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**MUSIC MASTERS**

A&M choirs provide harmony to students' ears. Aggile, Page 3

**KEEPING QUIET**

Watson: Friends who argue about matters of religion will never reach a consensus. Opinion, Page 11

**BLOWOUT**

The Lady Aggie Basketball Team rumbled past Rice, 89-58. Sports, Page 7



# THE BATTALION

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## Bowen to propose fee hike

**A proposed general use fee increase would generate \$8.8 million for the University.**

By **Wes Swift**  
THE BATTALION

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, will address the Texas A&M System Board of Regents today, asking permission to hold public hearings about a proposed increase of \$8 per semester credit hour in the general use fee.

See related EDITORIAL, Page 11

This will be the second increase of the general use fee that Bowen has requested in less than a year.

The University would use the money for faculty and staff pay raises and classroom maintenance.

Texas law allows state universities to increase general use fees to the amount of a year's tuition. Bowen's proposed increase would set the general use fee at \$2 per semester credit hour, the cost of a semester credit hour of tuition.

Bowen said the administration has set a timetable for the hearings, but would like to have all pertinent information within the next month.

"Our window is the month of February," Bowen said. "Dr. (J. Malon) Sutherland (vice president for student affairs) is going into his schedule and contacting the Student Senate and oth-

er student leaders, because we want to reach as many students as we can."

The proposed fee increase would generate \$8.8 million for the University.

That money, combined with \$2.2 million dollars from last semester's increase, would provide \$6 million for faculty and staff salary increases, \$2 million for graduate teaching assistant salary increases and \$2 million for classroom maintenance and improvements.

Dr. Pierce Cantrell, speaker of the Faculty Senate, said the raises for teaching assistants are especially necessary.

"There hasn't been a raise for many years for TAs in most departments," Cantrell said. "When you look at what we pay for TAs, (the University) is not competitive."

University faculty and staff received a 3-percent salary raise in August after the Board of Regents increased the general use fee from \$12 to \$20 per semester credit hour for Fall 1995.

The proposal originated in June 1995, shortly after the Texas Legislature ended its biannual session.

Facing a multimillion dollar budget cut from the state, Bowen said the general use fee increase was necessary to cover the University's deficit.

The proposal angered some students who thought the increase was too much and objected to the proposal's timing.

The proposal originated during the summer, when fewer students were on campus to protest.

But students were warned this time; Bowen told them in the summer and fall to expect another proposed increase for fiscal year 1996-97.

Toby Boenig, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said Bowen will make sure the administration listens to as many students as possible this year.



**"There hasn't been a raise for many years for TAs in most (A&M) departments."**

— **Dr. Pierce Cantrell**  
Faculty Senate speaker

"I think he is going to go above and beyond what he is expected to do," Boenig said. "He's willing to go out and talk to as many organizations as possible and have several public forums."

Boenig said Student Government will make an enormous effort to ensure that all students have an ample opportunity to voice their opinions.

"Student Government will be involved with as much (publicity) as needed," he said. "We will post fliers, hold discussions and provide as much information as we can."



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, head of the Texas A&M anthropology department, examines a human feces (coprolite) specimen from the Rio Grande Valley. Bryant studies coprolite to see what man ate 40,000 years ago.

## A&M first in field of fossilized feces findings

**An A&M professor said he owes his superb health to his coprolite research.**

By **Lisa Johnson**  
THE BATTALION

It is difficult for students to imagine Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, head of the Texas A&M anthropology department, clad in a cave-man's traditional trappings of leopard skin.

But that is just what Bryant was wearing in a photo accompanying a 1979 People Magazine article about his "caveman diet."

Shortly after the article appeared, Texas Monthly satirized Bryant's pet research subject, fossilized human feces, and called A&M "the crap capital of the world."

Bryant, whose early publicity did not earn him favor with the University's administration, took it all in stride.

"I really got in a lot of trouble when I first came to work here," he said.

"But my dad was an AP correspondent for a long time and he always told me, 'any news is good news as long as they don't misspell your name.'"

Bryant said "trouble" is inevitable given the nature of studies he has conducted throughout his anthropological career.

He is one of the few anthropologists in the country who researches fossilized human feces, or coprolite.

In fact, his feces findings affected his personal life, inspiring him to adopt a new diet and exercise program.

In feces that Bryant studied, he found large amounts of plant remains and fiber, along with strands of hair, bone fragments, insect remains and teeth.

Phil Dering, associate director of A&M's ethnobotany lab, said fecal remains indicate that prehistoric people ate small animals, such as mice and lizards, whole.

