

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 101, No. 159 (6 pages)

Established in 1893

Monday • June 19, 1995

## Regents vote to raise fees

The health center fee and residence hall rent will increase for Fall 1996.

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved several fee increases to take effect in Fall 1996, and approved hearings on a future increase of the general use fee.

The Board approved a raise in the health center fee from \$25 a semester to \$40 and various increases in residence hall rents. With a 15-hour class schedule, the health center fee would increase from \$375 to \$600, a 225 percent increase.

The Board also decreased the student services fee from \$8.25 to \$7.75 per semester credit hour. The fee was decreased because the student services fee no longer helps fund the P. Beutel Health Center.

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Texas A&M chancellor, said the Legislature has given Texas A&M officials several other options.

"It is the Legislature's mandate, I believe, that we increase the fees to support the expansion, enrollment increases, operations, salaries and whatever," Thompson said. "If we're going to maintain the same

quality, we have no alternative.

"I don't think we can balance our budgets. I don't think we can sustain the vision that we have for the Texas A&M University System, its members or component parts."

Regent T. Michael O'Connor said he opposed raising the health center fee.

"I'll just say that I'm just opposed to a fee increase at this time," O'Connor said. "I would also like to see the fees incorporated as part of our budgeting process."

The Regents are scheduled to consider the budget for the Fiscal Year 1995-96 during their August meeting.

It was the second consecutive meeting in which the Board raised fees. Regents increased parking, equipment and late registration fees during their April 7 meeting.

The Board also authorized all University presidents within the A&M system to hold public hearings on raising the general use fee, as requested by A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen.

Bowen said the University lost \$6.7 million in appropriations from the Legislature. He added that

University officials have identified only \$4 million in reserve funds for next year, \$10 million less than this past year.

Bowen said raising the general use fee from \$12 to \$26 per semester-credit hour will replace those lost funds, support a 3 percent staff and faculty-salary increase and add to the University's need-based financial aid funds.

Bowen said the raise would come at a cost. The increase will add \$210 to a 15-hour semester.

"It's a deal with the devil," Bowen said. "It's definitely a hit."

Bowen added that the additional revenue is desperately needed. He said the faculty pay raises are necessary to maintain the University's quality.

"Historically, we've been able to attract good faculty and staff," Bowen said. "They deserve a raise. Some of the staff, especially toward the lower levels, need the money too. They're living near the poverty line."

Bowen also explained that A&M will still be very competitive with other universities across the nation. He pointed to comparable universities like the University of Michigan, University of Missouri and Louisiana State University, all of which cost at least \$1,000 more per

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## Tenneco given OK to sue A&M System

Company hopes to reach a settlement in regard to the cogeneration power plant project.

By Katherine Arnold  
THE BATTALION

As of today, Tenneco Power Generation Co. was officially able to sue the Texas A&M University System for up to \$37 million for breach of contract.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41, which approved the action, was passed by the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate May 29, and was sent to Gov. George W. Bush for approval. Bush did not sign or veto the bill by last night's midnight deadline, making it effective as of this morning.

Russell Johnson, Tenneco's spokesman, said Tenneco is pleased with the Legislature's decision.

"Litigation is our last resort," Johnson said. "Our intention is to work with the University to reach a settlement."

Johnson said continuing with the construction of the plant is one option for

reaching a settlement. However, System officials said there is no plan to continue the project.

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, Texas A&M chancellor, said he remains optimistic about the situation.

"We are hopeful that negotiations will lead to a solution," Thompson said. "Regardless of how it turns out, we will be prepared to act."

