

# THE BATTALION

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## Bowen to host student forum

**A&M's president will hear student views on the possibility of fee increases.**

Wes Swift  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, will host an open forum for students to share their views on the proposed raise in the general use fee Wednesday, June 21 in 292 MSC. At a meeting on June 15, the Texas A&M Board of Regents authorized University presidents of the A&M System to hold public hearings.

See Editorial, Page 5

The general use fee is currently \$12 per semester credit hour, and the proposal would increase it to \$26 per semester credit hour. Texas House Bill 815 authorizes university systems to raise general use fees as high as tuition rates. Currently, tuition rates are \$30 per

semester credit hour, and may increase to \$32 by Fall 1996. A provision in House Bill 815 requires each university to hold an open forum for students to voice their opinions on proposed increases of the general use fees.

Bowen said he thinks that, while fees will likely go up, student input will be instrumental. "We will listen to the students' concerns," Bowen said. "It is more than likely that fees will go up, but their input could determine how much is put in financial aid and things like that. I think we'll hear a lot about what problems come up and hear their ideas about how the money should be spent."

Bowen said the University has a \$10.8 million shortage in its 1995-1996 budget. The University wants \$6 million to raise staff and faculty salaries 3 percent, add \$1 million for need-based financial aid grants, \$1 million in deferred maintenance and another \$2 million for special needs.

Overall, the University needs approximately \$19.4 million, \$15.4 million of which would be paid by the revenue from the general use fee.

Bowen said the fee proposals are in-

dicative of a new trend in Texas higher education.

"Our fees are set by the Legislature," Bowen said. "Historically, they've been able to appropriate more general revenue and keep fees down. This time they have indirectly said 'OK, we'll allow you to raise your fees; we don't have any more general revenue.'"

"No matter how you look at it, the basic conclusion is that it's going to cost more to get an education in Texas," he said. "We're part of that, and it'll cost more here."

Bowen said it may be necessary to reduce funds from several areas in the budget if the Regents do not approve the increase. He explained that without a higher general use fee, there will have to be cuts across the University, including a \$5.3 million in academic affairs.



Bowen

See FORUM, Page 6

## Bill proposes to allow Army to pay commandants' salaries

**A spokesman for the Citadel said allowing an active-duty officer to serve as commandant may increase the number of cadets seeking commissions into the armed forces.**

By Michael Simmons  
THE BATTALION

The 1996 Defense Authorization Bill could give Texas A&M University and five other colleges with military programs the opportunity to have their commandants' salaries paid by the U.S. Army.

Retired Army Col. Roger Popham, the commandant of cadets at the Citadel in Charleston, S.C., said the authorization bill would give the colleges the option of allowing their senior army officer to also act as their

commandant.

Rep. Steve Buyer, a 1980 Citadel graduate, penned an addition to the authorization bill which would allow A&M and the five other essential schools with military programs to have their highest ranking army officers serve a dual role — as both the professor of military science and the commandant of cadets, Popham said.

"This would give the school the ability to have an active-duty professor of military science serve in a dual-hatted role as the commandant," Popham said. "This would ensure that the college would stay up-to-date on current military practices."

Like A&M, the Citadel currently commissions less than 35 percent of its cadets into the armed forces after completing school, Popham said.

"I believe an active-duty commandant would draw more cadets to pursue commissions," Popham said.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, A&M's

See BILL, Page 6

## Faculty reacts positively to proposed withdrawal, attendance policy changes

**The Faculty Senate's proposed changes regarding attendance will may be in violation of confidentiality laws.**

Katherine Arnold  
THE BATTALION

Faculty reactions are positive to the policy changes regarding withdrawal and attendance proposed by the Faculty Senate during its June 12 meeting.

The proposed withdrawal policy will eliminate the "withdraw passing" and "withdraw not failing" classifications. Currently, if a student withdraws from the University and is failing in Sunday class, the credit hours the student is in danger of failing are calculated into the grade-point ratio. "Withdraw passing" does not affect the GPR.

