by late June, could deal with student athletes only. But, depending on how broadly the justices rule, the decision conceivably could affect all schoolchildren — even those in elementary school.

Justice Department lawyer Richard Seamon, when pressed on the scope of his argument, said, "It is not our position that drug-testing of all students would be invalid under all circumstances."