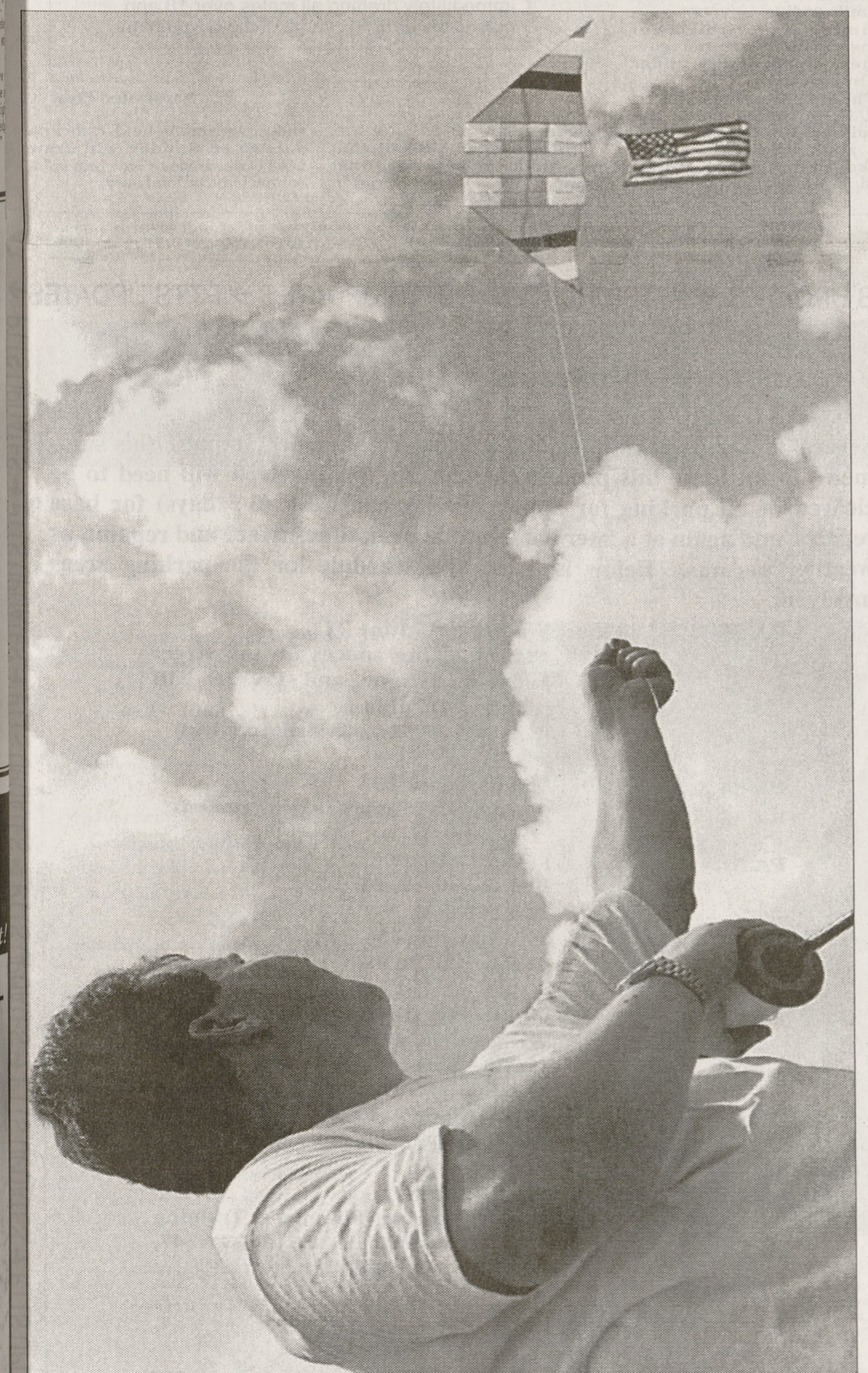
The System contracted Tenneco to build a cogeneration power plant on West Campus. A cogeneration plant produces steam used to drive a turbine that creates electricity. A portion of the University's electricity is currently supplied by the cogeneration power plant on the main campus.

The plant would have satisfied all of the University's power needs through 2012. The entire project was expected to cost \$120 million, and would have been the most expensive construction project ever undertaken by the A&M System.

Construction was completed in December 1994 on Phase I of the project, which supplies West Campus with hot and cold water.

The System announced June 17, 1994.

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Eddy Wylie, THE BATTALION

### LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Carl Hyltin, Class of '92 and co-owner of Painted Horizons, a kiting company in Houston, flies a Delta Conyne kite at Research Park Sunday afternoon to promote his business.

## Juneteenth Celebration

### Holiday honors freeing of slaves

Saturday's celebration included a parade, an awards ceremony and an evening banquet.

By Michael Simmons  
THE BATTALION

Juneteenth, the June 19 celebration which commemorates the day Texas slaves were freed, was celebrated in Bryan and College Station Saturday.

Speakers at this weekend's celebration said Juneteenth serves as a reminder of past struggles for the African-American community.