Dr. Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services, said the elimination of WP and WF grading will benefit students.

"If a student has to withdraw, then there is usually an extenuating circumstance that initiates that decision," Sheppard said. "When a student withdraws, then they've lost the whole semester anyway. [The new policy] is a win-win situation all around."

Sheppard is the chairwoman of the Academic Operations Committee, which made the recommendations for the policy changes. The committee consists of deans from each of A&M's colleges.

The Senate also proposed moving the withdrawal deadline from the last class day to the drop date.

Dr. Brent Paterson, associate director of student affairs, said moving the date will ease the confusion of the withdrawal process.

"There used to be hundreds of students trying to withdraw on the last class day, mostly for academic reasons," Paterson said. "We feel that students know by the midterm if they're failing one or all of their classes and are hanging on when they shouldn't be."

Paterson added that the Senate proposal will allow withdrawal past the Q-drop date for students with extenuating circumstances,

which will be determined by the dean of the student's college.

Changes in the attendance policy were also proposed. The Senate has requested that students must show proof of an excused absence within two working days of the absence, and the documentation must show proof of treatment.

The Senate proposed the second revision to the request of the Academic Operations Committee, because they believed the revisions would clarify the attendance policy, Sheppard said.

"There have been students who have abused the attendance policy," Sheppard said. "The new policy will accommodate students with a legitimate illness."

Dr. Kenneth Dirks, director of A.P. Beutel Health Center, said the proposed policy may violate laws of confidentiality.

"I have requested that the proposal be eval-

**"There have been students who have abused the attendance policy. The new policy will accommodate students with a legitimate illness."**

— Dr. Sallie Sheppard  
associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services

uated by general counsel to see if it is constitutional," Dirks said. "From our perspective, we cannot release medical information regarding a student to a faculty member."

The Senate attempted to avoid problems with confidentiality by revising the regulation to state that a student must obtain proof of illness and treatment from the health center to show to professors.

However, this still may be violating confidentiality, Dirks said.

"We cannot release information regarding treatment and diagnosis," Dirks said. "The student taking that information to the professor would be a similar situation."

Paterson said issues still remain to be worked out regarding the attendance policy.

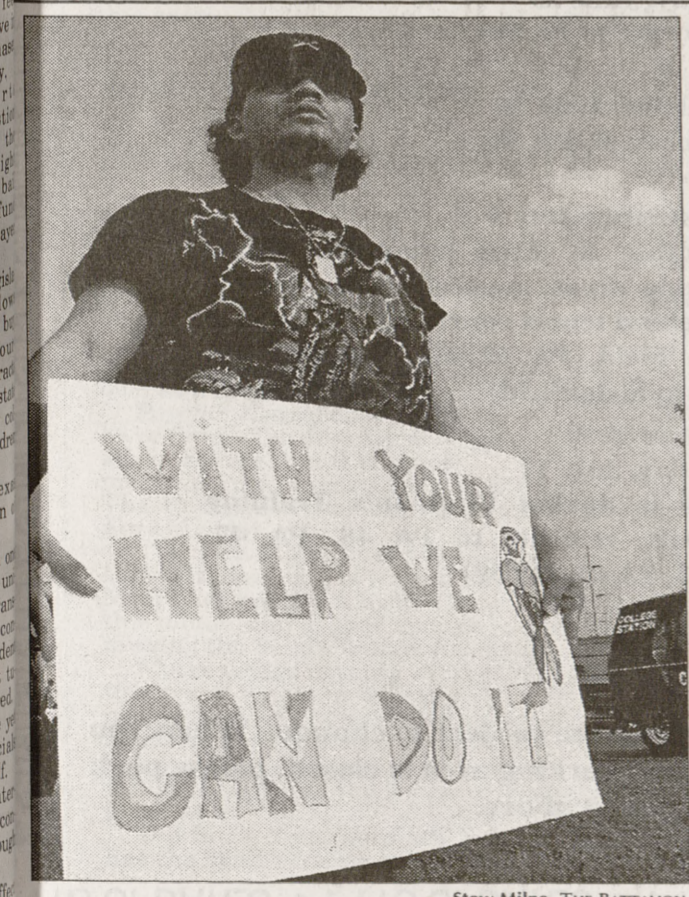
"There is the question of how much a faculty member actually needs to know," Paterson said. "From a faculty member's perspective, professors just want to know that a student was justifiably sick."



