

TOFU TURKEY?

Vegetarians look for answers to the dilemma faced at Thanksgiving.

Aggielife, Page 3

AWKWARD ABSENCE

Hill: Without a game, celebrating Thanksgiving will be awkward for Aggies.

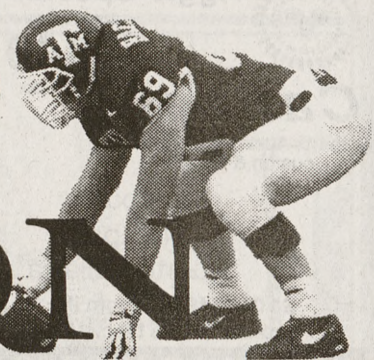
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HACKING AWAY

Aggie center Koby Hackradt has improved steadily this season.

Sports, Page 5



THE BATTALION

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Bowen rejects Faculty Senate's cultures bill

The Texas A&M President turned down the proposal because of the difficulty of monitoring its requirements.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, rejected the Faculty Senate U.S. and international cultures requirement, disappointing the Senate leadership and drawing mixed reviews from student leaders.

The Senate proposal, passed October 1993, called for A&M students to take three hours each of U.S. cultures and international cultures classes.

In a three-page memorandum to Dr. Pierce Cantrell, Faculty

Senate speaker, Bowen said he supported the motives behind the proposal, but the administrative changes necessary to implement the proposal could not be allowed.

"My reason for turning down [the proposal]," Bowen said, "is my belief that if it is adopted without a parallel set of administrative controls designed to monitor the implementation of the proposal the University would be harmed by the ensuing controversy."

The letter explained that opponents of the cultures proposal have demanded that Bowen institute a mechanism to ensure that the number of courses fulfilling the requirement would not be reduced.

A high-level academic administrator, such as the provost, most likely would be placed in charge of monitoring the requirements. Bowen called this "unacceptable."

"Frankly, I am offended to have someone to watch

over the faculty," Bowen said during an interview.

Bowen said in the letter that the most disturbing aspect of the cultures course debate is the lack of trust between different groups on campus. More than 600 people have contacted him, angry about the possibility of a "multiculturalism" requirement.

After discussing the proposal with the angry students, parents and former students, Bowen said he was questioned about how he would control the requirements to ensure the pro-

posal remained unaltered.

"Almost immediately, I am challenged as to what procedures I am going to implement to keep the current proposal from evolving over time into one that is not the moderate proposal made by the Senate...." Bowen said.

The president's decision brought varied reactions from campus leaders.

The Faculty Senate released a statement Tuesday saying Bowen gave in to the criticism of the proposal.

"... He has yielded to groups

who have politicized an academic decision that was made after three years of extensive discussion among faculty, students and administrators," the statement said, "a process which the president himself describes as 'thoughtful.'"

Cantrell, also a professor of electrical engineering, elaborated further on the decision, saying Bowen "seems to have taken control of the curriculum."

Although the Faculty Senate was disappointed, student leaders were divided about Bowen's decision.

Toby Boenig, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said it was good that a decision had finally been reached.

"After two years of much discussion and debate," Boenig said, "it's time the administration took a stand on this very controversial issue."

David Brown, College Re-

publicans president and a senior political science major, said he supported the rejection of the proposal.

"I'm ecstatic," Brown said. "To be certain, it's a great thing this proposal is dead."

Brown also said that Bowen's decision will probably not end the debate over the requirements, saying, "It's always going to keep popping up."

Shawn Williams, A&M's NAACP chapter president, said he hopes the proposal is brought up again and said Bowen's decision was made without proper input.

"The students, faculty, politicians and community leaders never sat down and talked about this," Williams said. "I hope the Faculty Senate will continue to do whatever they can to include diversity in classes."

Cantrell declined to speculate about what action the Faculty Senate might take.

Battalion reporter Tara Wilkinson contributed to this story.



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— Dr. Ray Bowen
Texas A&M president



"He [Bowen] seems to have taken control of the curriculum."

— Dr. Pierce Cantrell
Faculty Senate speaker

Voelkel hopes to initiate cadet exchange program

The program would help Corps recruitment and give participants a better understanding of all military programs.

By Courtney Walker
THE BATTALION

The Corps of Cadets commander is helping cadets contribute their ideas and opinions about military schools around the country.

Tyson Voelkel, a senior engineering technology major, began contacting military schools this week, in an effort to launch a Cadet Exchange Program for the Corps.

Currently, the only exchange programs for the Corps are the annual trips to West Point Military Academy and the Citadel.

The annual trips are designed for military schools to meet in roundtables and group discussions and share military program ideas.

Voelkel said the proposal for a full-time cadet exchange program is in its preliminary stages and has not been approved yet. If the program is approved, he said, it should be implemented at the beginning of the fall semester.

The program would send at least two volunteer cadets to schools nationwide to observe other military lifestyles and programs.

"Cadets will go a few days, see other programs in action and evaluate their program



Battalion File Photo

Tyson Voelkel, Corps commander, is hoping to launch a cadet exchange program between A&M and other military schools around the country.

with ours," Voelkel said.

Exchange cadets will be underclassmen, including one junior. Cadets will be chosen on an individual basis.

"We need send at least one junior so, as a senior leader the following year, the cadet can make a difference and give the Corps long-term benefits," Voelkel said.