Hugh McElroy, A&M's associate director of human resources, spoke of the historical importance of the celebration at a banquet in the College Station Lincoln Center Saturday night.

On June 19, 1865, Gen. Gordon Granger sailed to Galveston, Texas, to deliver the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been written by Abraham Lincoln 2 1/2 years earlier, McElroy said.

The theme for this year's local celebration was "Children

today, hope for tomorrow." In addition to the evening banquet, the celebration which included an afternoon parade in Bryan ending at Sadie Thomas Park, where five scholarships were awarded.

The celebration promotes awareness within the community, McElroy said.

"We want to encourage members of the community to get involved in the many civic-related opportunities that are available," McElroy said. "This will help ensure a stronger community."

The banquet was dedicated to Lillian Robinson, a former director of the Lincoln Center, McElroy said.

Dr. Jim Scales, guest speaker at the banquet and superintendent of the College Station Independent School District, said the celebration serves as a reminder to the African-American community.

"We must remind ourselves as a race of the struggles we've had to come as far as we have," Scales said.

He also noted the positive effects the celebration has on the

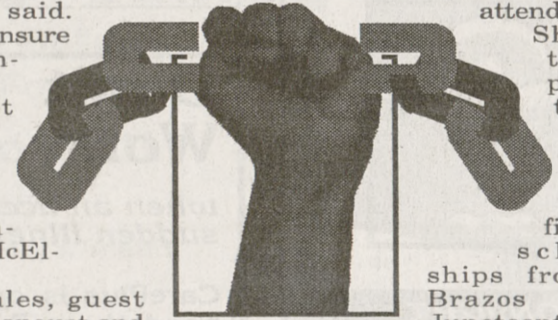
community as a whole.

"The annual celebration serves to enhance the African-American community, as well as the community in general," Scales said. "It gives us the opportunity to reflect on past woes and look to the future."

Sherry Smith, Brazos Valley Juneteenth Committee secretary, said she was pleased with the turnout for the scholarship awards ceremony at the park, with 300 to 400 people in attendance.

She said the purpose of the event was to award five \$500 scholarships from the Brazos Valley Juneteenth Committee to graduate seniors from high schools in the Brazos Valley. One of the five students was a Bryan High School student.

"The whole mood of the event was very entertaining and peaceful," Smith said. "We are already anticipating a more publicized, larger event next year."



## Campus recycling kicks off today

The pilot program in residence halls could generate more than \$37,000 this summer.

By Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

On-campus residents now have the opportunity to help the environment and the University through the residence hall summer recycling pilot program.

Recycling bins are at six central locations for the 1,300 summer residents to deposit newspapers, magazines and colored and white paper. There are also bins for aluminum cans in 10 residence halls.

Joe Sanchez, recycling coordinator for Texas A&M, said student participation is vital to make the program successful.

"It's going to take a little cooperation from the residents," Sanchez said. "We've tried to make it as convenient as possible and still follow all the rules, like fire hazards."

Sanchez said his biggest worry is that students use the bins appropriately.

"My only concern is that the residents won't see what [the bins are] for and use them as garbage cans," he said. "That contaminates the whole bin and makes it harder for the workers."

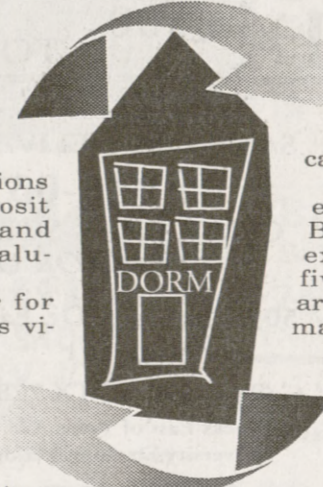
Cassandra DeLarios, chair of Student Government's Environmental Issues Committee, said the program allows students to help in two ways.

"We want to show students that recycling can not only help the environment, but also help the University," DeLarios said. "They can help both ecologically and economically."

Texas A&M currently spends \$21.50 for every ton of garbage it dumps into the Bryan-College Station landfill, which is expected to reach maximum capacity in five years. In contrast, the materials that are recycled are bailed together and sold to make money, not expend.

DeLarios said that prices for recyclables are at an all-time high, due to industry demands. She estimated that the summer program could generate as much as \$37,435 in revenue during 14 weeks.

"Recycling can be very profitable if we



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