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

## WORKIN' HANDS

The Rec Sports Center slowly approaches completion as workers seal the windows to the building on Monday afternoon.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

## RESTAURANT EMPLOYEES PROTEST

Several former employees of Ninfa's restaurant in College Station protest outside of the restaurant on Harvey Road Monday.

The signs, written in Spanish on one side and English on the other, read, "Not to be treated badly," "Respect the right of people," "Justice for workers," and "With your help we can do it."

Juan Carlos Cardenas, protest organizer and former employee, said through a translator that the protesters are all non-English speaking, former kitchen staff who were either fired or who quit.

Cardenas said a letter based on the employees' complaints was sent to Manuel Rodriguez, owner of the College Station Ninfa's, and to Ninfa's corporate headquarters.

Julio Pineda, a cook at Ninfa's for six months, protests the unfair treatment of employees by the management.

## Experts study potatoes' antioxidant qualities

**The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is researching ways to breed healthier vegetables containing antioxidants that fight cancer and heart disease.**

By Tara Wilkinson  
THE BATTALION

Researchers at Texas A&M have discovered that potatoes are second only to broccoli in content level of disease-fighting antioxidants.

Dr. Creighton Miller, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station potato breeder, said eating potatoes will help slow down harmful oxidative processes in the body.

"This is important because there are so many oxidative activities in the body that contribute to cancer and heart disease," Miller said.

Oxidation, a natural metabolic process of the body, produces unstable "free radicals" that take electrons from DNA molecules which damages proteins and lipids. Howard said natural defenses against oxidation are weakened with age, stress and exposure to tobacco smoke and pollution.

Dr. Luke Howard, TAES food scientist and assistant professor of horticulture, said after comparing antioxidative levels of various vegetables, it was surprising to find that potatoes ranked so high.

"You always hear about broccoli being good, but we didn't know potatoes were too," Howard said.

With the help of antioxidants, free radicals can be disarmed, making them unable to break DNA down, Howard said.

"That's why it is so important to eat five servings of antioxidant rich foods a day," he said.

Howard, Miller and graduate student Mohamed Al-Saikhan, have ranked vegetables based on antioxidant content during three years of vegetable research. On a scale of 100, Howard said broccoli rates a 96, potatoes a 69, carrots a 32, onions a 25 and bell peppers a 15.

Preliminary results indicate the high antioxidant level in potatoes is caused by a protein called patatin, Howard said. Once the protein is identified and understood, it can be used in potato breeding.

"If we can positively identify the compound, we can try to increase it in potatoes," he said.

Patatin levels are particularly high in potato skin, he said, but

See POTATOES, Page 6

**Percentage of U.S. Recommended Daily Allowances (U.S. RDA)**  
(1 medium potato, 5.5 ounces)

Protein	6
Vitamin A	*
Vitamin C	50
Thiamin	8
Riboflavin	2
Niacin	10
Calcium	*
Iron	8
Vitamin B6	15
Folic acid (folic acid)	8
Phosphorus	8
Magnesium	8
Zinc	2
Copper	8
Pantothenic acid	4
Iodine	15

\* Insignificant amounts

Agricultural Communications,  
The Texas A&M University System

## Correction:

A page one story Monday on the fee increases should have stated that the health center fee has been increased from \$25 to \$40 per semester. The increase is effective in Fall 1995.