This does not mean, however,

that Bryant forages for rodents and snakes during his lunch hour.

"What I have done is take the best of both worlds," he said. "I live on a diet that has nutrient contents similar to that of prehistoric man. I eat lots of fresh produce and foods that are high in complex carbohydrates."

In addition to his healthy diet, Bryant swims one mile or bicycles 15 minutes each day to simulate the amount of exercise prehistoric men got hunting for food.

In the first six weeks of adhering to this diet and exercise plan, Bryant shed 25 pounds.

Prehistoric people's lifestyles did not allow them to get fat, he said.

"The greatest mistake that humans ever made was domestication," he said.

"Since domestication, population has become uncontrolled and obesity has become a plague of society."

Bryant began studying coprolite in the 1960s along with a pioneer in the field, Dr. Eric O. Callen of the University of Edinburgh in Canada.

Callen was the only person at that time conducting extensive analyses of fossilized feces.

When Callen died in the early 1970s, his coprolite collection, the world's largest, was given to Texas A&M, where Bryant was head of the anthropology department.

It is an inheritance for which Bryant said he is grateful.

"The collection serves as a nice reference to show the historical development of a science," Bryant said.

"This is Dr. Callen's personal research material, and having it is like having a collection of the personal letters of a diplomat."

The collection is accessible to students from Texas A&M and other universities.

Dr. John Jones, a former graduate student of Bryant's and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, said the collection comprises mostly microscope slides of fecal remains from Mexico and Peru.

"The collection is basically a reference material for students," he said. "Because of its complete nature, it will never be broken up or added to in any way."

## Senate seats adjusted to represent student body

**The Senate also called for an increase in voter registration within the A&M population.**

By **Heather Pace**  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Senate took measures to increase student voter registration and reallocated Senate seats Wednesday night.

Richard Holt, a business senator and junior finance major, said the Voter Responsibility Resolution calls for students to take voting initiative and show the community that they want a voice in local government.

"We're an integral part of the community," Holt said. "The only way people are going to know that is if we vote."

Jesse Czelusta, Northside senator and a junior agricultural economics major, said the bill is an important step toward reducing voter apathy.

"It was a good gesture," Czelusta said. "I hope it gets noticed, because if students don't take notice, it will be useless."

The second piece of legislation, The Student Senate Seat Allocation Bill, reapportioned seats so that they more accurately represent the number of students living on and off campus and studying in each college.

Jason Herrick, an off-campus senator and junior industrial engineering major, said senators want proportional representation for all segments of A&M's population.

"We're going straight by the numbers," Herrick said. "The more seats we add, the lower we get the difference in percentage."

The Colleges of Agriculture, Education

See Senate, Page 6



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

## MEN AT WORK

H&L Mechanical workers replace chill water lines that cool the water tower offices Wednesday.

## Students miss chance to share concerns with regents

**The regents hold an open house the night before each Board meeting.**

By **Eleanor Colvin**  
THE BATTALION

Several members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents said students do not take advantage of opportunities, such as the open house held Wednesday night on campus, to voice their opinions to administration.

The regents recently began holding an open house the night before each board meeting for students to discuss topics concerning them individually or the student organizations

they represent.

Although controversial issues such as a proposed general use fee increase are on today's Board meeting agenda, student turnout Wednesday at the open house was low.

Robert Allen, a regent, said the Board needs student insight.

"It's truly disappointing that there is not a larger student turnout," he said. "This is an opportunity for students who think we're unapproachable to come and talk to us."

"Students should feel free to tell us about their issues and to find out what is going on with the Board."

Allen said students should speak out at open houses instead of waiting until Board meetings.

"We want students to understand that

we are available," he said.

"However, it's difficult for students to address issues in the meetings as they would like because of the rules and formalities."

Mary Nan West, chairman of the Board, said since open houses are the regents' primary source of student feedback, more students should attend.

"This is a way for us to open communication lines between the students and the regents," she said. "The students are our customers, so we want them to utilize this service."

Leo Sayavedra, the newly appointed A&M deputy chancellor and former

president of A&M at Laredo, said student interaction with the administration is crucial.

**"This is an opportunity for students who think we're unapproachable to come and talk to us."**

— **Robert Allen**  
member of the Board of Regents

"As a university president, I was always involved with the students and faculty," he said.

"My new position takes me off the front lines, and I must watch from a distance. So it's even more important for me to come to programs like this — to keep in touch with student needs."