Chad Franklin, judge advocate general officer and a senior business management major, visited West Point with Voelkel and

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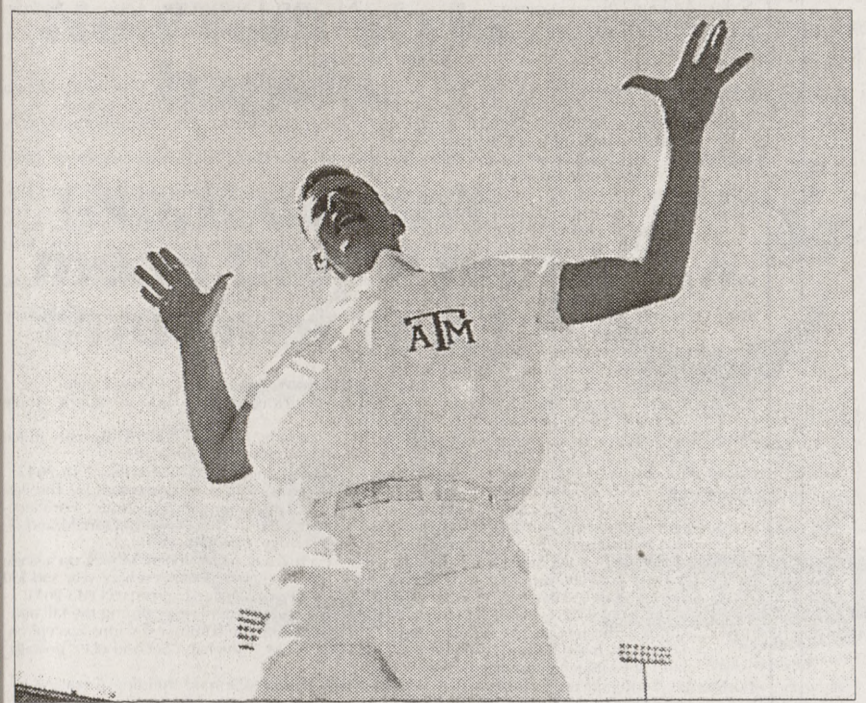
Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

BIRTHDAY BLOWOUT

Liz Terry, a freshman biomedical science major, celebrated her birthday Tuesday as she carried off a chocolate chip cookie that her parents ordered for her.

MIDNIGHT YELL

Yell practice for the Texas A&M - TCU football game will be held Friday night, November 24, in front of Billy Bob's in Fort Worth.



Academic assistance offered on the Internet

The information can be accessed for free through the Academic Assistance Clearinghouse on the World Wide Web.

By Melissa Keerins
THE BATTALION

Students can access through the Internet a directory of academic assistance programs and services provided by Texas A&M departments.

The Academic Assistance Clearinghouse, a site on the World Wide Web, includes information about many assistance programs. These programs include review sessions, University-sponsored tutoring, copies of old exams and the names and e-mail addresses of departmental contacts.

The clearinghouse includes information links for 20 departments, and many more are expected in the future.

The main advantage of the clearinghouse is that students can access all of these sources from one location. Student participation is expected to increase in academic assistance programs because of the ease of accessing helpful information.

Pat Walch, Center of Academic Assistance program coordinator, said there is

a lot of helpful information for students on the clearinghouse site.

"It is a directory of all the free assistance at A&M," Walch said, "Departments have homepages for courses, with lecture notes and old exams."

"There are listings of help desks, review sessions and free tutoring that the departments sponsor, or are held by groups sponsored by the department."

Students can also find a supplemental instruction schedule," Walch said, that is updated several times a week.

"Supplemental instruction leaders have started recommending the Academic Assistance Clearinghouse to students," he said.

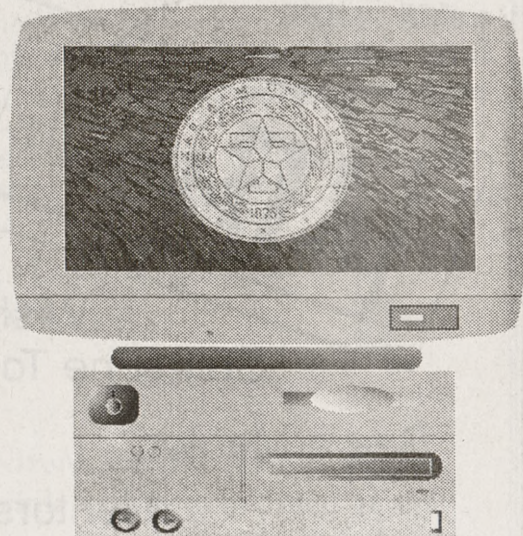
Mike Fenton, a Network Availability Center student worker and a sophomore landscape architecture major, said not all systems are up, but many are.

"There are some departments listing lectures taught by [teaching assistants] that will help students," Fenton said.

A few departments are also listing deadlines for certain classes and project due dates.

"The computer science department lists direct contacts for e-mail," Fenton said, "and the civil engineering department has information to prepare students for real-life situations."

A&M students are the clearinghouse-



es' intended audience, but prospective students, parents and alumni are interested as well. They want to know what programs are available to assist students in their studies.

The Academic Assistance Clearinghouse is found on the Texas A&M homepage, listed under Academic Assistance in the Academic heading. The URL is: <http://www.tamu.edu/aac>, and the Center for Academic Enhancement is available to give information and help.